

External Grant Opportunities & Nonprofit Resources



The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa (CFNEIA) is committed to strengthening communities by connecting nonprofits, government partners, and community leaders with the resources they need to thrive. For grant opportunities through CFNEIA, please visit <https://www.cfneia.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/>.

This guide highlights external grant opportunities and nonprofit support resources beyond CFNEIA funding. It prioritizes Iowa and regional funders that frequently support organizations in Northeast Iowa. Organizations are encouraged to review each funder’s guidelines and eligibility requirements before applying.

County → Funder Matrix

(Use this table to quickly identify funders serving your county. Contact information for each on subsequent pages.)

County	Funders Serving the County
Black Hawk	Black Hawk County Gaming Association, Guernsey Charitable Foundation, Waterloo Community Foundation, Cedar Falls Community Foundation, Otto Schoitz Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust, John Deere Foundation, Van G. Miller Foundation, Pauline Barrett Foundation
Bremer	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust
Buchanan	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust
Butler	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust, First Citizens National Bank Foundation
Cerro Gordo	Hanson Family Foundation, Beth Reinhart Trust, Elizabeth Norris Fund, Farrer Endowment Foundation, First Citizens National Bank Foundation
Chickasaw	R.J. McElroy Trust, First Citizens National Bank Foundation
Fayette	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust, Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation
Floyd	Hanson Family Foundation, First Citizens National Bank Foundation
Franklin	Hanson Family Foundation, First Citizens National Bank Foundation, Foster & Evelyn Barkema Charitable Trust
Grundy	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust
Howard	First Citizens National Bank Foundation
Tama	Guernsey Charitable Foundation, R.J. McElroy Trust, Mansfield Charitable Foundation
Winnebago	Winnebago Industries Foundation, Hanson Family Foundation
Winneshiek	R.J. McElroy Trust
Worth	Worth County Development Authority, Hanson Family Foundation, First Citizens National Bank Foundation

Statewide and national funders listed later in the guide typically serve all counties.

Foundations & Trusts based in Waterloo/Cedar Falls

[Black Hawk County Gaming Association](#)

Supports nonprofits and public entities through gaming revenue grants.

[Guernsey Charitable Foundation](#)

Regional foundation supporting education, health, arts, human services, and community improvement.

[Waterloo Community Foundation](#)

Local foundation supporting community vitality and quality-of-life initiatives in Waterloo.

[Cedar Falls Community Foundation](#)

Local foundation supporting community livability and economic vitality initiatives in Cedar Falls.

[Otto Schoitz Foundation](#)

Provides grants primarily to organizations within the Waterloo region.

[R.J. McElroy Trust](#)

Focuses on youth and education initiatives in Northeast Iowa.

Van G. Miller Foundation and Pauline Barrett Foundation

Contact Beth Kunkle at bkunkle@beecherlaw.com

Additional Foundations & Trusts

[First Citizens National Bank Foundation](#)

Funds community initiatives across multiple Northeast Iowa counties.

[Worth County Development Authority](#)

Supports economic development and community improvement.

[Winnebago Industries Foundation](#)

Supports community vitality, outdoor access, and equity initiatives.

[John K. & Luise V. Hanson Family Foundation](#)

Supports organizations in North Iowa counties with focus areas including arts, recreation, and youth development.

Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund

Howard Query – Screening Committee
PO Box 271, Mason City, IA 50402
641-421-0507

Supports community development, education, health, and social services.

Farrer Endowment Foundation

Gerald M. Stambaugh, Secretary
PO Box 1567, Mason City, IA 50402
641-423-5154

Supports youth services and public libraries.

Beth E. Reinhart Charitable Trust

PO Box 894, Mason City, IA 50401
bethcharitabletrust@outlook.com
641-430-4563

Supports programs benefiting children within roughly 50 miles of Mason City.

Mansfield Charitable Foundation

Contact: Larry Schule
319-444-3285

Supports projects in Tama County and surrounding communities.

Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation

319-283-1056

Supports organizations in Fayette County and surrounding areas.

Foster & Evelyn Barkema Charitable Trust

PO Box 461, Hampton, IA 50441
641-456-5196

barkematrust@hotmail.com

Supports communities served by the Belmond-Klemme, CAL, Hampton-Dumont, and West Fork school districts.

Iowa Emergency Services Grant Opportunities

[Iowa Department of Public Safety – Fire Service Training Bureau Grants](#)

Provides training support and resources for Iowa fire departments, including firefighter certification, safety training, and specialized emergency response programs.

[Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management – Emergency Management Performance Grant \(EMPG\)](#)

Supports local emergency management agencies in planning, training, exercises, and coordination to strengthen statewide emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

[Volunteer Fire Assistance \(VFA\) Program – Iowa DNR](#)

Provides cost-share grants to rural volunteer fire departments for equipment, training, and wildfire suppression capacity.

[Iowa EMS System Development Grants](#)

Supports development and improvement of EMS systems, including equipment purchases, training, and system coordination.

Federal Emergency Services Grant Opportunities

[Assistance to Firefighters Grants \(AFG\) – FEMA](#)

Federal grant program supporting fire departments and EMS organizations with funding for equipment, training, protective gear, and facility improvements.

[Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) Grants – FEMA](#)

Supports recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and provides funding for firefighter staffing needs.

[Fire Prevention & Safety \(FP&S\) Grants – FEMA](#)

Provides funding for fire prevention programs, public education, and firefighter safety research initiatives.

Iowa & Statewide Grant Opportunities

[Iowa Grants Portal](#)

Central statewide database of government grants across Iowa agencies.

[Iowa Grants Guide – Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center](#)

Directory of Iowa foundations and grantmakers useful for identifying regional funding.

[Iowa Department of Natural Resources Grants](#)

Funding for conservation, recreation, parks, trails, and environmental education.

[Iowa Arts & Culture Grants](#)

Support for arts programming, historic preservation, and cultural development.

[Empower Rural Iowa Grants](#)

Economic and community development funding focused on rural vitality.

[Iowa Department of Public Health Grants](#)

Supports rural health initiatives and healthcare access programs.

Specialized Funding Opportunities

[KaBOOM!](#)

Funds playgrounds and youth outdoor initiatives.

[Keep Iowa Beautiful](#)

Provides paint grants for public buildings and community beautification.

[American Academy of Dermatology Shade Structure Grants](#)

Funds shade structures in parks and community spaces.

[PetSmart Charities](#)

Supports animal adoption and spay/neuter programs.

[Petco Love](#)

Funds animal lifesaving and shelter support.

[Maddie's Fund](#)

Supports innovation in animal sheltering.

[Petfinder Foundation](#)

Provides grants for adoption promotion and shelter capacity.

[TechSoup](#)

Provides discounted technology and software to nonprofits.

Corporate Foundations Active in Iowa

[Walmart Foundation](#)

Community grants supporting hunger relief, workforce development, and sustainability.

[Target Foundation](#)

Supports education, community vitality, and equity initiatives.

[US Bank Community Possible Grants](#)

Focus areas include workforce development and economic mobility.

[Principal Foundation](#)

Emphasizes financial security, education, and community development.

[Wells Fargo](#)

Supports grants for financial opportunity, housing access and affordability, and small business growth.

[Veridian Credit Union](#)

Provides grants to nonprofits focused on financial literacy and employment readiness in the communities they serve.

Grant Databases & Research Tools

[GrantWatch Iowa](#)

Aggregated grant listings across sectors.

[Grants.gov](#)

Primary federal grant database.

[Travel Iowa Industry Grants](#)

Tourism and destination marketing funding opportunities.

Need Help?

CFNEIA staff are happy to help nonprofits identify funding opportunities, strengthen grant proposals, and connect with potential partners. Contact us at programs@cfneia.org.

[Lincoln Savings Bank](#)

Supports nonprofit organizations in the communities they serve.

[Wellmark Foundation](#)

Supports prevention, health equity, and community wellness.

[Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation](#)

Supports oral health access and prevention initiatives.

[T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#)

Supports rural community revitalization projects.

[Home Depot Community Impact Grants](#)

Funds veteran services, housing improvements, and community infrastructure.

[Lowe's Foundation](#)

Supports skilled trades training and community improvements.

[John Deere Foundation](#)

Supports community development, workforce development, and sustainability initiatives.

Nonprofit Capacity & Sector Resources

[Cedar Valley Nonprofit Association](#)

Regional network offering professional development, training, and collaboration opportunities.

[Iowa Nonprofit Alliance](#)

Statewide nonprofit association providing advocacy, research, and professional development.

[Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center](#)

Provides training, research, and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations across Iowa.

[National Council of Nonprofits](#)

National organization providing governance, policy, and nonprofit management resources.

[BoardSource](#)

National leader in nonprofit governance and board development resources.

[Propel Nonprofits](#)

Provides tools and guidance on nonprofit strategy, finance, governance, and leadership.

[Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley](#)

Connects volunteers with nonprofit organizations and supports volunteer engagement.