Black Hawk County Grant Cycle

Supporting organizations creating stronger communities for everyone.

Grant Guidelines

CFNEIA's Black Hawk County Grants are one-time grants awarded to organizations and projects that benefit residents of Black Hawk County, Iowa. **These guidelines are for the Black Hawk County 2025 Cycles.**

Grantseeker FAQs and Resources: (https://www.cfneia.org/grants/grantseeker-resources).

We encourage applicants with additional questions, and those applying for the first time (or the first time in several years) to contact Sherita Jenkins, Director of Community Impact at 319-243-1356 or sjenkins@cfneia.org.

	Requests for Operational Support	Requests for Other Areas of Support	Application Opens	Application Due	Decision Announced	Grant Awards Ceremony
1ST CYCLE	For organizations (and fiscal sponsored entities) whose fiscal years begin in April-September.	Determine the cycle that best fits the timing of your funding needs based on award date.	November 15, 2024	January 15, 2025 at 5pm	Mid-March 2025	End of March 2025
	Black Hawk Virtual Grant Workshop - **Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 12:30pm to 1:30pm** **Zoom Drop-In: Grant Assistance Office Hours** Thursday, December 5, 2024 – 10am to 11am Tuesday, January 7, 2025 – 12pm to 1pm Thursday, December 12, 2024 – 1pm to 2pm Thursday, January 9, 2025 – 2pm to 3pm Thursday, December 19, 2024 – 10am to 11am Monday, January 13, 2025 – 11am to 12pm					
2ND CYCLE	For organizations (and fiscal sponsored entities) whose fiscal years begin in October-March.	Determine the cycle that best fits the timing of your funding needs based on award date.	May 15, 2025	July 15, 2025 at 5pm	Mid-Sept. 2025	End of Sept. 2025
	Black Hawk Grant Workshop- **Monday, May 20, 2025– 12pm to 1pm** **Zoom Drop-In: Grant Assistance Office Hours** Thursday, May 29, 2025 – 1pm to 2pm Tuesday, July 8, 2025 – 12pm to 1pm Thursday, June 12, 2025 – 2pm to 3pm Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 10am to 11am Thursday, June 19, 2025 – 10am to 11am Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 10am to 11am Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 12pm to 1pm Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – 11am to 12pm					

- With some exceptions, organizations are limited to one application per calendar year*.
  Organizations that are exempt from this restriction include the Cedar Falls School District, the City of Cedar Falls, the City of Waterloo, Hawkeye Community College, University of Northern Iowa, and the Waterloo Community School District.
- Fiscal sponsors may also submit up to one additional proposal within the same calendar year.

Grant Amounts

The majority of our competitive grants range from $5,000 to $25,000, with some grants exceeding that range. Applicants interested in making a request outside of our typical range are encouraged to contact Sherita Jenkins at 319-243-1356 or sjenkins@cfneia.org prior to applying. Past grant award details are posted on the Community Foundation's website.

Eligibility Details

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of Black Hawk County *and* meet the following criteria:

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- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity. Tax-exempt organizations classified as *other* than 501(c)(3) are also eligible *if and only if* the project is deemed charitable; please contact our office to discuss the project's eligibility prior to submitting a proposal.
- For groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirement, we will consider projects submitted through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity. CFNEIA prefers the fiscal sponsor's mission closely align with the sponsored project.
- Applicants must be current with all state and federal reporting requirements.

In addition, the following conditions must be met:
- Applicants must not have any past due grant reports for previous CFNEIA grants.
- Applicants with a separate supporting, eligible organization (like a "friends of" or a foundation) can apply through either the organization or through its supporting organization, but not both. The Foundation encourages applications to be submitted through the supporting organization.
- The Foundation will consider requests for capital campaigns but will not provide multiple grants (in subsequent years) for the same campaign.

Eligibility Based on Funding Type

We believe you know how to best utilize the resources you have to provide service to our community and as such, we *STRONGLY ENCOURAGE* 501(c)3s to apply for general operating support. The following is an outline of what funding types are eligible based on the organization applying:

	Operations	Programming/ Materials	Capital/ Equipment
Nonprofits serving Black Hawk only	Encouraged	Eligible	Eligible
Nonprofits serving BHC + beyond	Encouraged*	Eligible	Eligible
Fiscal sponsored	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
City & county governments	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Non-501(c)(3) agencies	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Churches	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible
Public + private schools (K-12 and higher education)	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible
Other Foundations	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible

For operations in Black Hawk County only

Ineligible Requests

- Requests for retroactive funding (projects/programs that have already occurred prior to funding).
- Requests for regranting purposes.
- Requests for debt reduction.
- Requests for individuals.
- Requests for for-profit entities.
- Requests for associations that only benefit its members and not the community at-large.
- Requests for political doctrine and lobbying or religious activities and proselytization.
- Requests that violate our Nondiscrimination Policy.

