

What is the CFO?

You might think of the CFO as a nonprofit bank for good — managing charitable assets for schools, donors and nonprofits, and providing grants that help rural schools, teachers and communities thrive. Since 1973, the CFO has:

- Grown to more than \$500 million in assets
- Distributed more than \$650 million in grants
- Expanded to serve 63 counties in Missouri through 55 affiliate foundations

Through endowments, grants, special programs and other resources, the CFO supports long-term and immediate needs in education.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of the OZARKS

Connecting passion to purpose.

THE CFO'S RURAL SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

With the belief that strengthening rural schools strengthens rural communities, the CFO founded the Rural Schools Partnership in 2009. About 100 rural school districts and



RURAL SCHOOLS
PARTNERSHIP

school foundations have established funds with the CFO — your school may already be a partner. Through the RSP, schools can:

- **Start or grow a charitable fund or permanent endowment**
- **Access exclusive grant opportunities**
- **Find resources and best practices for place-based education**
- **Receive support in building a culture of giving**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The CFO offers two key funding options for schools:

- **Grant opportunities:** Throughout the year, the CFO and its affiliates offer general and targeted grant programs for which schools are eligible to apply. The grant programs may provide funding for place-based education projects, field trips, STEM education, mental health, classroom tools, educational software and more.
- **Endowments:** Schools and school foundations can establish permanent funds with the CFO that provide steady support year after year — like a fund for classroom grants or a scholarship for graduating seniors. An endowment at the CFO is also a great tool for alumni who want to make a complex or planned gift that supports the school forever.

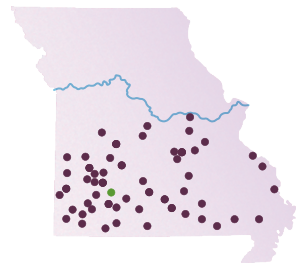
AFFILIATE FOUNDATION NETWORK

The CFO has 55 affiliate foundations across central and southern Missouri.

Your school district's community is likely served by one of these affiliates.

These local “branches” of philanthropy understand and help meet the community's needs through annual

grantmaking. Creating a relationship with your local CFO affiliate can mean support for students and district initiatives.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The CFO's Youth Empowerment Project promotes **student-led philanthropy and leadership in area schools**. YEP chapters organize and carry out initiatives to help both their school and community, giving students hands-on experience in philanthropy.

The CFO supports these chapters through:

- Start-up grants
- Fund management
- Annual conference for students and sponsors



YOUR NEXT STEPS

- **Explore Our Website:** Learn more about the CFO and the RSP, search for grant opportunities and read stories of impact at cfozarks.org/educators.
- **Schedule a “CFO 101” meeting:** Contact Beth Hughs, RSP Coordinator, at bhughs@cfozarks.org or 417-864-6199.

