



STRATEGICALLY-FOCUSED ADIRONDACK GRANT MAKING

About Cloudsplitter Foundation

▶ Structure

- ▶ Formed as a 501c3 charity in 1987, re-domiciled in New York in 1999
- ▶ \$6.4 million distributed over past five years (2014-2018)
- ▶ \$24 million in assets

▶ Adirondack Focus

- ▶ At least 70% of our grants go to Adirondack grantees
- ▶ Annual support grants: recurring support for key organizations (<\$5,000 p.a.)
- ▶ Project grants: major grants to achieve specific strategic objectives

▶ Strategic giving (Leverage required):

- ▶ Promoting public support or support of other foundations
- ▶ Supporting a policy direction or change
- ▶ Leadership grants

FOCUS

▶ **Areas of greatest interest**

▶ **Environment: protecting our natural resources**

- ▶ Advocacy, land protection, stewardship

▶ **Community building: cultural, physical, & civic facilities**

- ▶ Theaters, community centers, parks, trails, community revitalization

▶ **Economic sustainability: tourism, critical infrastructure**

- ▶ Museums & historic sites, recreational facilities

▶ **Communications and data infrastructure**

- ▶ Broadband everywhere, public radio and television, focused fact-based journalism

▶ **Helping our most vulnerable neighbors**

- ▶ Birth-to-Three program, food programs, family resources

Grant-making Process

- ▶ Simple three-page grant request form
- ▶ Grants of up to 20% of project budget
- ▶ Smaller mission-support (vs. project) grants are possible
- ▶ Quarterly trustee meetings to act on requests (April, August, October, December). Grants requests must be in by prior month.
- ▶ Requests are scored on “bang for buck” metrics (reach, leverage, return)
- ▶ Endowment grants are not favored
- ▶ Multi-year grants acceptable with performance criteria

Sample grants made

- ▶ Nature Conservancy Finch-Pruyn acquisition: \$1 million spread over four years
- ▶ Dewey Mountain lodge: \$115,000 leadership grant with a 1:1 community match
- ▶ Beyond the Blaze: \$6,000 to help people displaced by a disastrous fire in Lake Placid
- ▶ Birth-to-Three initiative (three counties): \$150,000 leadership gift
- ▶ Mercy Care of the Adirondacks: \$25,000 project gift plus recurring annual support
- ▶ Paul Smith's Watershed Institute: \$250,000 1:1 match to endow director's chair
- ▶ Saranac Lake Skatepark: \$17,500 over three years in two separate grants
- ▶ Adirondack Tri-county nursing: \$28,500 1:1 match to acquire new bus
- ▶ Biodiversity Research Loon Program: \$50,000 two-year capacity building grant
- ▶ Adirondack Museum: \$1 million 5-year exhibit-renovation leadership grant
- ▶ Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department: \$20,000 match towards a new fire engine
- ▶ Adirondack Health: \$1 million lead gift spread over four years for new surgical center

Contact the Cloudsplitter Foundation

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