CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING CREDIT UNIONS TO IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITIES

2027 Grants & Scholarships

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION

Foundation Team



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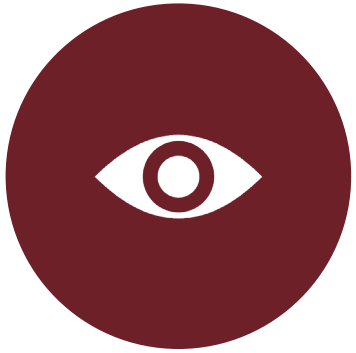
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MISSION

Empowering credit unions to impact their communities



VISION

To be the most trusted, recognized, and impactful philanthropic partner for Cornerstone Credit Unions

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Initiatives



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Grants & Scholarships

- Professional Development Grant
- Community Impact Grant
- Southwest CU Management School (SCMS) Scholarship
- Disaster Relief Grant

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Best Fit & Deadlines

Grants are for Cornerstone credit unions and chapters; the SCMS Scholarship is open to any credit union.

Professional Development Grant

- CU staff and volunteers pursuing certifications, conferences, seminars, or webinars
- Funds must be used in 2027

DEADLINE
Feb. 26, 2027
Committee review:
March 11, 2027

Community Impact Grant

- Projects led by credit unions or chapters that address the 12 Development Issues
- CDFI and MDI efforts also eligible

DEADLINE
Accepted year-round
After Dec. 3, 2027:
considered for 2028

Southwest CU Management School (SCMS) Scholarship

- Any CU staff and volunteers enrolled as first-, second-, or third-year SCMS students
- Apply each year

DEADLINE
Apr. 30, 2027
Committee review:
May 18, 2027

Disaster Relief Grant

- Cornerstone-region CU staff and volunteers affected by a qualifying disaster
- Awarded to individuals, not the credit union

DEADLINE
Year-round (Phase I)
Within 60 days of the disaster

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Who Can Apply for What

Cornerstone Credit Unions
Any asset size

May apply annually for:

- One **Professional Development Grant**
  - Up to $5,000
- One **Community Impact Grant**
  - Up to $10,000

Cornerstone Chapters
Once per year

May apply for either:

- **Professional Development Grant**
  - Up to $2,000
- **Community Impact Grant**
  - Up to $10,000

Not both

SCMS Scholarship

- **One per student** – partial tuition awards; open to any credit union

Disaster Relief Grants
Individuals, not the credit union

- **Phase I: up to $1,000** – Urgent needs; apply within 60 days of the disaster
- **Phase II: up to $5,000** – Significant losses; begins 90+ days after Phase I, as funds allow

Professional Development Grant

Credit unions and Chapters may apply for one Professional Development Grant annually

- Credit Unions: Up to **$5,000**
- Chapters: Up to **$2,000**
- Application deadline: **February 26, 2027**
- Grants Committee review: **March 11, 2027**

Professional Development Grant
CHAPTER SPEAKER(S)

- **Chapters** may apply for either a Professional Development Grant or a Community Impact Grant, but not both
- Funds may support speaker(s), training, or an educational program that benefits member credit unions
- May apply without knowing specific speaker details yet
- Award can assist with speaker fee and travel

Professional Development Grant
CU TRAINING CALENDAR

Credit unions eligible opportunities include:

- Certifications, including CU Development Educator (CUDE), FiCEP (CCUFC), etc.
- Conferences, seminars, workshops, and webinars
- May be offered through Cornerstone or other industry-related organizations
- Application includes a training calendar the CU will complete with each training/event name, estimated registration, lodging, and travel costs
- Include one or more eligible events for CU staff and volunteers throughout the year "wish list"
- Webinars may be listed as a bulk line request and not individually per topic

Professional Development Grant
AWARD REQUIREMENTS CU & CHAPTER

- Credit unions receive one grant and may allocate it among the approved events
- Credit union awards depend on needs-based evaluation criteria and available funding; full funding is not guaranteed
- Incur all expenses to satisfy the grant award, then submit once for reimbursement. Grants must be used during the 2027 calendar year
- Required for reimbursement:
  - Submit a completed expense report and receipts in Reviewr.
  - Complete the Grant Impact Report Form in Reviewr.
  - Notify all credit union executive management and board members or chapter credit union CEOs of the grant via email and copy Foundation's Program Director.

Professional Development Grant
EXCLUDED EXPENSES

The Foundation does not fund these expenses for credit unions and chapters:

- Meals or dining; alcohol or entertainment
- Rental fees to host an event
- University, college, or trade-school education
- Political engagement, including state or national GAC events or congressional caucuses (education on advocacy and PAC is acceptable)
- Travel outside the continental U.S. (apart from the Richard L. Ensweiler I-CUDE Scholarship)

The SCMS Scholarship process is separate from the Professional Development Grant.

