

2011 Dow Texas City Operations (TCO) Community Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the TCO Community Grant Program?

The Texas City Operations Community Grant Program is an annual competitive grant program designed to support social, economic, or environmental projects that contribute to long-term success in the communities in which Dow operates and in which the majority of its employees live. Applicants must be charitable or non-profit organizations (have a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax designation) or be municipal or government agencies. A committee of TCO employees and community members will select the successful projects. The grants are up to an amount of \$5,000.

Why is Dow providing this program?

Dow values the opportunity to provide financial support to communities in which the Company has a presence. With great demand for contributions, Dow wants to target its funding in the areas that will have the greatest long-term, positive impact for community members.

Who may apply for the grants?

Certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, municipalities, county, governmental or state agencies that reside in the Galveston county area. All applications must be endorsed by a TCO employee sponsor and the executive director (or equivalent) of the organization.

What kinds of projects are most likely to be funded?

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Are one-time project costs
- Provide long-term community benefits
- Meet an identified community need, particularly in the areas of environmental sustainability, economic development, neighborhood safety and security, education and work skills development and/or health care
- Are from organizations that are financially well administered and organized
- Demonstrate good planning and support from the community
- Have measurable results
- Encourage the participation and involvement of UCC/Dow employees and retirees
- Provide a well-researched budget
- Can complete the project with the funds from UCC/Dow – do not need to continue to do additional fund raising

It is EXTREMELY important to provide a complete budget that specifies the costs for which the community grant would be used. Without this information, the application will be considered ineligible.

What type of projects may be submitted?

This funding is directed at specific project costs that relate to long-term sustainable initiatives. It is not intended to provide ongoing operational funding. Projects must provide positive community impact in at least one of the following areas: Science in Society, Contributing to Community Success, and/or Sustainability.

Science in Society means:

- enhancing understanding of the roles of chemicals and plastics and the chemical industry
- having the potential to increase interest in careers and opportunities linked to chemistry, engineering, technology and other sciences

Contributing to Community Success means:

- promotes job creation
- meets community-defined needs
- provides permanent improvement to the social infrastructure within a disadvantaged or underprivileged sector of the community
- provides funding for materials or tools which will be widely available within a community or will offer long-term benefit to the community as a whole

Sustainability means

- enhances or protects the natural environment
- raises awareness among a broad public audience of environmental issues and relationship to social and economic consideration

What type of organizations are ineligible to apply and compete for community grants program funding?

Ineligible organizations include: for-profit businesses, organizations with limited memberships, individual sports teams, political organizations or candidates, labor unions, homeowners associations or individuals.

What other aspects of the project would make it ineligible for a Community Grant?

Funds cannot be used for operating expenses, personal computers, travel expenses, advertising, fund raising events, gifts and giveaways, dues and memberships or lobbying expenses. As well, the program does not fund projects outside the designated funding area. If the Community Grant is to be used to fund a part of the project, funding for other parts must be received and confirmed prior to applying for a Community Grant. Otherwise the project will be considered ineligible.

My non-profit group is trying to build a new community center. We need a total of \$100,000 and Dow is the first organization we've approached for funding. Are we eligible?

Not at this time. When you secure the remaining funds required, you may apply for consideration in the Community Grant Program. This helps ensure that the funding provided through this program will be utilized as outlined in the project proposal and the funds go to community groups that have researched their project and already secured other community support as required.

Why doesn't Dow fund operating expenses?

The Community Grant Program is subject to the guidelines of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, which requires that funding be provided to one-time, sustainable community projects and not those that require on-going operational funding. This allows TCO to spread out the benefits of the Community Grant Program to a variety of organizations annually and avoids the possibility that an organization has to suspend an important program if it does not secure TCO funding through this competitive program.

Why does the project need a TCO employee sponsor?

Part of the purpose behind the community grant program is to provide opportunities for relationship building through interaction between TCO employees and local communities. Having this linkage helps build stronger ties for future sustainability.

Can organizations with religious affiliations apply?

Yes, provided the benefits of their projects are available to all community members and not restricted to the organization's membership or congregation.

How are the recipients selected?

The recipients are chosen by a Selection Committee made up of both TCO employees and community members. Each committee member reads all the applications and scores them based on how well they meet the grant criteria. Then they meet to discuss their scores and determine the funding allocations.

I'm a volunteer with my organization and not a professional grant writer. Will we have any chance of getting funding?

As long as you fill out the application fully and provide all the information needed for the Selection Committee to make a decision, it doesn't matter if you are a professional grant writer or not. The most important thing is to read the application carefully and fully answer all the questions.

If we are successful, how long do we have to complete the project?

All Community Grant projects must be completed by September 30, 2011. If the project cannot be completed within this time frame, a discussion with TCO representatives must be conducted to determine next steps, which may include a requirement for the organization to re-pay the grant funding.

How will organizations apply for the grants?

Application forms are available by visiting:

<http://www.dow.com/ucc/locations/texascity/community/index.htm>

The completed application must be printed and signed by the TCO employee sponsor and the organization's executive director or equivalent. Completed applications must be received by Friday, July 15 at 12 p.m. (noon). No faxes will be accepted. The application submission period begins Monday, August 15, 2011.

What is the total value of contributions dollars will TCO make available for the Grant Program?

A total of \$30,000 has been allocated for the 2011 Dow Texas City Operations Community Grant Program.

What if my organization only needs a portion of the total grant available? For example, what if we only need \$1,500 instead of \$5,000?

Funding requests that are less than the total amount of the available grants are welcomed, as they allow TCO to increase the number of projects that can be funded. In addition, the selection committee may choose not to give an organization the full amount they have requested if they feel there are portions of the request that do not meet the program criteria.

Is there a limit on the number of grants for which an organization may apply? Why?

TCO will accept only *one application per organization*. If an organization applies for more than one grant, regardless of grant level, the organization will be disqualified for consideration for all grants for which it has applied. This is because the Community Grant Program is intended to maximize the distribution of funding from TCO to the areas in which it provides the highest value to communities. Each submitting organization, therefore, is asked to prioritize its projects and submit only one application per year for the program that provides the greatest impact and meets the greatest need.

How many applications may a TCO employee sponsor?

A TCO employee may sponsor only one application per year.