

Our Pillars

The Buckingham Pillar Grant program was designed as a way to recognize the hard work of nonprofits in our communities. The “pillars” upon which we built our program — and our business — are the standards we use when choosing grant recipients.

Planning before Action

We advise our clients that having a clear plan before taking action is critical to increasing the odds of achieving any goal. Applicants should demonstrate a clear articulation of the need they propose to address and a description of the careful planning they’ve accomplished to devise a way to meet that need or that serves as the basis from which their project/program naturally arose. Planning that addresses not just concept, but sustainability through personnel and financial resources, is preferred.

Action Based on Evidence

Buckingham was built upon an evidence-based investment philosophy. That philosophy wasn’t born from the latest headline or trend, but instead resulted from years of academic investment research. Applicants should address the evidence of both need and of efficacy (with the latter being of greater importance to Buckingham) that serves as the basis for the project or program for which funds are being requested. Evidence may be presented by citing published academic work or other highly respected sources. In the case of efficacy, applicants may show their own or another organization’s documented, historical (five years or more) results for the type of project or program being submitted for consideration.

Doing the Right Thing

The spirit of “doing the right thing” guides our philanthropic initiative, just as it guides our firm. Doing the right thing describes how an organization embodies its specific values when carrying out its mission. It is not simply a re-articulation of an organization’s mission, but rather a look at how culture informs the way an organization goes about its business day in and day out. We want to understand how your organization lives its values through its culture and thereby enhances the experience of your associates and clients.