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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2006

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**WILLIAMSPORT-LYCOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO UNRESTRICTED GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**

WILLIAMSPORT, PA – The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation has announced changes to its unrestricted grant program. The changes will only affect grants made from the Foundation's unrestricted funds.

Beginning in 2006, the Foundation will have one deadline to apply for both its regular and mini-grant programs. In addition, the Foundation will require organizations seeking grant funding to provide a Letter of Intent outlining the grant proposal, prior to submitting a grant application.

Future applicants should submit a Letter of Intent that addresses a list of questions found in the Foundation's Letter of Intent instruction packet. Instruction packets are available through the Foundation's offices, or from the Foundation's website, [www.fcfpa.org](http://www.fcfpa.org). The instructions ask applicants to provide information such as a description of the proposed project, the amount being requested from the Foundation, and a description of how the community will benefit from the project. The deadline for prospective applicants to submit a Letter of Intent is June 1, 2006 for consideration of a grant award in 2006.

The Foundation's Grant Committee will review the Letters of Intent, and notify agencies of whether they will be invited to submit a full grant application, or whether their proposal has been denied, by July 1, 2006. Organizations invited to submit a grant application will be given one month to complete the required paperwork, and will be notified of the Foundation's funding decisions by October 30, 2006.

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The changes were announced at two workshops for grant seekers in December 2005. Dawn Linn, Manager of Program & Scholarship Services, commented, “Initial feedback from representatives of local nonprofit organizations has indicated that the changes to the unrestricted grant application process are going to be well-received. Previously, all grant applicants were required to submit fifteen copies of the completed grant application and all supporting documentation with submission of the initial proposal. The new process is intended to eliminate some of the up-front paperwork for organizations seeking grants. Also, establishing one grant deadline for the year will help level the field for all applicants.”

“The Foundation continually evaluates its grant application procedures. We developed the new process through feedback from local nonprofit organizations, research on best practices followed by other community foundations across the country, and input from our volunteers and staff,” said Frank J. Concino Jr., President & CEO of the Foundation.

“The Unrestricted Grant Program is competitive, and has become even more competitive in recent years because of cuts in government funding. To fill those gaps in funding, the Foundation is being asked for more dollars than we have available to spend each year. In the last three grant cycles, we received record numbers of requests for record amounts. Last year, we received almost sixty requests for grants from the Foundation’s unrestricted funds,” Concino continued.

The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation is one of the oldest community foundations in the country. The Foundation has been making grants to community organizations since 1932, and has distributed over \$42.4 million in charitable funding to the region.

The Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation is also the founding affiliate of the First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania. The First Community Foundation of Pennsylvania maximizes the power of people and their donated assets to build vibrant communities within Central and Northcentral Pennsylvania now and in the future. The Foundation focuses on sincerity and integrity in all of its relationships - including those with donors, estate and financial planning professionals, trustee banks and investment managers, current and potential grant recipients, government and business leaders, and the many individuals and families living in its service area. For more information on the programs and services offered by the Foundation, or to learn more about ways to make a difference in the community, contact the Foundation office at 570-321-1500.

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