STRATEGICALLY-FOCUSED ADIRONDACK GRANT MAKING
About Cloudsplitter Foundation

- **Structure**
  - Formed as a 501c3 charity in 1987, re-domiciled in New York in 1999
  - $6.4 million distributed over past five years (2014-2018)
  - $24 million in assets

- **Adirondack Focus**
  - At least 70% of our grants go to Adirondack grantees
  - Annual support grants: recurring support for key organizations (<$5,000 p.a.)
  - Project grants: major grants to achieve specific strategic objectives

- **Strategic giving (Leverage required):**
  - Promoting public support or support of other foundations
  - Supporting a policy direction or change
  - Leadership grants
Focus

- **Areas of greatest interest**
  - **Environment: protecting our natural resources**
    - Advocacy, land protection, stewardship
  - **Community building: cultural, physical, & civic facilities**
    - Theaters, community centers, parks, trails, community revitalization
  - **Economic sustainability: tourism, critical infrastructure**
    - Museums & historic sites, recreational facilities
  - **Communications and data infrastructure**
    - Broadband everywhere, public radio and television, focused fact-based journalism
  - **Helping our most vulnerable neighbors**
    - Birth-to-Three program, food programs, family resources
Grant-making Process

- Simple three-page grant request form
- Grants of up to 20% of project budget
- Smaller mission-support (vs. project) grants are possible
- Quarterly trustee meetings to act on requests (April, August, October, December). Grants requests must be in by prior month.
- Requests are scored on “bang for buck” metrics (reach, leverage, return)
- Endowment grants are not favored
- Multi-year grants acceptable with performance criteria
Sample grants made

- Nature Conservancy Finch-Pruyn acquisition: $1 million spread over four years
- Dewey Mountain lodge: $115,000 leadership grant with a 1:1 community match
- Beyond the Blaze: $6,000 to help people displaced by a disastrous fire in Lake Placid
- Birth-to-Three initiative (three counties): $150,000 leadership gift
- Mercy Care of the Adirondacks: $25,000 project gift plus recurring annual support
- Paul Smith’s Watershed Institute: $250,000 1:1 match to endow director’s chair
- Saranac Lake Skatepark: $17,500 over three years in two separate grants
- Adirondack Tri-county nursing: $28,500 1:1 match to acquire new bus
- Biodiversity Research Loon Program: $50,000 two-year capacity building grant
- Adirondack Museum: $1 million 5-year exhibit-renovation leadership grant
- Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department: $20,000 match towards a new fire engine
- Adirondack Health: $1 million lead gift spread over four years for new surgical center
Contact the Cloudsplitter Foundation

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