What We Fund

The Community Foundation prioritizes requests that align with our community initiatives and embraces organizations that work to address two or more of these.

Advancing Racial Equity – We are committed to supporting organizations and initiatives that are BIPOC-led and/or support BIPOC populations.

Expanding Child Care – We strive to increase equitable, accessible, and sustainable childcare opportunities.

Enhancing the Arts – We work to enrich and enhance an inclusive arts community that amplifies diverse voices and viewpoints.

Strengthening Workforce Readiness – We support the community-wide need to create a more qualified, prepared workforce for the future.

Building Nonprofit Capacity – We want to build the capacity of our nonprofit partners so their work is strengthened to serve our community well.

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AREAS OF FOCUS

This overview provides guidance on our funding preferences across various areas of focus.

	Prefer to fund	Prefer Not to Fund
ARTS & CULTURE	**Access:** Programs that offer new and expanded access to arts and cultural opportunities. **Infrastructure:** Programs and projects that protect history and make long-lasting impacts in the community. **Talent Development:** Programs that help grow the visual and performing creative class in our community.	One-time events and exhibits Projects intended to travel outside of Black Hawk County
COMMUNITY BETTERMENT	**Economic Development:** Programs that create or expand businesses, create new jobs opportunities, and leverage outside financial support. **Civic Engagement:** Programs that support civic action, service learning, and cross-cultural understanding. **Shared Amenities:** Through the creation or expansion of public amenities like parks and trails, libraries, farmers' markets, etc.	Public safety equipment and projects Improvements to non-501(c)(3)'s facilities Ongoing operational and maintenance of public/shared spaces
EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	**Child Care:** Programs that address the academic, health, and social/emotional needs of children pre-kindergarten. **Mentorship:** Through K-12 programs that provide guided and continuous mentoring, coaching, and teaching during or outside regular school hours that improve academic performance. **Career Readiness:** Through 9-12 programs that support post-secondary attainment and workforce readiness.	Teaching parenting skills Back-to-school projects and book distributions One-time education events Athletic and recreation opportunities
ENVIRONMENT & ANIMAL WELFARE	**Conservation:** Through projects that protect ecosystems and minimize our use of natural resources. **Restoration:** Through projects that work to re-establish the healthy functions of ecosystems. **Education:** Programs that foster a stronger awareness and understanding of environmental and sustainability issues.	Care for injured wildlife Animal shelters
HEALTH	**Case Management:** Programs that provide guided and continuous behavioral healthcare and wellness services. **Prevention:** Programs that focus on education, physical health screening, and suicide prevention. **Access:** Programs that expand access to high-quality physical and mental healthcare.	Reproductive and family planning services End of life and bereavement services EMT equipment Hospital maintenance and facility improvements
HUMAN SERVICE	**Case Management:** Through programs that help people overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. **Prevention:** Programs that focus on prevention of child abuse, violence, and substance abuse. **Basic Needs:** Programs that meet basic human needs of food, shelter, housing, transportation, and emergency assistance.	Clothing Adult day care programs Adaptive sports programs

The Grant Selection Committee

Our Black Hawk County Grants Distribution Committee, composed of Community Foundation board members and community volunteers from throughout Black Hawk County, is charged with making funding recommendations to the CFNEIA Board of Directors after reviewing and evaluating all eligible applications.

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How We Evaluate Your Application

The first step of evaluating applications includes a review by our staff to confirm eligibility. All eligible applications are then shared with our Distribution Committee who evaluates them based on the following:

- Organization Capability – *Is the organization the right agency for this project? Are they capable of doing the work?*
- Community Need – *What level of community need does this request address?*
- Collaboration – *Is the organization collaborating with the appropriate agencies on this project?*
- Budget – *Does the organization have a clear and well-prepared budget?*
- Alignment with CFNEIA's Strategic Initiatives – *Does this request align with CFNEIA's strategic initiatives in the areas of child care, the arts, workforce development, racial equity, and/or nonprofit capacity building?*
- BIPOC Led Nonprofit – *Is this organization listed in the Community Foundation's BIPOC Led Directory?*
- Transformational – *Does this request address change at the systems level? Is it a 'game changer'?*

Once all evaluations are complete, the Distribution Committee meets to discuss and deliberate, using the evaluations as a guide to make determinations for funding.