

Foundation offers matching grants

Any charitable not-for-profit organization, school or government agency in Wayne County is eligible for a new matching-grant program.

Representatives of organizations interested in submitting a proposal are invited to attend an informational meeting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Innovation Center in Richmond.

The Wayne County Foundation has announced a matching-grant opportunity for selected organizations in the county as part of its Challenge Match Program. The one-to-one match offers the possibility of generating \$300,000 or more for non-profits in the Wayne County community. It is specifically designed to help organizations cultivate new donors and encourage increased giving from current contributors.

The open call for proposals seeks ideas that will encourage philanthropy throughout the community. The initiatives can be specific projects or programs, or support general operations.

Organizations may apply individually. Groups that are not qualified charities must partner with an organization that is qualified to apply.

A foundation-supplied cover sheet, a two-page summary of the project which

includes a plan for raising the matching funds and a one-page summary of the organization's 2012 operating budget must be submitted to the foundation by 4 p.m. Aug. 16. The organizations that put forward the most promising plans will be selected to participate in the Challenge Match Program to take place from Oct. 29 to Nov. 9.

"We know similar campaigns have been extremely successful in other communities," said Steve Borchers, the foundation's executive director. "We hope to create an opportunity for the organizations to raise significant additional dollars in support of their programs, new initiatives, and/or operational support. Moreover, we hope that it will engage the community."

The Challenge Match Program is one feature of a larger set of changes to the foundation's grant-making program. A new emphasis to better align the foundation's regular, competitive grant-making cycles with its mission of improving the quality of life and enhancing the spirit of community

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