



FOR GOOD. FOREVER.

## Grant Resources & FAQ

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

*The Community Needs Grants invest in the charitable efforts of nonprofits and community organizations where they will have the greatest impact on the community.*

New online application process coming in 2025!  
Stay tuned for upcoming details

### Application Requirements

- ✓ Type of Organization
- ✓ EIN # and year of issue (Only for organizations with current 501(c)(3) nonprofit status)
- ✓ Listing of grants received by the Foundation within the last 3 years.
- ✓ Organization's mission, goals, programs, and major accomplishments and describe the population served.
- ✓ Detailed information of proposed project
- ✓ Proof of a nondiscrimination policy/statement
- ✓ The total costs of the proposed project along with a detailed line-item budget of your request (Example: List of items include- 2 Chromebooks= \$250, 2 Flash drives= \$20, etc.)
- ✓ Projects should be slated for 2026.

### Required Attachments for Grant Requests of \$2,500 or More

- ✓ Complete list of the organization's officers and board members with titles and contact information
- ✓ Organization's most recent annual operating budget; showing all income and all expenses.
- ✓ If you have never submitted a grant application, upload a copy of your IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt designation letter. If you are a Government Agency, Public School, or Church: Upload a cover letter from leadership of your organization stating your charitable purposes as defined in section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and your project's charitable intent.
- ✓ For 501(c)(3) organizations: a copy of most recent IRS Form 990 tax return, 990-N or 990EZ

Applicants applying for any grant amount are strongly encouraged to contact the Foundation with any questions or assistance to facilitate a successful application process prior to the deadline.

# FAQs

**1. When are grant applications accepted by the Foundation?**

Community Needs grant applications are accepted once a year from August to October. Nonprofits are welcome to contact the Foundation staff throughout the year to discuss other possible grant programs. However, Community Needs Grant awards will be made annually.

**2. When does the 2025-2026 Community Needs grant cycle open?**

August 25, 2025

**3. Are there other grant opportunities through the Foundation?**

Northwestern Bank, School Mini- Grant: Applications are available starting August 25 with a deadline of October 2 at 4:00 PM. Grants are available to 3-8 grade public or private school educators in Chippewa County and are to be used for innovative learning and motivational activities or service-learning projects.

Give Chippewa County Giving Circle: Grants support nonprofit organizations serving Chippewa County that are selected by the Give Chippewa County Giving Circle Members. Visit their website to learn more information about the Giving Circle granting: <https://bit.ly/GiveChippewaCounty>

**4. How do I apply?**

The 2025-2026 Community Needs grant application is available from August 25, 2025- October 2, 2025 and is to be filled out and submitted online. Please visit our website at [www.yourlegacyforever.org](http://www.yourlegacyforever.org) under the Grants tab to apply. Organizations unable to submit an online application should discuss alternatives with the Foundation staff prior to the application deadline.

**5. What are the minimum browser requirements?**

You must have Internet Explorer 11 or higher to submit an online grant application.

**6. What size Community Needs grants does the Foundation award?**

Grants generally range from \$500 to \$6,500.

**7. When will grant applications be reviewed?**

Applications will be reviewed in November by the Community Foundation's Grants Committee. Then, the Board of Directors will act on the recommendations of the Grants Committee in determining grant recipients in December.

**8. When will I receive notification about my grant proposal?**

All Community Need Grant applicants will receive written notification in January and all Northwestern Bank Mini-Grant applications will receive written notification in December.

**9. When will grant dollars be sent out?**

If you are awarded grant dollars, you will receive a grant contract along with your award notification letter. For Northwestern Bank Mini-Grant applicants this will be in December and for Community Need Grant applicants, this will be in January. This contract must be signed and returned to the Community Foundation. Once we have received the signed grant contract, we will issue the grant check.

**10. How many applications can I submit through my organization?**

The Foundation will only accept one application per organization. If your organization is seeking to have multiple projects funded, we strongly encourage you to prioritize which project is most important.

**11. What kind of projects do you fund?**

We award grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or public charities that qualify as defined in section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code - spanning the fields of arts and culture, community development, education, environment & animal welfare, and health & human services that benefit the communities of Chippewa County.

We will fund projects for the calendar year 2026 but generally don't reimburse for projects already completed. The Community Needs Grants invest in the charitable efforts of nonprofits and community organizations where they will have the greatest impact on the community.

**12. What is the Community Foundation's nondiscrimination policy?**

The Foundation shall not, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability, or any other improper criterion, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or discriminate against any person with respect to any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and/or other assistance administered by the Foundation. (Applicants must hold similar standards)

**13. Do you award grants to the geographic location where your donations come from?**

It is our general belief that the needs of our community do not end or begin at a county or city line and that the needs of our neighbors are our own. Qualifying nonprofit organizations serving Chippewa County may be eligible to receive grant funding from the Community Foundation. Some Field of Interest grants are awarded to specific geographic areas.

**14. My organization is not classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, do we qualify?**

As long as your organization is a public charity as defined in section 170(b)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, you may apply for funding to be used for charitable purposes.

**15. If a nonprofit has an endowment fund with the foundation, can they apply for grants?**

Yes, they can apply. Having an endowment fund with the Community Foundation has no bearing when it comes to receiving a grant.

**16. What if I don't know the Federal Employed ID # (EIN)?**

Some charitable organizations that are not classified as a 501(c)(3) may not have an EIN #. Please put N/A in the answer field or select "Other" and include an explanation letter from your organization's leader with an explanation of your charitable status/work.

**17. If my organization has applied for a grant through the Community Foundation in the past and we are requesting funds of more than \$2,500, do I need to submit a copy of our IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt designation letter?**

Unless there has been a change, or your organization has never applied for a grant through the Community Foundation, you do not need to re-submit the tax-exempt designation letter every year.

**18. What do you use the progress report information for? Is it required?**

This information is used to report to the county and fund holders of the great work you are doing in Chippewa County through your awarded grant funding. Filling out the progress report is strongly encouraged to receive additional grant funding from the Foundation.

**19. Our grant request was denied last year, why?**

We regretfully must decline commendable applications. The decision does not reflect the significance of your work or your organization's contributions to our community, but it merely speaks to the overwhelming needs of Chippewa County. We desire to respond to them in an equitable and effective manner. When making funding decisions, the Board must carefully consider how each project meets the Foundation's priorities and assess the potential community impact of each initiative.

**20. When do grant dollars need to be used by?**

Within the grant year, before a new cycle opens the following August.

**21. What do we do if we are unable to use the grant dollars for the project presented in the application?**

Please contact the Community Foundation at 715-723-8125 for guidance. We will work with you and your organization to reallocate or repurpose the grant dollars in a way that benefits the people and communities of Chippewa County while still meeting the Foundation's priorities.

**22. Who do I contact with additional questions?**

Contact the Community Foundation of Chippewa County at 715-723-8125 or [grants@yourlegacyforever.org](mailto:grants@yourlegacyforever.org)

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