



# Ben and Jerry's Foundation

Funder Research Reporter Prepared By: Laura Larson

## Foundation Mission

According to their website, the Ben & Jerry's Foundation doesn't limit their support to any one particular type of project. However, they place most emphasis on ways to create social change. "The Foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change." The website also briefly stated that they support programs and projects that are examples of creative problem-solving.

## Types of Grants

The Ben and Jerry's Foundation funds grants up to \$15,000 in size. Large grants warrant awards of \$1,001-\$15,000. The foundation also supports small grant awards of \$1,000 or less throughout the year. All programs should fit into these specific guidelines:

### Projects must:

- Lead to societal, institutional or environmental change
- Address the root causes of social or environmental problems
- Lead to new ways of thinking and acting
- Improve a difficult situation by empowering those in society effected by the issue
- Support movement building and collective action

### Applications must:

- Show long-term sustainability
- Have the cause of the problem clearly identified
- Have specific goals and strategies of program spelled out

## Restrictions

Although the Ben & Jerry's Foundation supports a wide variety of initiatives and projects, they do not fund:

- |                                     |                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| discretionary or emergency requests | state agencies                          |
| colleges or universities            | religious programs                      |
| individuals or scholarship programs | international or foreign-based programs |
| research projects                   | social service programs                 |
| capital campaigns                   |                                         |

## Application Process

The application process for a Ben & Jerry's Foundation grant must begin with a Letter of Interest. Specifications for this letter and successful past applications are available on the website. Grant applications are reviewed by a team of Ben & Jerry's employees. If invited, the Letter of Intent should be followed by a full proposal.

## Recommendation

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation would be a funding source to consider if your group is focused on promoting change amongst a community, system or institution as a whole. The project almost must empower individuals and promote leadership amongst those that are often underprivileged. The Foundation puts most emphasis on projects addressing social and environmental problems. I would not recommend seeking funding from this source if you are from a government or for-profit organization.