Unique Professional Development Grants & Scholarships

- CU FinHealth
  - 8 scholarships awarded annually
- YP Crashers at foCUs Conference
  - Scholarships available for chosen YP Crashers
- Angela McCathran Principles & Philosophies Workshop Scholarship
  - 1 scholarship awarded annually
- Carol Ann Luebke Honorary CUDE Scholarship
  - 1 scholarship awarded annually to P&P Workshop attendees
- Richard L. Ensweiler International Credit Union Development Educator Scholarship
  - One scholarship awarded annually to a current DE

SCMS Scholarship

Open to credit union staff and volunteers enrolled as first-, second-, or third-year Southwest CU Management School students

- Application deadline: **April 30, 2027**
- Scholarship Committee review: **May 18, 2027**

Application and Award Process:

- Applications are evaluated using a points matrix
- Awards cover a portion of tuition
- Students pay tuition first; scholarships sent to CU on behalf of the student after
- Full tuition: C2C (Connect to Collaborate) Scholarship for a third-year young professional selected by classmates, reimbursed after graduation
- Full tuition: Janine McBee Honorary Scholarship for a second-year student selected by SCMS faculty & advisors, applied toward third-year tuition

Community Impact Grant

- Supports projects and programs led by **credit unions and chapters** that address community development needs and reduce barriers to financial well-being, including one or more of the 12 Development Issues
- Credit unions may also apply for assistance to support Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) or Minority Depository Institution (MDI) efforts
- Applicants may request up to **$10,000**; full funding is not guaranteed
- Applications accepted year-round - **no deadline**
- Applications received after **December 3, 2027**, will be considered for a 2028 award and reviewed in January.
- The Grants Committee reviews completed applications within two to three weeks.

Community Impact Grant

Cornerstone credit unions, regardless of charter and asset size, may receive one Community Impact Grant per calendar year, in addition to any other grants or scholarships it receives.

Chapters may apply once per year for either a Community Impact Grant or a Professional Development Grant, but not both.

Priority goes to projects that:

- Address a clearly documented need within the community or credit union membership
- Include an evaluation plan with measurable outcomes
- Create opportunities or reduce disparities for historically marginalized or disinvested communities, people, or groups

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Development Issues



SAVINGS

People can't rely on credit alone to solve all issues. A habit of saving will provide financial security and peace of mind when it comes to emergency expenses. Longer-term savings allows people to build wealth and plan for retirement.



CREDIT

Credit provides convenience to consumers and is often required to make major purchases. Improper use can negatively impact a borrower's credit worthiness and limit future opportunities.



DIVERSITY & EQUITY

Diversity is expressed in many forms and must be embraced throughout all business and social structures. Equity can be achieved by combating discrimination and creating processes and cultures that promote equity.



INCLUSION

Inclusion addresses representation at the highest and most visible levels. We must ensure that diverse, disadvantaged, and marginalized populations have a "voice" or "seat at the table" within our power structures.



EDUCATION

Addressing education is essential to resolving many of the other development issues. Quality education provides knowledge and resources that can improve people's lives.



EMPLOYMENT

The ability to produce and generate income provides individuals with a path to contribute in the greater economy and marketplace.

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Development Issues (continued)



HUNGER

Hunger is not limited to developing countries or those living in poverty. People around the world live with malnourishment, food insecurity, and greater issues related to hunger that can be devastating to communities.



HOUSING

Humans have a basic need for shelter. Inadequate or unstable living conditions can have significant impact on people's ability to overcome many of the other development issues.



HEALTH

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of people of all ages is foundational to human development.



ENVIRONMENT

We rely on our environment for air, food, and other critical needs. While climate change is a threat, there is no shortage of challenges that require us to consider the impact and sustainability of our actions.



TRANSPORTATION

Simply put, transportation provides access. Without transportation, individuals may not be able to maintain employment and families may not be able to access resources such as schools and food pantries.



TECHNOLOGY

The absence of technology is very real to many people around the world. Lack of appropriate technologies can create inefficiencies, impair employment opportunities, and limit people's access to education and resources.

