



How to Apply for Funding

If an organization believes that it has a program or project that directly addresses the current funding priorities, please submit:

- A letter of not more than two pages describing how the initiative addresses the priorities;
- A budget for the initiative; and
- A copy of your letter from the IRS stating that you are exempt from federal income tax (or otherwise an explanation of your legal status as an organization).

If the Foundation has an interest, we will initiate further due diligence and funding negotiations.

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION OF KNOXVILLE

Whom to Contact

For further information, please call or write to:

Cornerstone Foundation of Knoxville
625 Market Street
Suite 1200
Knoxville, TN 37902-2219
Telephone: 865.637.1912
Fax: 865.546.5199
www.cornerstoneofknoxville.org

J. Laurens Tullock, President
ltullock@cornerstoneofknoxville.org

Jackie M. Slagle, Office Manager
jmslagle@cornerstoneofknoxville.org

Our Purpose and Values

The purpose of Cornerstone Foundation of Knoxville is to serve as a catalyst to reach our God-given potential as a community. We were founded on the belief that Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, and that He expects us to live out the values of Christian stewardship and to seek the peace and prosperity of the city in which He has placed us. Therefore, our funding and activities are focused on the Greater Knoxville geographic area, and on specific priorities resulting from extensive research to determine the most effective strategic actions that can be taken to reach our full potential as a community. Because a variety of implementers can help move our community toward that potential, our funding is not limited to faith-based organizations.

Results of Latest Research

Our 2012 Greater Knoxville Community Research project (full report posted at www.knoxvilleresearch.com) indicates that the Greater Knoxville Community has a unique and outstanding opportunity that combines the *best of both worlds—to be both a great place to build a career and a great place to raise a family*. Few places in America have the potential we have to achieve that vision. But we need to align our leadership and resources behind a common vision and plan. The research indicates that the most important current strategic themes and priorities of such a plan should be:

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Globally competitive schools – Ensure that our schools are globally competitive.

UT as Top 25 – Transform the University of Tennessee into a Top 25 public research university.

Vigorous vocational campus – Create a vigorous vocational campus coordinated by Pellissippi State Community College.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Clean Energy Capital – Claim and realize the potential of becoming a “Clean Energy Capital of America.”

Media production and radiological science clusters – Fully develop these two additional economic development clusters.

Entrepreneurship – Become the best place in America to start and build a business.

CIVIC VITALITY

Outdoor Knoxville – Position Knoxville as a hub for regional outdoor adventure travel.

Creative community – Broaden the base of support for arts, culture, entertainment, and the whole creative community.

Downtown → Out – Build on the downtown development momentum to transform the Heart of Knoxville.

Current Funding Priorities – Leadership Development and Alignment of Resources

The greatest obstacles to achieving our full potential and implementing the recommended strategic priorities are the lack of alignment of leadership and resources. We do not lack the resources to achieve the vision or to implement the recommended priorities, but we do lack alignment of those resources.

Cornerstone Foundation of Knoxville will proactively concentrate its grant-making, other funding, and staff activities by supporting efforts to DEVELOP SERVANT LEADERSHIP and to ALIGN that leadership and resources around the current strategic themes and priorities identified in the 2012 Greater Knoxville Community Research project.

The importance of aligning all of our city-region resources around the implementation of a common plan is driven home by Jim Clifton, Chairman of Gallup, in *The Coming Jobs War* (2011):

Fixing America’s biggest problems and re-winning the world can only be accomplished one city at a time. Ultimately all solutions are local...Every city has strong, caring leaders working on numerous committees and initiatives to fuel their local growth... The feat these leaders have to pull off is doubling their entrepreneurial energy by aligning all their local forces.

They succeed by declaring all-out war.

I don’t use the term “war” lightly. This really has to be a war on job loss, on low workplace energy, on healthcare costs, on low graduation rates, on brain drain, and on community disengagement. Those things destroy cities, destroy job growth, and destroy city GDP. Every city requires its own master plan that is as serious as planning for a war.

