Grant Guidelines

GRUNDY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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GRUNDY 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 Grundy County Community Foundation

The Grundy County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, created by and for the people of Grundy 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 Grundy County, Iowa. Visit www.grundyccf.org to learn more.

What We Support

The Grundy County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Grundy 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

How Our Impact Priorities Guide Us

Our impact priorities guide where and how we invest in our communities. They help focus our grantmaking on projects that build opportunity, strengthen community connections, and create long-term impact. We encourage applicants to consider how their work aligns with these priorities.

Opportunity & Access

Everyone deserves the chance to reach their potential. We partner with organizations and actively work to remove barriers and expand pathways to opportunity so all people, especially those in underserved and rural areas, have equitable access to the resources and support needed for economic prosperity.

We welcome proposals that demonstrate a critical need and provide a solution that creates opportunity & access for residents in our county.

Health & Safety

Every person has the right to live in a safe, stable, and healthy environment. We work with organizations providing essential health and human services.

We welcome proposals that promote health and safety in our county and have an interest in funding organizations and local government entities that ensure the general safety of all residents and those who demonstrate meaningful outcomes related to critical health issues facing individuals in our county.

Vibrant Communities

Vibrant Communities are places where people want to live, work, and play. We connect and collaborate with organizations bringing neighborhoods to life through arts, culture, recreation, and economic development.

We welcome proposals that contribute to building Vibrant Communities in our county. We have an interest in funding organizations and local government entities that demonstrate their contributions to long-term vitality by enhancing quality of life for a broad segment of our population through amenities and places people love to be. We also have an interest in funding organizations and entities that are strengthening the ability of our county to attract and retain residents, businesses, and visitors.

Youth Empowerment

Young people are the future leader and changemakers of our region. We support programs that provide educational opportunities, leadership development, and mentorship.

We welcome proposals that meet the unique needs of young people in our county by empowering them through meaningful development opportunities. We have an interest in funding organizations that ensure children are cared for and families are supported.

Eligibility to Apply

Organizations must provide benefits to the people of Grundy 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.

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 *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	Equipment/ Materials	Capital
501(c)3 Nonprofits Serving our County	Eligible*	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
City & County Governments Public + Private Schools (K-12 & higher education) Other Foundations	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Churches Other Non-501(c)(3), Tax-Exempt Organizations	Not eligible**	Eligible**	Eligible**	Eligible**
Fiscally Sponsored Entities	***	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible

**For operations in our county only.*

***Request must be charitable and benefit community as a whole (i.e. community programming, space, etc).*

****For Fiscally Sponsored entities, please contact our office to confirm eligibility for operations funding.*

Restrictions

- One application per organization with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors.
- Government entities and schools may submit only one application per department.
- Grant request minimum is $1,000.
- **Applicants must use the Budget Template that is linked to the application** to provide a detailed budget listing all expenses and income sources **specific to the request.** (*See budget template on page 5 for sample.)*
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to include bids and/or estimates for equipment and materials being requested.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following elements:

Impact Criteria — Reviewers will assess how well the proposed project addresses a clear Community Need & Impact potential in Grundy County, and how strongly it aligns with one of the county's four Impact Priorities (Opportunity & Access, Health & Safety, Vibrant Communities, and Youth). Impact is the most important factor in scoring.

Core Criteria — Reviewers will also evaluate all applications using consistent criteria that apply across all priorities:

- **Organization Capability** — Does the applicant have the capacity to successfully deliver the project?
- **Collaboration** — Does the project align with community partners to avoid duplication and maximize resources?
- **Budget Clarity** — Are the proposed expenses clear, reasonable, and an appropriate use of funds?
- **Learning & Improvement** — Does the organization listen to the people it serves and adapt based on feedback?

Grant Selection Process

The Grundy County Community Foundation (GCCF) is made up of community volunteers from throughout Grundy 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.grundyccf.org.

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants 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. Visit https://www.cfneia.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/ to access the online grant system, and to find additional resources for grant seekers.

Important Dates

- ***A Virtual Grant Workshop will be held on November 18, 2026 from 12-1:00pm on Zoom.*** You can RSVP for this workshop at this **link**.
- **The grant application deadline is 5:00 pm on January 15, 2027.** Technical support 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. More details will be provided with grantee notifications. ***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.

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 GCCF Request Budget					
	Request Name:	**Traveling Library**			
Request Expenses	**Total Request Cost**	**GCCF Request**	**Other Funding Amt**	**Other Funding Source**	**Other Funding Status**
Book Mobile	$ 15,000.00	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	Donations	Received
			$ 7,000.00	Agency	Secured
			$ 3,000.00	In-Kind	Received
Portable Laminator	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00	Agency	Received
Give Away Books	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00			
Book Mobile Shelving	$ 2,750.00	$ 1,375.00	$ 1,000.00	Grant	Secured
			$ 375.00	In-Kind	Secured
Bookmarks	$ 500.00	$ -	$ 500.00	Donations	Received
Staff Wages	$ 7,645.00	$	$ 7,645.00	Agency	Received
Total	**$ 30,395.00**	**$ 7,875.00**	**$ 22,520.00**		

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 GCCF is entered into the GCCF 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 GCCF 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 project other than those from the GCCF, including grants pending/received 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