

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund was established to assist organizations that "benefit the health and well-being of mankind." The sole restriction is that the "cultural arts" may never be the recipient of funding from this foundation. The Co-Trustees of The Cummings Fund are J Andrew Lark, Esq. and The Bank of New York.

Areas of Interest

The Cummings Fund's primary interest is in the piloting or expansion of new, innovative programs of organizations operating in, or within close proximity to, New York City. More specifically, the Fund is chiefly interested in assisting organizations serving New York City and its more urbanized surrounding areas in Southern Westchester County and Northern New Jersey. Exceptions to the geographic restriction are granted only when a Co-Trustee or Advisory Board Member has personal knowledge of an organization outside of this region.

The Cummings Fund especially encourages smaller and lesser-known community-based organizations to submit grant requests which address the sometimes unique needs of that specific community. Generally, the Co-Trustees endeavor to creatively fill existing needs in areas particularly underfunded at present. The Fund has a particular interest in programs serving young people.

The major fields of interest are.

- **Social Welfare**, especially programs addressing issues including Child Abuse, Parent Education, Juvenile Delinquency, Teenage Pregnancy, and Youth Employment and Job Training.
- **Education**, especially efforts to reform the public education system or programs that serve public school children. Targeted groups include minorities, the disadvantaged, and the physically and/or mentally disabled.
- **Health Care**, especially institutions and programs serving economically and socially disadvantaged populations

On a less frequent basis, the Fund also provides funding for:

- **Medical Research**, with an emphasis on AIDS and Cancer, which has been pre-screened, ranked and given high priority by an objective, national scientific advisory committee.

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Grant Restrictions

The Cummings Fund is legally restricted from contributing, in any manner, to the cultural arts. Further, as a matter of general practice, The Cummings Fund does NOT normally approve grant requests falling into the following categories:

- Activities outside of the New York City Metropolitan Area
- Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment Programs
- Building, Equipment, and other Capital Expenses
- Camping Programs
- Capital Campaigns
- Conferences
- Day Care Programs for Children or Adults
- Documentaries, Films, and Videos
- Environmental Programs
- General Operating Expenses
- Moving Expenses
- Private Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Private Individuals
- Public Opinion Polls, Surveys, and Research Studies
- Public Policy and/or Advocacy Groups
- Scholarship Programs
- Senior Citizens' Programs
- Soup Kitchens and/or Food Banks
- Well-Endowed Institutions
- Organizations without Audited Financial Statements
- Organizations lacking tax exempt status under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(3)

Except in unusual circumstances, **The Cummings Fund approves grants for only one year at a time and will consider no more than two consecutive grants for the same project.** The Co-Trustees generally give higher priority to programs which have not been previously supported by the Fund. Additionally, organizations which have received a grant from The Cummings Fund must generally wait until the completion of the term of that grant before submitting any other funding requests to the Fund. For example, charities which received grants stemming from their Spring of 1998 submissions are not generally eligible to request additional funding until the Fall of 1999's submission period.

Although The Cummings Fund does not usually provide funds for general operating expenses, the Co-Trustees will agree to review proposals for the development of general endowments (through the establishment of challenge grants) for organizations addressing the Fund's fields of interest.