

# COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Why does Ent Credit Union give money to nonprofit organizations?

For decades, Ent has contributed millions of dollars to support communities across Colorado. At Ent, our mission is to improve our members' financial quality of life. By supporting the communities where our member-owners live, play, and work is one way to help fulfil that mission. Through a new partnership with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, we are able to stretch our dollars farther than ever before!

### Why does Ent Credit Union refer to their philanthropy efforts as Community Advocacy?

By definition, a "community advocate" has a vested interest in the development of a neighborhood or community. At Ent, we believe that being an advocate for the numerous neighborhoods and communities we serve across the Front Range is crucial for our communities to thrive.

### What are Ent Credit Union's Community Advocacy guidelines?

Nonprofits can find our guidelines [here](#).

### Does Ent Credit Union make contributions to any organization?

Ent Credit Union may make contributions, donate funds or otherwise sponsor:

- Non-profit organizations located in or conducting business in the areas it serves as described in its charter
- Organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and operate primarily to promote or develop credit unions
- Organizations qualified under 1 or 2 who submit a written request for financial support from the credit union

### Are there specific entities or organizations that do not qualify for contributions from Ent's Community Advocacy program?

Ent Credit Union will not make philanthropic contributions to:

- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, culture, creed, religion, age, national origin, gender or sexual orientation
- Organizations or programs that are primarily religious in nature or purpose
- Labor unions
- Political organizations or candidates for public office
- Individuals
- Sports teams

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- Individual primary or secondary schools
- Organizations or programs that are controversial based on political or cultural norms
- Pass-through non-profits (third-party support)

## Is there a specific focus Ent Credit Union considers when determining which nonprofit organizations or programs to support?

Ent provides funding to various nonprofits across the Front Range that fall into any of the following impact categories:

- **Youth:** Primary program impact focuses on children under the age of 18 with emphasis on impact in housing, food, behavioral and/or mental health.
- **Education:** Primary program impact supports classroom learning for any learner with a focus on the organizations that manage these programs, and not individuals delivering or benefiting from these programs.
- **Community:** Primary program impact addresses major community issues with a focus on community enrichment, food banks, homelessness, and/or poverty.
- **Legacy:** Primary program impact does not fit into any categories above but may continue to receive support based on Ent's Colorado Springs heritage.

## How are the funding decisions made?

Funding requests are reviewed by the Community Advocacy Decision Committee on a quarterly basis. Collectively, the committee reviews the application and scores the application based on Ent's guidelines, impact categories (see above) and a decision matrix to determine an amount to award the requester, if any. The decision matrix includes criteria such as:

- Geographical reach
- Due diligence and impact if funding was awarded
- Volunteer opportunities available

## My organization has historically been supported Ent Credit Union. Can I expect that to continue?

Support in previous years does not guarantee an organization will automatically receive support from Ent in subsequent years.

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## How often does the Community Advocacy Decision Committee meet?

The committee will meet on a quarterly basis. Starting in July 2021, they will meet on the following dates:

September 2, 2021	June 2, 2022
December 2, 2021	September 1, 2022
March 3, 2022	December 1, 2022

Applications that were submitted in May and June 2021 will be reviewed in July to accommodate for the new process changes.

## Where do I submit an application for my nonprofit?

Applications will only be accepted through Ent's online grant portal located at [Ent.com/Community](https://Ent.com/Community). Requests and/or applications submitted through email or mail will not be accepted.

## I have not used this portal before to submit funding, how does it work?

The portal requires each nonprofit to create an account and fill out information that will be given to Ent's Community Advocacy Decision Committee. Specific step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the portal are available on [Ent.com/Community](https://Ent.com/Community).

## What information does Ent Credit Union ask for in the application?

The funding application includes, but is not limited to:

- Nonprofit details and program information
- Geographic impact
- Community impact if funding is given
- Volunteer information for Ent employees
- Prior exposure and/or relationship with Ent

## I submitted an application for my nonprofit, when will I hear back?

All nonprofit organizations will receive an email confirmation that their application was received. Once the Decision Committee meets, nonprofit organizations will receive an email from Ent regarding their decision. If awarded, a check will be delivered through Ent's partner, Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

## Who can I reach out to if there are questions?

For questions, please reach out to [CommunityAdvocacy@ent.com](mailto:CommunityAdvocacy@ent.com).