



2026 C&B Better Initiative Grant Guidelines

Guiding Principles

This grant is an initiative spearheaded by the employees of Cottingham & Butler to support community needs that are in alignment with our company's mission and core values. Our team members have always embodied the spirit of giving back to the community, which has fostered a culture of philanthropy within our organization. We intend to honor our mantra of "better every day" by partnering with nonprofit initiatives to build better communities through this grant donation.

On an annual basis, C&B team members will review, vote, and select an organization to receive a one-time award of \$25,000. Two additional organizations will be selected to receive awards of up to \$15,000 and \$10,000. The C&B Better Initiative grant is only available to non-profits that are located in and/or serve Dubuque County residents.

Preference is given to organizations that prioritize one or more of the following criteria:

Please note, your project may fall under several project categories

1. Health, Education, and Economic Empowerment

- **Committed to bettering lives through promoting health, education, and financial wellness.**
Examples: Access to healthcare, job training, and tax filing assistance
- **Eliminating barriers and ensuring access to various resources.**
Examples: Access to food, technology, shelter, clothing, mentorship, career pathways

2. Social Awareness and Inclusion

- **Building awareness, eliminating stigmas, and changing mindsets.**
Examples: Brain health, racial inequity, diversity, homelessness, and addiction

3. Community Development and Relationship Building

- **Neighborhood safety and revitalization.**
Examples: Low-income neighborhood improvements, safe spaces/shelters/housing, recreation areas
- **Fostering positive relationships between individuals, neighborhoods, and communities**
Examples: Youth mentorship, athletic programming, tutoring, counseling, and therapy services

C&B Better Initiative Grant Timeline:

- June 1 to July 3 – applications accepted online
- July 10 to July 31 – applications will be evaluated by C&B team members
- Early to mid-August – finalist organizations will be invited to pitch a proposal to the C&B Better Review Committee; remaining organizations will be notified of their status
 - A list of questions specific to the requested project may be shared with your organization to be addressed during presentations with the Committee
- Tuesday, September 15, at 5 pm – the top 3 finalists will be invited to a celebration on the rooftop of the Roshek Building where awards will be announced.
- January 2027 – grantees will receive grant checks

Award Information

Three grant awards will be offered: one at \$25,000, one up to \$15,000 and one up to \$10,000. 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 committee

Please note that grants funds are based on C&B staff benefit enrollment and are subject to change

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/cb2026>

Limitations & Restrictions

Geographic Area

Grant applications only from nonprofit organizations with programmatic service areas in Dubuque County will be accepted. Proposals from nonprofit organizations outside of the Dubuque County area may apply ONLY if the proposed project benefits Dubuque County residents exclusively.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations with at least two years of active public service, as well as churches, schools, and government organizations. Organizations without 501(c)3 status and those operating under fiscal sponsorships are not eligible for grant funding through this initiative.

Multiple Submissions

Organizations are limited to one grant proposal for consideration during a single C&B Better Initiative grant cycle.

Ineligible for Grants

- Non-501(c)3 organizations
- 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