



Guidelines for Loans

The majority of loans awarded by the Prader-Willi California Foundation are for capital projects, typically building construction, purchase, or remodeling and improvements. The Trustees believe that capital expenditures represent a substantial commitment to an organization, supplying funds that frequently cannot be drawn from general revenues. By distributing funds towards capital projects, PWCF enables recipients to apply personnel and financial resources to their own programmatic needs. Furthermore, purchases made with capital funds help stabilize the operations of an organization and do not necessitate ongoing fundraising for support, as is often the case with new or "pilot" projects or programs.

Most often, PWCF's capital loans are made in the form of challenges, conditional on an organization's raising the balance of the funds needed for a project. The Board of the PWCF usually makes such challenges after a significant portion of the total funds has already been raised, preferably from local sources. Although they have established no absolute guidelines as to how much this should be, the Board generally hopes to see between 50% and 75% of the goal raised before they will consider a loan. Additionally, they expect to see a substantial percentage of that amount raised from those who are closest to the organization, particularly the organization and local community, and those who stand to benefit most from the completion of the project. **Once a loan is made, recipient organizations should not anticipate funding for additional capital needs for approximately three years.**

Because of PWCF's strong emphasis on sustainable projects, **unsolicited applications for operating funds are not considered by the Board.** However, a limited number of Board initiated, unrestricted grants or loans for general purposes, are made each year, and these fall into several distinct categories. Since the establishment of PWCF, certain organizations have been recipients of funds; the Board has chosen to continue these grants in accordance with the interests of the Prader-Willi California Foundation. A second program provides small, one year, no interest loans to certain organizations selected strictly by the Board, usually as a result of previous Foundation support for a capital project. Finally, a few, small grants are made at the Boards' discretion, some for year-end or holiday programs, others for general operations.

Requests for funding of endowments are rarely considered, although PWCF has, on occasion, made grants for this purpose. As with general loans, these loans are always made as a result of initiatives by the Board.

PLEASE NOTE: It is important for the reader not to assume that, because a loan has been made or authorized in the past, a request for funding of a similar project will be successful. The interested applicant should be sure to review the description of the kinds of loans or grants most often approved by the Prader-Willi California Foundation.

