



## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves youth, 18 years of age and younger, in Boone and/or Winnebago Counties.

## BACKGROUND

The Club Blue grant program was established to raise funds to supply the basic goods and services that promote the safety, health and well-being of children in need in our community.

In 2012, ten friends gathered in a Rockford home to learn about the problem of child abuse in our area and the work done at the Carrie Lynn Children's Center, an organization dedicated to supporting the victims of child abuse. Deeply moved, the women decided to build awareness and support for organizations that help our community's children by hosting a different kind of fundraiser. There would be no sit down dinner, no voice auction, no speeches, just a night of great food, drinks and dancing. Just 82 days later, the inaugural Club Blue fundraiser brought in \$126,000 for the organization that supports our area's victims of abuse.

After six years, Club Blue raised has raised nearly \$2 million and brought attention to the needs of our community's children and the nonprofits who serve them. The Club Blue Angels are opening their wings to share the good fortune with other charities in Boone and Winnebago Counties who meet the Club Blue mission: raising funds to supply the basic goods and services that promote the safety, health and well-being of children in need in our community.

Club Blue is collaborating with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois in order to grant funds to area nonprofits that serve children, while building a legacy by creating an endowment that will support their mission in perpetuity.

The Club Blue Angels are women committed to their families and the community. They are united in their belief that our community's children should be socially, emotionally and physically healthy and they are dedicated to supporting the organizations that can achieve this goal. The Club Blue Angels are especially grateful to the more than 200 business and personal contributors who have generously donated funds, goods, and services to make Club Blue a success.

## WHAT WE LOOK FOR

Successful applicants to the Club Blue Grant Program must:

- State how the funds will be used,
- Name other sources of funding, including fundraisers,
- Provide their financial statements, including the 990,
- Open their facility to tours by the Club Blue committee,
- Provide their logo,
- Agree to appear in a video to promote the Club Blue event,
- Provide volunteers for the Club Blue event,
- Promote the event and assist sponsorship recruitment, and
- Provide a final report after the grant funded project or program is completed.

## APPLICATION

Applicants for the Club Blue Grant Program will need to describe, in detail, how their organization will use the funds. Activities must align with Club Blue's mission of promoting the health, safety, and well-being of children in need, 18 years of age and younger, in Boone and Winnebago Counties. Activities must conclude within 12 months of receiving funding unless specified in the application and authorized by Club Blue upon approval. Past recipients and applicants may reapply.

Club Blue will select up to three recipients and award a total of \$30,000. Applicants may request up to \$15,000. Applications must be submitted through CFNIL's Web Portal. To learn more, including how to apply, visit [cfnil.org/grants/club](http://cfnil.org/grants/club).

## QUESTIONS?

Questions about the Club Blue Grants Program should be directed to CFNIL Program Director James Patterson at [jpatterson@cfnil.org](mailto:jpatterson@cfnil.org) or 779-210-8206.

## PAST RECIPIENTS

Over the past six years, Club Blue has raised nearly \$1.5 million for the following recipients:

- Carrie Lynn Children's Center
- Children's Home & Aid
- Crusader Community Health
- Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity
- KFACT, Inc.
- MERIT
- Mother House Crisis Nursery
- Remedies Renewing Lives
- Rock House Kids
- Shirley's Place, a division of the Salvation Army
- Winnebago County CASA
- Rosecrance Mildred Berry Center



2017 Club Blue Angels

## DEADLINES

**Application Opens:**

July 15, 2019

**Application Deadline**

August 19, 2019

**Announcement of Recipients**

November 2019

**Check Presentation Ceremony**

May 2020

## CFNIL PARTNERSHIP

Since 2014, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) has been Club Blue's partner in grantmaking and endowment.

"I can't say enough good things about the partnership between Club Blue and the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. Club Blue and their Grant Selection Committee bring their amazing passion and commitment for supporting children in need in our area and we share grant making experience and the use of our grant application portal. We are thrilled to be one small part of this effort that changes lives every day in our area."

**CFNIL President Jon Bates**



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS