



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2011 Dow Gives - Community Grants Program Seadrift Operations, TX

What is the Dow Gives - Community Grants Program?

The Dow Gives - Community Grants 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 Dow 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. Faith-based organizations are welcome to apply provided their project benefits the community as a whole and not just their membership, and does not promote one religion over others. A committee of Dow employees and community members will select the successful projects. The maximum funding amount is \$10,000, but requests for smaller amounts are also accepted and encouraged, as they may enable more projects to be funded.

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, churches, schools, municipalities or county, governmental or state agencies that reside in Calhoun or Victoria Counties, or in the communities of Tivoli or Austwell, may apply. All applications must be endorsed by the executive director (or equivalent) of the organization.

What is the deadline for submission of an application?

Application submission deadline is Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 4 p.m.

How do I obtain additional information about the CGP?

An informational session on Dow's Community Grant Program eligibility and application process is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. at the Seadrift Operations Clubhouse. Additional questions about the Community Grants Program may be directed to Dow Community Relations at 979-238-2753 or 281-966-2779.

How do I apply?

Electronic forms are available by e-mailing FFPCONT@dow.com or calling 281-966-2779. Please complete all sections of the 2011 application form and include an itemized budget. (max. 5 pages plus budget.) Applications must be RECEIVED by Tuesday, May 24 by 4 p.m. Faxes and emails are NOT accepted.

Mail to:

Seadrift Operations

Attention: Public Affairs, Dow Gives – Community Grants Program

P.O. Box 186

Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

Or, personally deliver to:
Seadrift Operations
Building 2229/Contract Administration Building
7501 North State Hwy. 185
Seadrift, TX 77983

Attention: Public Affairs, Dow Gives - Community Grants Program

From Hwy. 185, enter the site through Gate 2 (Contractor entrance), cross the railroad tracks, and the first building on your left is Building 2229/Contract Administration Building. Park in a visitors spot and walk your application inside.

What kinds of projects are most likely to be funded?

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Are tangible projects with long-term benefits
- Meet an identified community need
- 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 Dow employees and retirees
- Provide a well-researched budget
- Can complete the project with the funds from 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 Dow Gives 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 kinds of items would be disqualified?

Do not apply for operational expenses, non-tangible, reusable items or costs that require ongoing funding. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Rent and utilities
- Salaries – including labor and consulting fees (e.g. engineering, architecture)
- Food
- Office supplies and equipment
- Travel expenses
- Advertising
- Fund raising events, giveaways or prizes
- Scholarships
- Dues and memberships
- Training expenses
- Lobbying expenses
- Other non-tangible, non-reusable costs that require ongoing funding in order to continue the project
- In accordance with the guidelines of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, vehicles and other modes of transportation do not qualify for funding

As well, the program does not fund projects outside Calhoun or Victoria Counties, except for the communities of Tivoli and Austwell. If the Dow 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 Dow Gives 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 Dow Gives Community Grants 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 Dow to spread out the benefits of the Community Grants 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 Dow funding through this competitive program.

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. The project cannot promote one faith over others, but community-based programs such as a soup kitchen or home repair program would qualify.

Can my child's school apply?

Yes, a maximum of one application per school will be accepted. Private and Parochial schools may also apply, provided they have 501(c)(3) status.

How are the winners selected?

The winning submissions are chosen by a Selection Committee made up of both Dow 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 May 1, 2012. If the project cannot be completed within this time frame, a discussion with Dow 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?

For an electronic application, e-mail FFPCONT@dow.com or call 281-966-2779. The completed application must be printed and signed by the organization's executive director or equivalent. Completed applications must be received by Tuesday, May 24 at 4:00 p.m.

What is the total value of contributions dollars will Dow make available for the Dow Gives Program?

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated for the 2011 - Dow Gives Community Grants Program.

What if my organization only needs a portion of the total grant available? For example, what if we only need \$3,500 instead of \$10,000?

Funding requests that are less than the total amount of the available grants are welcomed, as they allow Dow 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?

Dow will accept only *one application per organization*. If an organization applies for more than one grant it the organization will be disqualified. This is because the Community Grant Program is intended to maximize the distribution of funding from Dow 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.