



**STRATEGICALLY-FOCUSED ADIRONDACK GRANT MAKING**

# About Cloudsplitter Foundation

## ▶ **Structure**

- ▶ Formed as a 501c3 charity in 1987, re-domiciled in New York in 1999
- ▶ \$4,122,00 distributed over past five years (2012-2016)
- ▶ \$23 million in assets

## ▶ **Adirondack Focus**

- ▶ At least 70% of our grants must 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, and sporting facilities**
    - ▶ Theaters, clubhouses, parks, trails, community revitalization
  - ▶ **Economic sustainability: tourism, critical infrastructure, leveraging volunteers**
    - ▶ Major attractions, museums & historic sites, recreational facilities
  - ▶ **Communications and data infrastructure**
    - ▶ Broadband everywhere, public radio and television, focused fact-based journalism

# Grant-making Process

- ▶ Simple three-page grant request form
- ▶ Grants should not exceed 20% of total budget
- ▶ 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 not favored
- ▶ Multi-year grants acceptable with performance criteria

# Sample grants made

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

# Contact the Cloudsplitter Foundation

**Chenelle Palyswiat, Executive Administrator**

**P.O. Box 1357, Saranac Lake NY 12983**

**Phone: 518-992-4900**

**Fax 208-275-7423**

**email: [Trustee@Cloudsplitter.org](mailto:Trustee@Cloudsplitter.org)**