

The Anna+Anton Olson Legacy Foundation Grant cycle open with \$150,000 available

Georgetown, Taylor and Hutto nonprofits interested in securing grant funding for operational support and capacity building can apply to The Anna+Anton Olson Legacy Foundation's 2024 grant cycle beginning Monday, July 29. Submissions are due by September 23.



SUN ARCHIVE

Continued on 5 Larry Olson stands with his program's 2023 grant recipients.

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"In 2024, The Anna-Anton Olson Legacy Foundation is making a major shift away from funding nonprofit programs to supporting nonprofit operational sustainability," said Larry Olson, a Georgetown resident who established the legacy fund in honor of his grandparents. "Specifically, Anna-Anton will only fund projects covering a nonprofit's unexpected operational needs or organizational capacity building."

This year's shift in focus to support operations and capacity building is the result of feedback gathered by the legacy foundation from interested nonprofit organizations.

"As we continue to learn how to better improve our effectiveness in supporting nonprofits, it became apparent that as community needs continue to expand, nonprofits were receiving little outside donor funding to strengthen internal organizational capacity and operations," he said.

The area of operational support is overlooked as most grants support specific programs, said Amy Merida, the executive director of the Central Texas Community Foundation, which manages the Anna-Anton legacy fund.

"The shift of focus by Anna-Anton is a unique opportunity for nonprofits to address both short and long term operational needs."

The foundation will award up to \$150,000 through this year's grants. Nonprofits supporting the communities of Georgetown, Taylor and/or Hutto can apply at www.ctxclf.org/anna-anton.

Nonprofits may apply for operational support as long as the focus is within one or more of the following three areas:

- Give underserved children more opportunities to grow and thrive
- Foster a spirit of entrepreneurship with youth and young adults in underserved areas
- Provide independence and dignity to seniors trying to live at home

Operational support projects could include projects that cover unexpected costs, like broken air-conditioner repairs or needed cybersecurity enhancements. Other options could be capacity building projects like updating strategic plans or developing a needed resource management plan, Mr. Olson said.

"Anna-Anton will continue to explore more opportunities to strengthen and sustain nonprofit organizations providing needed services in our communities today

Q&A session set for interested nonprofits

Because of the shift in funding opportunities this year, The Anna+Anton Olson Legacy Foundation will host a Question and Answer session on August 8 from 10-11 a.m.

Interested nonprofits can register for the virtual Q&A session online at www.ctxclf.org/anna-anton

and into the future," he said.

Established in 2021, Anna-Anton was founded to provide philanthropic grants to help strengthen the Georgetown, Hutto and Taylor communities through a life cycle of caring. It honors two pioneers who separately emigrated from Sweden as teenagers — Anton in 1902 from Skåne and Anna in 1907 from Värmland. They met in Chicago and married in 1909. They moved to Texas in 1911 and eventually settled on a farm outside Taylor in 1916.

Visit www.anna-anton.org for more information.

— Nicholas Cicale