Community Impact Grant

Credit unions and chapters may apply independently or partner with another organization

Partners may include:

- Nonprofits, schools, or educational organizations, community service groups, or qualifying religious organizations

Partnership requirements:

- Programs must be open to the broader community and/or the credit union's membership
- The credit union or chapter must have an active role in a clearly defined project that addresses a documented need
- Funds are issued directly to the credit union and cannot be used as sponsorship or passed through to another organization

Community Impact Grant

Applications must include:

- A clearly stated project or event goal tied to documented community, credit union, or member needs
- A complete project budget: expenses and revenue, a narrative for each line item, the amount requested, and how remaining funds will be secured
- Evidence the applicant can responsibly manage the funding; chapters also submit an annual budget and financial summary
- If a partner is involved: a letter of support, plus the partner's 501(c)(3) determination letter, program materials, and latest annual report

Community Impact Grant

- Awards are based on financial need, expected impact, and available funding
- Previously funded requests will be limited to 1-3 years, and growth in the project must be a factor for additional years' funding consideration.
- Funds are generally provided in advance under the Community Impact Grant Agreement
- Approved projects must be implemented within 12 months of the award

Recognition and reporting:

- Notify your board of directors (credit unions) or all chapter CEOs (chapters), and recognize the Foundation on social media
- Submit a final report within two weeks after project completion or within 12 months of the award, whichever comes first
- Include photos, videos, testimonials, success stories, and final budget in the required grant impact report on Reviewr

Community Impact Grants
Past Funded Projects and Programs

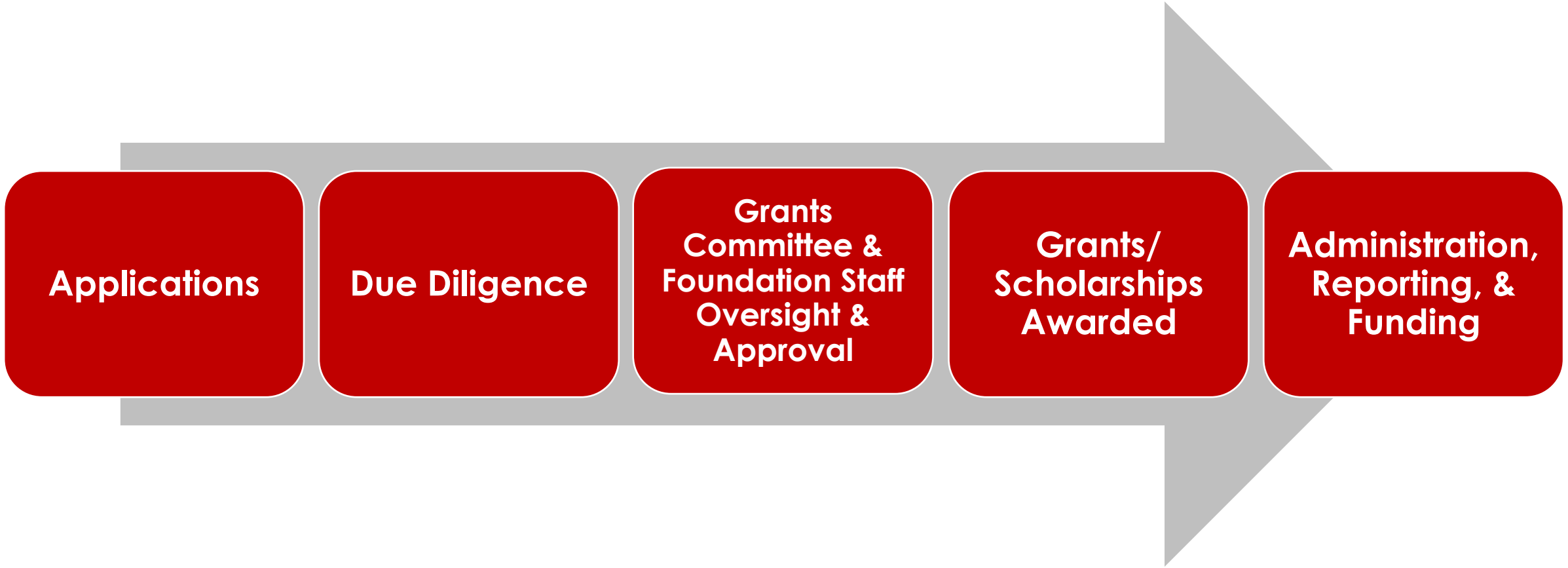
- Tarrant County's CU – A CUDE Community Outreach Project with Local Schools
- Capitol CU - Texas Foster Care System Personal Financial Wellness and Match Savings
- Growing Oaks FCU - Financial Wellness - Elevation Station and BALANCED Life
- Clearway CU - Coopera Consulting Inclusion Study
- Wichita Falls Chapter of Credit Unions - Holiday Meals Project
- Mid American CU - My First Nest Egg Financial Wellness
- GECU - Back to School Backpack Program
- Tinker FCU - Empowering women in transitional housing to step into employment with confidence and dignity.
- Oklahoma Central - Entrepreneurial Club: Building Financial Confidence Through Student-Led Business Projects

