

## Meet the Corporate Grantmakers

September 23, 2009

### Profile Form

**ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:**

Con Edison

**PANELIST (Moderator) NAME & TITLE:**

Marie Cutrone Smith  
Director of Strategic Partnerships

**ADDRESS & PHONE:**

4 Irving Place, Room 1650-S  
New York, NY 10003  
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**INTERESTS:**

**(e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support or service, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)**

Con Edison has a long-established tradition of contributing to and maintaining the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our service areas throughout New York City and Westchester County. To do this, we've committed ourselves to providing financial or in-kind support to organizations whose activities advance strong, vibrant, and stable communities. We choose these groups carefully, looking to their ability to utilize education, training, and special programs and events, to enrich the quality of life of all New Yorkers.

Our focus areas are Education (Math & Science), Environment, Civic Programs & Community Development Programs, and Arts & Culture (Mainly arts-in-education programs). In addition to providing funding to institutions both large and small, established and emerging, Con Edison has a large and loyal corps of volunteers who give of their time and energy to a wide array of educational, health, senior citizen, sports, mentoring, and civic programs and organizations.

Con Edison's corporate giving application process is open from March 1 to October 1. Requests for support are accepted at any time during this time period, and grants are made on a rotating basis. Con Edison makes grants to tax-exempt nonprofit organizations as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S.

Internal Revenue Code. Organizations must be nonsectarian and nondenominational to receive support. It is Con Edison's understanding that the institutions and projects it funds will promote diversity along with equal opportunity, and that programs will be open and accessible to all segments of society.

Con Edison customarily awards grants for specific projects rather than for general operating support. Con Edison does not award grants for reducing debts or past operating deficits. Con Edison does not reduce or donate costs of gas and electric services. Con Edison does not award grants to: Private foundations, Individuals, Labor groups, Organizations with programs operating principally outside Con Edison's service area, Individual public, private, or parochial elementary and secondary schools, Media and literacy projects not connected to an institution or organization, Houses of worship, although requests will be considered from religion-affiliated organizations whose activities benefit the overall community and do not support any religious doctrine.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:**

**(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size or range, summary of technical assistance etc.)**

Our average grant amount is between \$5,000-\$10,000; In 2008, we approved about 650 grants; Our annual budget for contributions is about \$8,000,000. We give in-kind grants of space, lightening consultation, print media, etc...

#### **HOW BEST TO CONTACT:**

The best way to contact me for general inquiries about our giving program is via email – [smithmar@coned.com](mailto:smithmar@coned.com). For proposal submissions, please visit our website for our guidelines and application information: [www.coned.com/partnerships](http://www.coned.com/partnerships).

#### **PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Marie Cutrone Smith is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Con Edison. Directing Con Edison's corporate giving strategy, Ms. Smith manages community relations, charitable giving, volunteerism and the company's special events programs. Ms. Smith seeks to highlight Con Edison's role in the communities within its service area, offering support and partnerships to community-based organizations while enhancing the company's presence in the New York business community.

Before joining Con Edison in April 1999, Ms. Smith was the Community Outreach Coordinator at KeySpan Energy. There, she was responsible for coordinating and administering the grants management system and managed fund-raising activities for the company and affiliated community organizations. She also created and managed a system for executive officers to chair events and fund-raising endeavors. She assisted in the planning and implementation of the KeySpan Foundation and developed its strategic philanthropy.

A 1991 graduate of Hofstra University, Ms. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and completed her Master of Science in Organizational Leadership with Mercy College in 2002.

She is a member of a number of organizations including, NY Regional Association of Grantmakers, The Conference Board, and is the Chair for the NYC Contributions Advisory Group (CAG). She currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Cross Island YMCA as Vice Chair and the board of the Support Center for Nonprofit Management.