



Make More Happen Grant Guidelines and Expectations

Purpose

Make More Happen (MMH) is designed to encourage more people and organizations to make the Dan River Region a better place to live, work and play. The original goal of *Make It Happen!* was for more residents to be involved in making this a community of “bright spots and success stories.”

MMH takes it to the next level by creating even more opportunity for success throughout the region. This effort expands the benefits and opportunities for neighborhood and community innovations and improvements by offering more funding and more time to larger groups of people over a 180-day period (six-months). *MMH* will be the spark for community leaders and citizens, who are passionate about improving the region’s quality of life. *MMH* will encourage people to take more action for positive change.

Objective

The following objectives will guide this initiative:

- Design projects that inspire and motivate neighborhoods and community residents to dream big, pursue excellence and develop new opportunities right in their own backyards;
- Assist neighborhoods, both large and small, in developing strategic plans with outreach events that promote a spirit of cooperation in shaping what they want their community to be in the future;
- Develop projects that help communities become stronger and encourage their residents to become engaged;
- Plan efforts that create public pride and promote creativity throughout the neighborhood, locality or region;
- Develop programs and projects that benefit targeted populations within DRF’s service area;
- Design projects that bring neighbors together working toward a common goal creating positive change and building stronger relationships in their community;

- Demonstrate a strong focus on community-driven, problem-solving spearheaded by local citizens and stakeholders addressing neighborhood and community opportunities and challenges;
- Develop innovative community breakthroughs addressing local needs and /or opportunities that have the potential for effective and sustainable impact for the regions' citizens;
- Create grant initiatives/community campaigns that engage the passion of individuals, religious entities, nonprofits and local governments that benefit more than one single organization;
- Demonstrate the possible through concrete actions by dedicated leaders partnering with organizations to make a difference in neighborhoods and communities in the DRF service region;
- Provide grant funding from \$1,000 up to \$25,000 to help make important changes happen;
- Produce results that will positively impact a portion of the region's citizens, going beyond the constituents of the lead organization;
- Document results and complete individual projects/grants within 180 days or less; and
- Report and publicize how funds were used and what the project accomplished to the public.

Criteria for Applying for MMH Grant

Make More Happen grant applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Grant recipients must be a recognized nonprofit (501c3), religious institution or local governmental entity. The recipient can be a "fiscal agent" for others, as long as the purpose is charitable;
- A passionate project leader is crucial for this request. The project must clearly define how, what and why the effort will have community benefits;
- Benefits must be concrete and tangible to people in this region;
- The impact of the project must be seen within the sponsoring organization and beyond to the community at large; projects that benefit a single organization will not receive support;
- The project must relate to at least one of DRF's focus areas in health, education, workforce development, community capacity and economic development;
- Funds are to be used for charitable purposes and must benefit communities or neighborhoods, including the applicant's constituents and other stakeholders;
- Funds provided by DRF will need to be used in 180 days or less. The recipient must report the use of funding and the results of the effort to DRF;

- DRF will assist with publicizing results of each project 30 days after grant completion;
- Organizations can apply for one *MMH* grant per year; however, it can serve as a fiscal agent for another project that is distinct.

Application Process

The grant application process for *MMH* is as follows:

- Application process will be simple and quick. Submit a proposal of up to three pages explaining the idea /project with amount requested and any matching cash and/or in-kind;
- Grant request can be made online, by email, mail and hand delivery;
- Projects must relate broadly to one or more of DRF's focus areas of Economic Transformation, Education Attainment, Health and Wellness and Community Engagement;
- Program Officers would participate in the application review process based the focus of each grant request;
- Successful grants will receive anywhere from \$1,000 up to \$25,000;
- Project/grant decisions will be made in two weeks or less once all materials are received by DRF's President and CEO.

MMH Grant Types Not Supported

- DRF's *Make More Happen* grant program DOES NOT fund general core programs or operations because of budget shortfalls and cuts;
- Grant requests that directly benefit client/constituent services or the organization;
- Grants to individuals, dinners, fundraising, faith-based institutions for religious purposes, political activity/purposes, out-of –town/area trips (e.g. conferences, lectures, workshops and performances);
- No grants to for–profit efforts;
- Grants that supplant or substitute for existing funding;
- Broad, unfocused requests;
- Requests that cannot be completed in 180 days or require more than \$25,000.00 from DRF without matching funds.

MMH Grant Expectations

- At the end of all projects, a final, a written grant report must be submitted to DRF within 30 days of completion.
- The grant report should address the following:
 - What are the results of the project?

- What were the challenges faced and how were they overcome?
 - How did the community work together?
- Program staff will be available for advice and discussion throughout the *MMH* grant period. Program staff will also check in periodically to discuss progress.

For other questions, please contact Starling McKenzie, Senior Program Officer, at smckenzie@drfonline.org or by telephone at (434) 483-4273.