



KOSSUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – 2026

IMPORTANT DATES		
APPLICATION OPENS	SEPTEMBER 1, 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	OCTOBER 15, 2026 AT 5:00 PM	
Zoom Drop-In: Grant Assistance Office Hours		
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – 11:00am-12:00pm		Tuesday, October 6, 2026 – 12:00-1:00pm
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – 3:00-4:00pm		Thursday, October 8, 2026 – 3:00-4:00pm
Thursday, September 24, 2026 – 9:00-10:00am		Monday, October 12, 2026 – 11:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 – 3:00-4:00pm		

About the Kossuth County Community Foundation

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

What We Support

The Kossuth County Community Foundation provides grants to improve life in Kossuth 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 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 to thrive.

We welcome proposals that demonstrate a meaningful community need and provide solutions that expand opportunity, reduce barriers, and increase access for residents in our county. This may include efforts that strengthen financial wellbeing and economic mobility or address other barriers that prevent people from reaching their full potential

Health & Safety

Every person has the right to live in a safe, stable, and healthy environment. We partner with organizations providing essential health and human services that promote wellbeing and help residents meet their basic needs.

We welcome proposals that demonstrate a meaningful community need and measurable outcomes related to improving the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents. This may include efforts to address food insecurity, expand access to mental health services, support seniors and older adults, or respond to other significant health and safety challenges within our county.

Vibrant Communities

Vibrant Communities are places where people want to live, work, and play. We connect and collaborate with organizations that bring neighborhoods and communities to life through arts, culture, recreation, placemaking, 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 a meaningful community need or opportunity and contribute to stronger, more connected, and resilient communities. This may include efforts that enhance quality of life, strengthen community identity, support community revitalization, or create lasting community assets that help Kossuth County communities thrive.

Youth Empowerment

Young people deserve opportunities to learn, grow, and reach their full potential. We support organizations that invest in children and youth through education, mentorship, leadership development, and experiences that help them thrive.

We welcome proposals that demonstrate a meaningful need affecting children, youth, or families and provide opportunities that help young people learn, grow, and reach their full potential. This may include efforts that ensure children are cared for, families are supported, and young people have equitable access to the resources, relationships, and experiences they need to succeed.

Eligibility to Apply

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

- Classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or 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, regranteeing, endowment contributions, and debt and/or expenses incurred prior to grant notifications are ineligible.
- 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 aligns with the sponsored project. **Fiscal Sponsors will be legally and financially responsible for any grant funds that are awarded.**

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

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

- **One application per organization** with the exemption of Government Entities and Fiscal Sponsors.
- Government entities and schools may submit one application per department.
- Multiple applications for the same project or to benefit a single organization are not eligible for funding.
- **Grant request minimum is \$2,500.**
- **Applicants are required to use the budget template linked to the application.** Budgets should indicate what other funding sources have been secured or are pending approval (See page 4 of Guidelines for sample).

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following elements:

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

- **Community Need** — How well does the applicant demonstrate this is a real, documented need in Kossuth County?
- **Organization Capability** — Can this organization successfully carry out and steward what they are proposing based on mission alignment, capacity, track record, leadership, and partners involved?
- **Collaboration** — Does the organization effectively use collaborative partnerships to advance the work described?
- **Budget Clarity** — Is the budget clear, credible, and/or proportional to the outcomes described?
- **Learning & Improvement** — Does the organization meaningfully learn from its work, listen to those it serves, and/or adapt/improve over time?

Impact Criteria — In addition to the core criteria, reviewers will assess how well the proposed request aligns with one of the county's four Impact Priorities (Opportunity & Access, Health & Safety, Vibrant Communities, and Youth) and meaningfulness of the outcomes and impact.

Grant Selection Process

The Kossuth County Community Foundation is made up of community volunteers from throughout Kossuth 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.kossuthccf.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

- **Grant Workshops will be held on September 17, 2026 from 12-1 pm at Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company, (808 Hwy 18 W, Algona) and from 4-5pm at the Summit Center, 304 Summit Ave., Bancroft.** You can RSVP for the Algona workshop using this [link](#). To attend the Bancroft workshop, RSVP using this [link](#).
- **The grant application deadline is 5:00 pm on October 15, 2026. 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 decisions in mid-December 2026.
- Grant awards will be presented at an award ceremony in early-mid January 2027. **Grantees (along with staff & board members) are strongly encouraged to attend this ceremony to be recognized.**
- Grant reports for successful proposals will be due on January 31, 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

	Community Foundation Request Budget				
	Request: Library Updates				
Request Expenses	Total Request Cost	CF Request	Other Funding	Other Funding Source	Funding Status
Carpet Squares	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	Agency	Received
Shelving	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	In-Kind	Secured
Computers	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 750.00	Agency	Received
			\$ 750.00	United Way	Pending
			\$ 500.00	Donations	Received
Furniture	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	Grant	Received
			\$ 500.00	Agency	Received
Total	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,000.00		

Instructions:

Enter each expense line item for the request in the Request Expenses column (Column A). In the Total Item 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 CF is entered into the CF Request column (Column C). Any additional funding amounts for each request expense are entered separately in the Other Funding column (Column E). Select the appropriate funding source for each other funding amount in the Funding Source column (Column F) from the drop-down menu. Select the appropriate funding status for each funding source in the Funding Status column (Column G) from the drop-down menu. **The Total Item Cost column must equal the CF Request Column plus the Other Funding Column. Definitions listed below are for the other funding amounts, not the CF request.**

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 for this request (other than those from this CF), 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: This is for the other funding sources; not the requests from this CF

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

****A blank copy of budget template is linked in the application.***