



A program established by the John P. Murtha Public Service Fellowship in partnership with the John P. Murtha Foundation, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Vision Together 2025, JARI, and the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce

Request for Proposals

July 21, 2021

APPLICATIONS DUE:

August 3, 2021 at **11:59 PM** *online* at CRChamber.com/MurthaFellows

OR

by **12 PM** *in person* at:

Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce
416 Main St. Suite 201
Johnstown, PA 15901



Funding Opportunity:

The John P. Murtha Public Service Fellows, in conjunction with the John P. Murtha Foundation, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Vision Together 2025, JARI, and the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce are requesting grant applications from IRS designated 501(c) organizations, grassroots organizations with a qualifying fiscal sponsor, or government entities to fulfill a community-based need. We are seeking projects, organizations, and opportunities that inspire creative new ways to engage visitors and residents of the Greater Johnstown, Pennsylvania region in their community and generate positive change. The goal of this program should be to identify, expound upon, or afford accessible resources to the community by way of education, enrichment, economic development, or engagement.

Throughout the Fellowship, the inaugural cohort has begun to identify several challenges that present substantial opportunities for creativity and growth within the community. The root of many of these challenges can be described, in sum, as a lack of adequate access to aforementioned resources, and a need to bridge the gap between ideas and affected persons. This Request For Proposal (RFP) will serve as a vehicle for recognizing these areas of improvement as a potential juncture for applicants to provide a unique perspective on what they view as a necessary and constructive initiative.

The Fellows will have the privilege of awarding a total of \$10,000 in grant funds to one or more organizations that meet the criteria of this request; however, budgets should not be inflated to reach the total amount.

Statement of Need:

Upon various site visits, meetings, and conversations with community leaders, the Fellows have experienced an abundance of opportunities for advancement, education, outreach, recreation, and tourism within the Greater Johnstown region. Despite the existence of numerous initiatives and programs, the Fellows have noticed a disconnect between these opportunities and the communities they are designed to serve.

This disconnect results in many social and economic issues that inspire room for change. According to the 2019 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 50.7% of those residing in the Johnstown Metropolitan Statistical Area reported a total household income of less than \$50,000 a year. Additionally, the same survey reported that only 20.6% of residents hold a Bachelor's degree or higher.

These statistics present an opportunity to connect residents to resources that could benefit both the individual and the larger community. As Brian Alexander wrote in a 2017 article for *The Atlantic*, "Cities...permit a productive collision of ideas that is hard to replicate in less-dense areas...a city is a place where a young boy can walk down the street and imagine all the things he might become."

The most compelling needs are those that utilize resources to promote education, enrichment, economic development, and engagement.

Primary Goals:

- Bridge the gap between community members and resources (educational, enrichment, economic, and engagement)
- Develop/expand programs that seek to strengthen the community and fulfill its needs
- Promote accessibility to all persons
- Invest in the community's long-term success
- Generate momentum for area opportunities
- Facilitate positivity and pride in what Johnstown has to offer

Preferences (not limitations):

- Create networking partnerships within the community
- Express tiered short/medium/long term goals for project
- Demonstrate solid organizational direction with timeline
- Provide opportunities for youth engagement
- Promote public health

Who May Apply:

- 501(c) organizations, for-profit organizations, grassroots organizations with a qualifying fiscal sponsor, or government entities located in and serving the Greater Johnstown, Pennsylvania region
- Organizations or entities in full compliance with all federal, state, county, and local requirements and always pertaining to nonprofits, including the USA Patriot Act and other counterterrorism laws

How To Apply:

Qualified applicants will submit their formal application by the prescribed deadline and the Murtha Fellows will review the applications in order to determine which project or projects fit within the criteria set forth by the RFP and will receive grant funding.

Applicants can choose to submit their grant application online through the Google Form CRChamber.com/MurthaFellows or pick up a paper application at the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce building.

Applicants must submit the following:

- Agency information and answers to the application questions
- Detailed project budget including line item expenses and all sources of revenue
- Organization’s most recent annual financial statements
- Organization's most recent audit
- List of board of directors
- IRS 501(c) determination letter

Organization Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Primary contact name, title, number, email: _____

Alternate contact: _____

Project Information:

Name: _____

Funding Request (Up to \$10,000): _____

Total Project Budget: _____

Relationship with other organization(s) relevant to this project (if applicable):

Is this a new or existing project? _____

Please answer the following questions via google forms, or on a separate document.

Questions:

- 1.) What need(s) does your organization address within the community?
- 2.) Please describe the proposed project.
- 3.) Who are the key contributors to your organization and have you received previous grant funding in relation to this project? If so, please list.
- 4.) What is the anticipated impact of the project on the community?
- 5.) How will you measure the success and/or impact of the project?
- 6.) How do you envision the project's longevity in Johnstown on a 5-10 year timeline?
- 7.) If the full \$10,000 could not be awarded to your organization, how would your project proceed?
- 8.) How will your organization help to positively serve all Johnstown community members?
- 9.) Congressman Murtha was a steward for public service and civic engagement. How does the proposed project help to further the mission and values of the John P. Murtha Foundation?

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS BY AUGUST 3, 2021

Electronically by **11:59 PM** via Google Forms at:

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OR

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Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce

416 Main St. Suite 201

Johnstown, PA 15901

Please direct all questions and inquiries to MurthaFellows@JohnstownVision.com