

Grant Application Guidelines Children & Families

The Rauch Foundation is a Long Island-based family foundation that supports innovative and effective programs designed to:

- (1) Give disadvantaged children a better start in life.
- (2) Improve the natural environment in Maryland and on Long Island.
- (3) Build management skills and foster leadership in the nonprofit and civic sectors.

In all of our program areas, the Foundation seeks to **promote systemic change** by supporting programs that address the root causes of problems, rather than short-term approaches. We **encourage regional thinking** and look for opportunities to **connect people and organizations** to work toward **shared goals**. Similarly we are **committed to partnering** with nonprofits, corporations, institutions of higher learning, the media and other funders.

We look for **innovative approaches** to tackling old problems in new ways, and seek to **replicate work** that has **demonstrated its effectiveness** through **measurable outcomes**.

We know that sometimes a relatively small investment can result in projects capable of **leveraging significant public monies**, resulting in compelling achievements. The Foundation is willing to consider projects that expedite progress by combining **collaborative problem solving** efforts with **realistic** and **common sense** solutions.

Our goal for children and families

Our overarching goal is to promote the development of healthy families on Long Island by supporting efforts that facilitate systemic change and positive outcomes for young children, with a particular focus on those that are economically disadvantaged, ages newborn to six. The Rauch Foundation believes that all children deserve an equal start and that a child's early years are critical. By supporting organizations that intervene early in children's lives, we hope to help break the cycle of poverty by encouraging positive attitudes toward learning and enhancing performance in school.

Current Priorities for Children and Families

To help Long Island's children get the best start in life, the current priorities of the Foundation are to support organizations and collaborative efforts that are:

- Helping parents be their children's first and best teachers in order to strengthen families and increase children's capacities to succeed academically.
- Improving the services, quality and financing of childcare and early learning through direct programs, systems change and advocacy.
- Using effective communication techniques to inform parents, policymakers and the community about the importance of intervening early to promote optimal child development and build the public will for making early childhood care and education a priority.
- Demonstrating results in working with at-risk children in disadvantaged communities on Long Island.

What we do not fund

As a general rule, the foundation does not make grants to:

- Individuals
- Capital Projects
- Emergency Funding

Application Procedures

Step One: Concept Paper

Concept papers are accepted throughout the year. Concept papers should be no more than three pages in length and should include the following information:

- (1) Project name.
- (2) Name of a primary contact person with address, phone number and e-mail.
- (3) Amount requested.
- (4) A statement of the need for the project.
- (5) A brief description of the project's goals and design, a timeframe for completion and other partners, if applicable.
- (6) A brief description of the organization including mission, budget size, and sources of income, other programs and clients served.

Please send concept papers to:

The Rauch Foundation

229 Seventh Street, Suite 306

Garden City, New York 11530-5766

or send electronically via email to: awhite@rauchfoundation.org

All requests for funding are carefully reviewed to determine if they fall within the Foundation's areas of interest and program guidelines. If the project qualifies for consideration, Foundation program staff will request additional information, a site visit, or full proposal.

Step Two: Proposal

If a full proposal is requested, applicants may follow the New York/New Jersey Common Application Form <http://www.cnjg.org/CommApp.pdf>. All proposals and supporting documentation become the property of the Foundation. All communication between the Foundation and applicants will be considered privileged communication, with the understanding that applications are periodically reviewed by outside consultants.

Each proposal must include the following accompanying materials:

- (1) A project budget, including expenses and all sources of revenue (either realized or planned) with amount requested from the Rauch Foundation.
- (2) Organizational budget, including expenses and all sources of public and private revenues.
- (3) Background information about the applicant organization and the qualifications of the project's key personnel.
- (4) A copy of the organization's tax exemption letter from the IRS.
- (5) A copy of the organization's most recent audited financial statements.
- (6) A list of the organization's board members and their professional affiliations. In addition, the organization will be asked to complete a board profile supplied by the Foundation.
- (7) A copy of the organization's most recent annual report and any other relevant communications materials, if available.

The Foundation requests that organizations NOT send videotapes.

Funding Decisions

The Foundation will send written notice of all funding decisions. The Foundation is able to fund only a small portion of requests that are submitted. Many excellent projects do not receive funding because they fall outside of the Foundation's guidelines or as a result of a highly competitive process. A denial of funding is not necessarily a reflection of the merits of a project, the quality of the proposal, or the importance of an applicant organization.

If a grant is awarded, the grantee will be responsible for submitting periodic reports describing the progress of the project in relation to goals and objectives. The terms of such reporting and the overall grant shall be detailed in a Memorandum of Grant Conditions.