2026 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Guiding Principles
Our region's future depends on ensuring everyone can thrive. We value the voices of all community members because each is critical to removing barriers and opening access to opportunity.

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque wishes to partner with groups that align with our mission, vision, and values. The Community Foundation seeks grantees and partners that are mission driven and seek to build capacity in partnership with governance boards, partner organizations and served constituencies wherever practicable. It will seek to ensure that its grantmaking activities reflect and promote the population of the communities we serve.

Results Based Funding
All applicants should be able to show how their program improves the lives of those living in Northeast Iowa. Qualified applicants could also include:

- Programs and projects that serve a broad sector of the community, are innovative and are responsive to changing community needs where everyone can thrive.
- Organizations that seek to empower those most vulnerable to achieve improvement in their wellbeing
- Programs and projects that will enable nonprofits to build capacity, reduce costs, increase efficiency, and move toward self-sufficiency
- "Seed Grants" to initiate promising new projects and programs so that such projects and programs are able to demonstrate their usefulness to the community
- Programs and projects that address and help resolve important existing or emerging community issues
- Programs and projects that facilitate cooperation and collaboration among organizations

Community Impact Grant Timeline:

- Friday, May 11 to Monday, June 8– intent to apply forms accepted online
- Wednesday, June 17 – finalist organizations will be invited to pitch a proposal to our Community Leadership & Grantmaking Committee; remaining organizations will be notified of their status
- Wednesday, June 17 to Friday, July 24 – organizations will:
    - Develop 90 second video about their organization (videos will not be judged on video quality, but rather on the ability to convey their organizational mission and message)
    - Have the option to schedule up to two sessions with Community Foundation staff on project and pitch coaching
    - A list of questions specific to the requested project may be shared with your organization to be addressed during presentations with the Committee
- Tuesday, August 11 at 3-5 PM – organizations will pitch their proposals to the Committee
- Tuesday, August 25 – the Committee will present grants to the Board of Directors for approval
- Grantees will be notified of their award by Friday, August 28
    - Grantees are required to sign an agreement before funds are distributed which clarifies legal parameters for use of the grant
    - Grantees will be required to submit a report upon completion of their project and may be asked to host a visit or present to the Community Foundation board

Updated: April 13, 2026

Award Information
The Community Foundation will make awards between $3,500-$20,000.

Applying for a Grant - To express your intent to apply through the Community Foundation's grant system, please visit: https://goapply2.akoyago.com/dubuque/application/community-impact-2026

Limitations & Restrictions

Geographic Area
Each year counties across the state of Iowa receive a percentage of the state's gaming tax revenue to be used for charitable grantmaking in their community. However, not all counties benefit from this program. To provide an equal opportunity across our region, the Community Foundation offers the Community Impact Grants exclusively to the Iowa counties in our region that do not receive grant funds through the County Endowment Fund Program. Grant applications only from nonprofit organizations with programmatic service areas in Clayton, Clinton, and Dubuque counties will be accepted. Proposals from nonprofit organizations outside of the three-county area may apply ONLY if the proposed project benefits Clayton, Clinton, and Dubuque counties exclusively. Projects that have already identified key partners, venues, or other means to deliver services before applying for the grant are preferable.

Eligibility
Nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, churches, schools, or government organizations that provide services in Clayton, Clinton and Dubuque counties. Organizations that do not have a 501(c)3 status are encouraged to find a qualifying agency to serve as their fiscal sponsor.

Multi-Year Requests
To provide the greatest immediate impact and to respond to current needs, multi-year requests are not accepted.

Multiple Submissions
Organizations are limited to one grant proposal for consideration during a single Community Impact grant cycle.

Ineligible for Grants
- Individuals
- Lobbying activities
- Debt retirement or budget deficits
- Tuition, scholarships or core operating expenses for public schools, charter schools, private schools, or universities and colleges
- Annual campaigns, fundraising campaigns or events
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Political activities
- Purchases or activities that occur prior to grant decisions
- Grants that are solely focused on capital improvements

Questions? Contact Gretchen Corcoran at 563-588-2700 or gretchen@dbqfoundation.org

Updated: April 13, 2026