

## Columbia Promise Fund

### Overview

At NiSource, we understand that our purpose extends far beyond our primary role as a premier utility company. Our purpose is fueled by a commitment to prioritize the social and economic prosperity of our customers, employees, and communities we serve. That means that our activities as a company – and the principles that guide us – reach far beyond our office doors, and into the lives of all those who produce, distribute, use, and benefit from our products and services.

We understand the important role we play to support connectivity throughout the communities we serve. We believe that listening to and respecting all voices make strong communities. And we value new and innovative approaches to solve some of our communities' most pressing challenges. Columbia Gas seeks to do more, and we Promise to create sustainable impact for our employees and our customers for years to come.

The Columbia Promise Fund, through the NiSource Charitable Foundation, will provide transformational grants to organizations committed to becoming agents for change.

Applicants will be scored based on their ability to support social justice while also aligning with the NiSource Charitable Foundation priorities. Applications can be found through our YourCause giving platform. A committee comprised of Columbia Gas team members will review and score each request, and decisions will be made by the NiSource Charitable Foundation. The grant award will total up to \$100,000 paid over 2 years, and eligible initiatives should be sustainable after this initial investment by the Foundation. This fund will support new or expanded programs. Consideration will not be given for general operating support.

### Award

- Up to \$100,000 paid over two years

### Grant-Making Criteria

- Initiative will align with NiSource Charitable Foundation giving priorities:
  - o Basic Needs – Housing and Food Security
  - o Environmental Stewardship
  - o STEAM Education & Economic Development
  - o Community Connection
- The organization's mission supports the intent of the Columbia Promise
- The project delivers an innovative approach to supporting social justice
- The project is uniquely focused on moving underserved populations forward
- Clients served should live/work within Columbia Gas' service territory
- Objectives and success metrics are clearly defined
- Sponsorship benefits are clear
- Initiative will be sustainable after two years

### Key Links

- Columbia Gas of Ohio & NiSource Charitable Foundation priorities and application links:
  - o Priorities: <https://www.columbiagasohio.com/our-company/about-us/columbia-cares>
  - o Application Link: <https://apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/61b4795c-e2ae-4102-b5bd-be224a65849c>
    - Eligible applicants must select "Yes" for Columbia Promise application