

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

VAP3 Grantee Resource Series, July 23, 2024

**Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation/Dominion EnergyShares**

**Kelly Thomasson, Executive Director**

## **Is it possible for you to share your screen to show us where to find the application?**

“Yeah, that is a great question. I can’t I mean I can share my screen, but I can’t show you where to find it because it is not up yet. It won’t be until August 1, 2024. If you go to this page, there will be a button that says click here for more information on applying for the grant and then that page will give you a lot of information too and eventually there will be a big blue button that says click here to apply and on August 1<sup>st</sup> you’ll be able to do that.”

<https://www.dominionenergy.com/our-company/customers-and-community/charitable-foundation>

## **Are these reimbursable grants?**

“No, these are just. Free grants for you. You, there’s no reimbursement necessary. And so, these are grants that we give our community partners. With no strings attached. And when we don’t, we also don’t ask, unless we give larger grants over \$25,000, we don’t ask for impact reports. We would love to hear from you and hear how things are going, but we won’t make you fill out impact reports.”

## **Can one organization apply for different programs or multiple applications?**

“Preferably not in one grant cycle. Really think about what your highest priority would be and to submit an application for that program for your organization rather than multiple programs that you are currently working on. If you have questions, we are happy to meet with you or chat in advance of submitting an application if you are really having a hard time trying to figure out like what we might fund versus something else you are doing.”

## **If you put in an application, you are eligible to and you receive a grant, are you eligible to apply again the following year?**

“If you put in an application and you don’t receive a grant, you’re eligible to apply again the following year. If you put an application in and don’t receive a grant, you’re eligible to apply again.”

## **Is it possible to have more like kind of detailed meeting with you explaining your programs and projects?**

“Yeah, sure. You can email me at [kelly.thomasson@dominionenergy.com](mailto:kelly.thomasson@dominionenergy.com), or Melanie [DominionFoundation@dominionenergy.com](mailto:DominionFoundation@dominionenergy.com) “ I would be happy to. We have a very small staff and a lot of organizations so we can’t meet one on one with everyone, but we do try to get out and meet with many.”

## **Is there a common thread in the applicants who receive the grant in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range?**

“That is an outstanding question and I wish that I had a good answer for you, but I don’t think that I do. It really depends on the circumstances, I’d say, just the projects that folks are working on.”

**Where can we find the geographic footprint for where the foundation would support a project?**

“The foundation officially gives everywhere that Dominion is a service provider. So, if your electricity comes from Dominion, then we support projects in your area. If it happens to be outside, I’m happy to have a more detailed conversation with you about that if you’ve got a specific question there. But pretty much all across. We are not the service provider all across Virginia, but we do support still projects that are you know you might have Appalachian power or the Northern Net Co-op electricity we still do work in those areas though and so do still support organizations in those areas as well.”

**Can you share a common pitfall for an organization’s application?**

“If I think back over the spring grant applications, I really can think of very few applications that were just like a hard, I can’t see how we would support this. Instead, they were heartbreaking of, oh my gosh, I wish we could give them all of the money.”

**Do you accept applications for rental assistance?**

“That’s a good question.” “Yes, we have done some rental assistance programs. We can’t support any that that is a tangible benefit for the company. So, if you’re organization provides rental assistance and also likes helps people with their utility bills.” “We would ask you to not include it, we wouldn’t be able to direct funding to that. So yes, to rental assistance, no on utility bills because we can’t give you money to then give it to Dominion.”

**Are you able to talk more about the Benevity program?**

“Yes, Benevity is the grant management platform that we use. So, we contract with them to host our grant application and our back-end grant management.” <https://benevity.com/causes>. “A lot of funders use it for employee engagement and volunteer organization sign up for volunteer activities and matching gifts. So, It is a good idea to register your organization there.” “As people are looking for your organization, they can find it.” “So there causes platform so that other people can look for you.” For assistance with registration please contact [Causes Portal \(benevity.com\)](https://benevity.com). This help you get your just kind of get your information out there.” “Registering with Benevity doesn’t cost anything.”

**Do you give gifts in-kind, such as trucks, trailers, etc., are those types of grant donations available?**

“Yeah, yes. Not frequently. And I don’t have the notion about how to do that.” “But, yeah, occasionally the company does do in kind donations of things like that. We just did a big in-kind donation actually of some land in West Virginia to the Nature Conservancy.” “But then also there have been trucks or trailers and vehicles that we’ve taken out of the Dominion circulation that we’ve donated to nonprofit organizations.”