



Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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I. Policy & Purpose

The OCEC-Operation Round Up® Program will be funded by contributions from members of the Otero County Electric Cooperative and from other sources available to the fund. Operation Round Up contributions will be used in Otero, Lincoln, Chaves and Socorro County for charitable, educational, environmental and emergency assistance.

II. Major Funding Categories

Although there are many worthy charitable, education projects and community needs in our local area, the limited availability of funds requires us to establish funding categories as follows:

A. Community Service

1. Programs, projects and organizations that are important components of a community's overall quality of life, with emphasis on public safety, health care and self-sufficiency.
2. Individual or family unit with emphasis on health care and self-sufficiency. Individuals or family unit funding is only available to Otero County Electric members with an active electric account. All individual or family applications must be accompanied by a referral letter from a social service agency, such as the Department of Health and Welfare, Lincoln County Medical Center, Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital, etc.
3. Programs and projects that enhance the cultural environment of communities in our local area.

B. Education & Youth

1. School programs and projects with an emphasis on leadership, math, science and the arts.
2. Programs that are designed to combat critical social problems affecting our children and youth, with an emphasis on children and teens at risk.
3. Programs and projects that promote wellness and encourage youth participation in athletics and physical fitness activities.

C. Environment

1. Programs and projects that promote community recycling and natural resource preservation.
2. Community-based environmental quality education programs.

D. Emergency Assistance

1. Community action programs, Red Cross and other local entities that collect and distribute money for low-income emergency assistance.

III. Geographic Focus

Contributions will be in the geographic region of Otero County, Lincoln County, Chaves County and Socorro County.

IV. Funding Restrictions

- A. Contributions to organizations will generally be made only to non-profits that have been granted tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
- B. Contributions will not be made for
 - 1. Lobbying and political organizations
 - 2. Veteran, fraternal and labor organizations
 - 3. National fund drives
 - 4. Advertising
 - 5. Individuals mortgage and rent payments
 - 6. Electric bills
- C. Fund recipients cannot apply within one year of receipt of funds.

V. Evaluation Factors

- A. The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests:
 - 1. The documented critical needs of an individual or family unit
 - 2. Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community
- 3. Level of community support for the program or project or the organization requesting the funds
- 4. Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program; and
- 5. Results that are predictable and can be evaluated.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to evaluate funding requests and to allocate contributions to accomplish the purposes and intent of these guidelines.

ATTESTED _____
Secretary

DATE _____

Adopted: 01/13/2012
Reviewed: 10/18/2018
Reviewed: 02/17/2020