

Partners in Community Impact

Supporting organizations creating stronger communities for everyone.

WINNESHIK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS – 2024

SNAPSHOT		
APPLICATION OPENS	NOVEMBER 15, 2023	This document provides the necessary details about this specific grant opportunity, including deadlines and eligibility requirements. For information about accessing the online grants management site, tips on grantwriting, and more, visit the Grantseeker Resources section of our website (www.cfneia.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact Grant and Scholarship Manager Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org .
APPLICATION DEADLINE	JANUARY 15, 2024 at 5:00PM	

About the Winneshiek County Community Foundation

The Winneshiek County Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by and for the people of Winneshiek County. The Foundation’s mission is to strengthen Winneshiek County communities by encouraging charitable giving to create legacies for the future. We offer world-class donor services and wise investing. Our grants are designed to act as a catalyst for community transformation and growth, enriching the lives of all area citizens.

What We Fund

The Winneshiek County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Winneshiek County, Iowa. We want to help develop communities that people want to live in, as well as to benefit rural areas of the county. Areas of Foundation giving are:



Eligibility to Apply

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of the Winneshiek County **and** must meet the following criteria to apply for a grant:

- 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** the project is deemed charitable; please contact our office to discuss the project’s eligibility prior to submitting a proposal.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements, such as filing of 990 forms.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous Winneshiek Community Foundation grants.
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Applications must be completed by the de date using the online application and CFNEIA grant site.

Groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirements may submit a request through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity. The Foundation prefers that the fiscal sponsor’s mission closely align with the sponsored project. **Fiscal Sponsors will be legally and financially responsible for any grant funds that are awarded.**

Restrictions

- One application per organization with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors. Government entities may submit only one application per department. Schools are government entities.
- **Minimum grant request amount is \$2,000, maximum grant request amount is \$20,000.**
- **Applicants must use the Budget Template that is linked in the application (see page 4 for example).** Complete budget details and indication of other funding sources, secured or pending approval, are required. ***The WCCF Request plus Other Funding column must equal the Total Request Cost column.*** Use of local vendors for your supplies and services is encouraged, if applicable and feasible.
- Applicants must include bids/estimates for any work being completed and/or equipment/materials to be purchased that are more than 5% of the total costs or more than \$100.

Review Criteria and Funding Priorities

The WCCF is focused on providing grants that create an impact within Winneshiek County. The inclusion of the criteria information and the ability to articulate how the organization will successfully complete a request has a high priority in the scoring of each application. Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following criteria:

- **Organization** – The overall health of the organization and how the application reflects the organization’s capability for completing the request.
- **Feasibility** – The probability the request will be successful, including the organization’s implementation strategy, timeline, partnerships, and realistic plans for future continuation of funding (if applicable) from other sources.
- **Community Need** – The degree to which the request is community-focused, and significantly addresses an important need in the county.
- **Request Budget** – Whether the budget is clear, mathematically correct, corresponds to supplied bids/estimates, and demonstrates attempts to secure and/or leverage other funding sources, including matching donations and in-kind services.
- **Outcomes** - How the request yields substantial benefits to the county for the resources invested.
- **Innovation** - The degree to which the request is creative, strategic, and forward-thinking. A high score requires that this specific request (as distinct from the organization) has not been previously funded.

Grant Selection Committee

Grant applications are reviewed by Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa staff for eligibility. Review of applications and scoring is done by Winneshiek County Community Foundation Committee. The Committee is made up of community volunteers from throughout Winneshiek County. This committee is responsible for making funding recommendations to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa’s board of directors. The Committee carefully reviews and considers all eligible applications based on the guidelines stated herein. The 2024 Governing Committee is:

Jeannie Boyer	Terry Haindfield	Terry Linderbaum	Keith Newhouse
Tracy Dostal	Lilly Jensen	Marcia McKelvey	Jana Olson
Nathan Ersig	Chelsey Kephart	Emily Mineart	

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Winneshiek County Community Foundation should fully review these grant guidelines prior to applying to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Applications must be submitted through the foundation’s online grant management system; a link is located in the grants section of www.winneshiekcfc.org. Also located on the website are helpful resources for logging in and navigating the online grants system.

Important Dates

- **The grant application submission deadline is 5:00 pm on January 15, 2024.** *Technical assistance for applicants will be available until 5:00 pm on the date of the deadline.*
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant process in mid-March 2024.
- Grant award ceremony will be held in April 2024. More details will be provided with the notification letter.
- Grant Reports, for successful proposals, will be due April 30, 2025.

Grant Conditions

Awarded applicants are required to:

- Sign a Terms of Grant agreement which clarifies legal parameters for use of the grant.
- Submit a Grant Report to show the results of the project and to show that all the funds have been spent as intended. (If the project takes longer to complete, the Community Foundation will consider a request to extend the Grant Report deadline.)

Questions

Applicants should contact Dotti Thompson, Grant and Scholarship Manager, at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org with specific questions on eligibility or accessing the grant site.

It is suggested that first-time applicants contact Shanda Hansen, Director of Affiliate Impact, at 319-243-1357 or shansen@cfneia.org to explore the appropriateness of requests and for any further guidance.

Application Checklist:

- ___ Guidelines Reviewed
- ___ Eligibility Verified or Fiscal Sponsor Secured
- ___ Budget Complete using Required Template
- ___ Request Bids Uploaded
- ___ All Optional Support Documents Uploaded, if applicable
- ___ Required Signatures Completed
- ___ Application Submitted by **5:00 pm** on 1/15/2024

Sample Request Budget

Request: Traveling Museum

Request Expenses	Total Request Cost	WCCF Request	Other Funding	Cite Funding Source	Funding Status
Mobile Pixel Pegs	\$16,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	Agency	Received
			\$2,000	In-Kind	Secured
			\$2,000	United Way	Pending
Magnet Wall	\$2,750	\$0.00	\$2,750	Donations	Received
Trailer	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,000	Agency	Received
			\$500	Donations	Pending
Giant Spin Art	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	Grant	Secured
Traveling Piano	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$10,000	Agency	Secured
			\$2,000	Donations	Received
Total	\$39,750.00	\$10,500.00	\$29,250.00		

Instructions:

Enter each expense line item for the request in the Request Expenses column (Column A). In the Total Request Cost column, enter the total cost for the corresponding line item (Column B). The cost of the line item that is being requested from the WCCF is entered into the WCCF Request column (Column C). Any additional funding amounts for each request expense are entered separately by funding source into the Other Funding column (Column D). The type of funding source must be selected from the dropdown list in the Funding Source column (Column E). Select the appropriate funding status for each funding source in the Funding Status column (Column F) from the dropdown list. You may add more rows as needed. The total WCCF Request column plus Other Funding column must equal the Total Request Cost column.

Funding Source Definitions:

Agency - Funds from the organization's budget or reserves

In-Kind Services - Labor or other services provided at no cost or by volunteers

Grant - Grant funds other than those from the WCCF, including pending grant from other CFNEIA Affiliates

Donations - Funds received from private individuals or businesses

United Way - Funds received through United Way organizations

Other - Funds from a source not listed

Funding Status Definitions:

Pending - Funds have been sought, but are awaiting approval/denial

Secured - Funds have been committed but not received by the organization

Received - Funds have been received and are earmarked for the request