Grant Guidelines

CHICKASAW COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CHICKASAW COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS – 2027

IMPORTANT DATES		
APPLICATION OPENS	**NOVEMBER 15, 2026**	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 Nonprofit FAQ section of our website (www.cfneia.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact our administrative office at 319-243-1358 or programs@cfneia.org.
APPLICATION DEADLINE	**JANUARY 15, 2027 AT 5:00 PM**	

Zoom Drop-In: Grant Assistance Office Hours — **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81066591446**

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 – 9-10:00am
Wednesday, November 25, 2026 – 3-4:00pm
Friday, December 4, 2026 – 9-10:00am
Thursday, December 10, 2026 - 12-1:00pm
Wednesday, December 16, 2026 - 3-4:00pm
Wednesday, December 30, 2026 - 9-10:00am
Tuesday, January 5, 2027 – 12-1:00pm
Monday, January 11, 2027 – 11:00am-12:00pm
Thursday, January 14, 2027 – 9-10:00am

About the Chickasaw County Community Foundation

The Chickasaw County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, created by and for the people of Chickasaw County, for the purpose of generating both endowed and unrestricted funds to support charitable capital projects, activities, services, programs, and organizations that will improve the quality of life for the residents of Chickasaw County, Iowa. Visit www.chickasawccf.org to learn more.

What We Fund

The Chickasaw County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Chickasaw County, Iowa. We want to help develop communities that people want to live in, as well as benefit rural areas of the county. We do this through the Community Foundation's Impact Priority areas of grantmaking. For more information on our Impact Priorities, visit cfneia.org/impactpriorities.

Our Impact Priorities

- Opportunity & Access
- Health & Safety
- Vibrant Communities
- Youth Empowerment

Eligibility to Apply

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

- 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.
- Current with all state and federal reporting requirements, such as filing of 990 forms.
- No past due grant reports for previously awarded grants.
- Requests that include or require participation in inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Application must be completed by the due date using the online application and CFNEIA grant site.
- Requests for political activity/lobbying, debt repayment, endowment contributions, funds that will be re-granted by the applicant to another entity, and/or expenses incurred prior to grant notifications are not eligible.
- Fiscal sponsors may submit only one application per sponsored organization.

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.

NOTE: Please read the guidelines and application instructions thoroughly before submitting the application.

Restrictions

In addition to the eligibility requirements, the following restrictions apply:

- One application per organization per year with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors.
- Government entities and schools may submit only one application per department.
- The minimum request is $1,000; maximum request is $10,000.
- **Applicants must use the Budget Template that is linked to the application. (see page 4 for example).**
- In general, the CCCF does not fund general operating costs of a request, including salaries.
- Bids/estimates for work to be completed are strongly encouraged to be included in applications.

Funding Priority

Highest priority for funding is given to requests that:

- Provide a detailed budget and show other funding sources for the request.
- Show substantial long-term community impact through the number of individuals served.
- Show the ability to be sustained once the grant funds are expended.

Please note: The request described in your application may be funded in full, partially funded, or not at all. The more information you can provide in your application the better.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following elements:

- **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 level of staff/volunteers and collaboration with community partners.
- **Community Need and Outcomes** – The need for the request and how the proposed outcomes impact the community/county.
- **Request Budget** – The details of the budget and the ability to secure and/or leverage other funding sources, including in-kind services.

Grant Selection Process

The Chickasaw County Community Foundation is made up of community volunteers from throughout Chcikasaw 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 Committee list can be found at www.chickasawccf.org.

How to Apply

Before applying, applicants should review these grant guidelines to ensure they meet all eligibility requirements. Applications must be submitted through the Foundation's online grant management system. Visit https://www.cfneia.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/ to access the online grant system and additional resources for grant seekers.

Important Dates

- ***A Grant Workshop will be held on November 12, 2026 from 6-7:30pm at the New Hampton Community Center (112 E. Spring St., New Hampton).*** You can RSVP for this workshop at this **link**.
- The grant application deadline is **5:00pm** on **January 15, 2027**. ***Technical assistance will be available to applicants until 5:00 pm on the day of the deadline.***
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant process in mid-March 2027.
- Grant awards will be presented during a ceremony in April 2027. ***Grantees (along with staff & board members) are strongly encouraged to attend this ceremony to be recognized.***
- Grant reports for successful proposals are due April 30, 2028.

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 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. First-time applicants are highly encouraged to contact Shanda for guidance to strengthen their alignment and application.

Applicants can 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.

Sample Request Budget					
	Request Name:	Fire Department Updates			
Request Expenses	**Total Request Cost**	**CF Request**	**Other Funding Amt**	**Other Funding Source**	**Other Funding Status**
Packs	$ 38,540.00		$ 35,000.00	Agency	Received
			$ 3,540.00	Donations	Received
Masks	$ 6,116.00	$ 1,900.00	$ 4,216.00	Grant	Pending
Tanks	$ 10,252.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,376.00	Donations	Secured
			$ 3,376.00	United Way	Secured
Batteries	$ 5,136.00	$ 4,600.00	$ 536.00	Other	Received
Chargers	$ 1,616.00		$ 1,616.00	In-Kind	Secured
Total	**$ 61,660.00**	**$ 10,000.00**	**$ 51,660.00**		

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 CCCF is entered into the CCCF Request column (Column C). Any additional funding amounts for each request expense are entered separately by funding source (Column D). Enter the appropriate funding status for each funding source in the Funding Status column (Column F). You may add more rows as needed. **The Total Request Cost column must equal the CCCF Request column plus the Other Funding Source Column.**

NOTE: In-kind services or discounts should be included in the Total Request Cost column at a rate your organization would have to pay a vendor and the amount equal to this should be shown in the Other funding Amt column as an income.

Funding Source
Definitions:

Agency - Funds from the organization's budget or reserves

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

Grant - Grant funds for this request other than those from the CCCF, including grants from 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