

Proposed Statement of Goals and Strategy of Grants Committee, 2009-2010

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the criteria the Grants Committee (“Committee”) proposes to apply in recommending grants in 2009-2010. In proposing both these criteria and the associated action plan, the Committee remains mindful of the CFEBA “Policy Questions and Answers,” approved May 19, 2004 (“Policy”), and the “Final Report of the 2007-08 Strategic Planning Committee to the Board of the Energy Bar Association.” We are guided especially by the Policy’s call for actions that “make a difference in people’s lives” and “add value” to our charitable endeavors. We believe that the following proposals build on the impressive accomplishments of the CFEBA and past Grant Committees.

Criteria for Selecting Grantees

The Policy states that the Foundation should make monetary contributions for energy-related purposes and encourages the Foundation to undertake projects both in and around Washington, D.C. with “special efforts to identify and engage in other projects in other regions of the country.”

Consistent with the Policy, the Committee proposes to:

1. Continue to coordinate with each of the EBA chapters and the CFEBA chapter liaison to identify and make grants to at least one recipient in each EBA region, if possible;
2. Provide most grants (in terms of both number of grants and total dollar amount of grants) to projects within the United States;
3. Recommend one grant each year with impact outside the United States, but possibly additional such grants where the potential benefit to those in need is particularly compelling (such as the solar cooker project in Darfur);

4. Confirm that each grant serves some legitimate and direct energy-related purpose(s); that is, each grant must be used to help people to meet their energy needs by, for example, enhancing access to reliable energy sources, mitigating energy costs, or improving energy usage efficiency; and
5. Accord preference to applications that propose to leverage a CFEBA grant's impact, such as by (a) obtaining a commitment from a third party to match all or part of the CFEBA grant or (b) providing *long term* energy benefits to the ultimate beneficiary(ies). These "plus factors" are discussed more fully below.

Leveraging CFEBA Resources and Benefits

A. Leveraging CFEBA Resources

Consistent with the Policy's goal that CFEBA grants "'add value' based on [CFEBA's] expertise, relationships and efforts," the Committee proposes to communicate with other organizations that might be willing to provide matching funds for activities that satisfy the above criteria. Such organizations may include charitable or community organizations as well as utilities that do business in a region in which an investmentworthy project exists. ***No CFEBA grant would be made to any entity that is affiliated with a matching donor, and CFEBA would solicit financial support only for projects that meet our criteria, rather than relax those criteria simply to attract non-CFEBA funds.*** To be eligible for a CFEBA match, other organizations' grants may not contain any limitations or restrictions inconsistent with CFEBA's intended use of the funds. If requested, the grant would identify the matching donor(s) along with CFEBA, and CFEBA would (with each such donor's permission) have the right to identify it in any CFEBA publicity regarding the grant program. Likewise, matching donors' own communications would be expected to mention the CFEBA's role.

The Committee’s successful efforts to leverage the impact of CFEBA resources via matching grants began last year. For example, two utilities matched CFEBA’s grant to an organization that provides utility assistance in the Carolinas. We will continue to coordinate with the CFEBA fundraising committee to avoid any conflict with its activities.

B. Leveraging the Benefits

The Committee will strive to use its resources, whenever possible, in ways that go beyond supporting short-term relief to in fact mitigate *long-term* energy burdens on the ultimate beneficiary(ies). For example, while a grant might be made to a nonprofit organization to help the people it serves pay their current utility bills, a portion of that grant might appropriately be targeted to pay some or all of the costs of investments in energy-efficient improvements to a building (such as insulation). Alternatively, through a multi-year commitment, a larger portion – or even all – of the grant might be devoted to reducing long-term energy costs. As another example, we might work with organizations that provide solar heaters for homes owned by needy individuals or the development of other renewable energy resources.

The Committee is committed to making grants that, in the words of the Policy, maximize our ability to “make a difference in people’s lives.” While this is not intended to preclude CFEBA support for short-term emergency assistance, where appropriate, we wish to emphasize our preference for actions that can provide lasting, sustainable benefits to recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

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