One of the three strategic priority areas the Marshall Community Foundation Board of Trustees has identified is Essential Needs. After considering how the Foundation has historically supported this charitable sub-group and the people they serve, staff are proposing a once-annual grant process for social safety-net non-profits. If this process is approved, Foundation staff will create an application and reporting structure that is simple and easy to complete. Rather than create a new committee to review applications, staff propose that the Executive Committee conduct an initial review and the Board of Trustees have final approval for distributions.

Qualifications to apply are as follows:

* Agencies must serve community members:
  + Without health insurance
  + Who are experiencing homelessness, utility shut-off or food insecurity
  + Who are vulnerable and underserved[[1]](#footnote-1)
* A Request for Proposals will be sent to agencies that have a three-year history of applying for, receiving and successfully completing grants through the Foundation’s quarterly grant-making process
* Agencies must have an established Board of Trustees, demonstrate an active volunteer base, up-to-date bylaws or other applicable governing documents, and consistently seek financial resources from local funders other than just the Foundation
* Most recent 990 or applicable returns that demonstrate agencies are in good financial standing with a balanced budget
* Most recent operational budget
* A reserve/emergency fund or plans to establish/replenish a reserve fund, OR have a contingency line item in their budget to assist in covering unanticipated operational expenses

Grants will support initiatives of importance to qualified agencies, including but not limited to:

* + Operational support
  + Capital improvements
  + Capacity building initiatives

Qualified agencies will be notified by Foundation staff. As of today, only three agencies meet these parameters: Haven of Rest, SAFE Place and the Fountain Clinic. Applications will be due October 1. The Foundation’s Board of Trustees will evaluate this initiative on an annual basis, and determine if there are resources available to proceed in the subsequent year(s). Grants will be capped at no more than $5,000, but additional resources may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Agencies can still submit applications for costs associated with new, start-up programs through the Foundation’s quarterly grant-making process.

1. Vulnerable and underserved populations may include (but are not limited to) individuals not served through traditional service opportunities, and exhibit isolation/are homebound, economic disadvantages, illiteracy or language barriers, and physical or mental disabilities [↑](#footnote-ref-1)