Cornerstone Does NOT Fund…

- General operating expenses – including, but not limited to: technology, digital banking, audits, policy reviews and assessments, equipment, payroll, furniture
- Capital campaigns or bricks-and-mortar projects
- Fraternal organizations
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Political entities, organizations, or activities
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, gender, or national origin
- Sponsorships, golf tournaments, or other fundraising events
- Marketing and promotional products
- Scholarships for community partners or individuals
- Direct donations to community nonprofits without a project component

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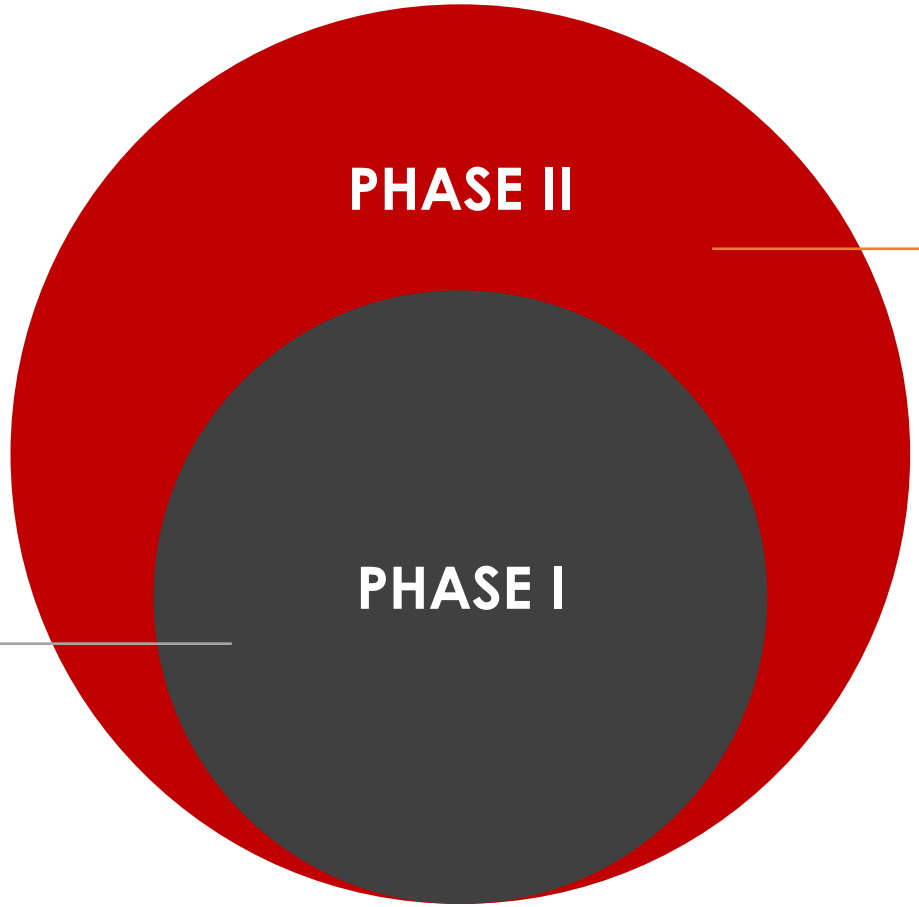
Grants & Scholarship Process



Disaster Relief

Urgent disaster-related expenses to support immediate safety and essential needs like food, shelter, and transportation. Applications accepted year-round, up to 60 days after the disaster

Up to $1,000
(up to 60 days)



Up to $5,000
(beginning 90 days)

For significant disaster-related losses. Begins no sooner than 90 days after Phase I disbursement and depends on available funds.

Disaster Relief Grants

- Assists credit union staff and volunteers with urgent needs after a qualifying disaster so they can resume their roles serving members
- Qualifying: natural events (hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, other weather) and man-made events such as fires and acts of terrorism. Economic and health events are excluded
- Cornerstone-region staff and volunteers employed or serving at the time of the disaster; one grant per affected household

Eligible expenses:

- Structural damage to primary residence
- Damage to inoperable primary vehicle
- Lodging for mandatory evacuation or displacement
- Grocery staple items
- Insurance deductibles

A full list of exclusions can be found on our website.

2027 Events

CU SWING!

May 4
Arlington, TX

SYNG

May 6
Arlington, TX

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION Principles & Philosophy Workshop

July 27 – 29
DFW (Plano)

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION CUP

September 21 – 24
Lake of the Ozarks

CUFINHEALTH™

September 21 – 22
Chicago, IL



Quarterly
Coffee Talks

Ways to Give

- **Payroll Deduction**
  - Cornerstone Foundation's Development Fund
  - Southwest Credit Union Management School Scholarship Fund
  - Disaster Relief Fund
- **Donate via Text (44-321)**
  - **Cornerstonegeneral**
  - **Cornerstonefinwellness**
  - **Cornerstonedisaster**

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