



Charitable Contributions

I. PURPOSE

CenterPoint Energy has demonstrated its commitment to civic and social responsibility since 1866. Although our business has evolved and the needs of the communities we serve have changed over the years, our basic commitment to community prosperity continues.

At CenterPoint Energy, we believe we have a responsibility to invest in the communities we serve. Through our outreach efforts, we lend support to educational, civic, social and environmental initiatives that enhance the quality of life for our customers and the community as a whole. In the true spirit of diversity, we work with groups from many different backgrounds, tailoring our relationships and or assistance to meet their needs whenever possible.

CenterPoint Energy's Community Relations initiatives encompass three main objectives:

- Building relationships with the communities we serve and reaching out to our customers as a caring neighbor;
- Showing our commitment through corporate sponsorship of community events and financial contributions to charities, civic organizations, educational programs and community/economic development initiatives; and
- Actively promoting volunteer service among our employees/retirees and demonstrating as a team that we make a difference.

CenterPoint Energy delivers electricity and natural gas to nearly five million metered customers in 985 communities in the following states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. The company also has natural gas-related operations in eight other states, Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico and Wisconsin.

II. GUIDELINES

Applying for charitable/nonprofit funding, grants or sponsorships

To be eligible for CenterPoint Energy funding, nonprofit programs must meet the following criteria:

- IRS 501(c)(3), 501 (c)(4), or 501 (c)(6) designation
- Objectives correspond with one or more of our program's three focus areas
- Based in communities served by CenterPoint Energy

When to Apply

Proposals are accepted from May 1 through May 31 for possible inclusion in the next calendar year budget.

Focus Areas for Corporate Giving

While we recognize there are many important issues facing our communities today, CenterPoint Energy focuses on the three key areas listed below to achieve more effective results. Specifically, we are committed to working in partnership with nonprofit organizations located within and/or serving communities within our service area to fund:

Education

We support education initiatives that strengthen the education process, improve student learning, broaden educational opportunity and increase the potential for each student to succeed. CenterPoint Energy's commitment to providing educational opportunities is demonstrated through contributions that focus on preparing individuals to become productive employees, knowledgeable customers and responsible citizens. Our contributions fund efforts that support literacy, school readiness, at-risk students, teacher preparation, parental involvement, minority student success and match company recruiting needs and workforce development initiatives.

Community Development

The strength of our communities lies not only on a solid economic foundation, but also in the strength and unity of the people who live and work in them. CenterPoint Energy will help build inclusive and sustainable communities by focusing on supporting economic development and revitalization, affordable housing, safety, environmental initiatives, diversity and multicultural awareness, and participation in local chambers of commerce, nonprofit and economic development organizations.

Health and Human Services

CenterPoint Energy supports health and human services in the communities we serve primarily through our efforts with the United Way and disaster relief.

III. POLICY

It is not possible for CenterPoint Energy to fund every excellent and worthy proposal that matches our areas of interest. This is a function of limited resources and a large volume of requests. A decision to not fund a request should not be considered a reflection on the objectives of the applicant.

We do not make grants for:

Multi-year requests

Religious or political purposes

Individuals

Travel and related expenses

Conferences

Fund-raising activities

National organizations

Sports and athletic programs

Capital Campaigns

Endowments

Start-ups

Charitable Contributions applications process

To be considered for a contribution, please fill out the charitable contributions proposal narrative and a W-9 form:

Proposal Narrative

Please provide the following information in narrative form in this order. Four to five pages or less is recommended, excluding attachments.

Organizational Information

- Brief summary of organization history, mission and goals.
- Description of current programs, activities, service statistics, and strengths/accomplishments.

- Organization's relationship with other organizations that are working to meet the same needs or providing similar services. Please explain how you differ from these agencies.
- Number of board members, full time paid staff, part-time paid staff, and volunteers.
- Is there a broad base of support for the program you are proposing?
- Have you formed partnerships to help meet your goals?

Purpose of Grant

- Situation
 - The situation--opportunity, problem, issue, need in the community--that your proposal addresses.
- Specific activities
 - Specific activities for which you seek funding.
 - Overall goal(s), and timeframe.

Evaluation

- How you will measure the effectiveness of your activities.

Required Attachments

- A copy of your current IRS determination letter indicating tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status
- Board of directors list including names and affiliations
- Annual report, if available, or other material summarizing organization's activities
- Current year's itemized operating revenue and expense budget for the organization
- Most recently audited financial statements
- A list of major corporate and foundation donors that you are soliciting for funding with dollar amounts, indicating which sources are committed, pending, or anticipated
- A list of staff, including names and phone numbers and affiliations

Contact Information

Send proposals to:

TX/Corporate

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Advertising/Branding

In addition to making charitable contributions to non-profit organizations, the company also participates in select brand sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships that include advertising elements are evaluated by Corporate Communications primarily for media efficiency and brand compliance. Circulation for print and outdoor/signage and ratings points for broadcast mediums are the major considerations when determining values of an event/opportunity. Special consideration is given to those organizations or media sponsorships that promote the focus areas outlined above.

Advertising /Branding contact:

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Corporate Communications

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Sponsorships contact:

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