

Grantmaking Guidelines/ Policies

The LincolnWay Community Foundation (LWCF) was founded in 1987. Annually, LWCF distributes funds from endowments to area nonprofits that inspire the betterment of rural Clinton County and its residents.

Who is Eligible:

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency or affiliated with a public agency/unit of government (County, City, School) operating and providing services within rural Clinton County including Andover, Calamus, Charlotte, Delmar, DeWitt, Goose Lake, Grand Mound, Lost Nation, Low Moor, Toronto, Welton and Wheatland
- Organizations who do not have 501(c)(3) status are encouraged to find a qualifying agency to sponsor them. A Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement must be attached to the application
 - Examples of organizations and sponsors:
 - Elementary School sponsored by School Board
 - Park and Rec Board sponsored by City Council
- Organizations must operate in a manner that no applicable anti-discrimination laws are violated

What We Fund:

LWCF is a public community foundation and recognizes the need for flexibility in problem solving. We look for projects that:

- Improve economic well-being or quality of life
- Improve educational opportunities
- Address community capital improvements
- Maintain or improve the health of rural Clinton County residents
- Promote rural Clinton County tourism and recreation
- Maintain rural Clinton County heritage
- Support conservation efforts

What We Do Not Fund:

- Annual fundraising
- Religious activities
- Organizational endowment funds
- Organization's recurring operating expenses (i.e., staffing, building rent)

Grant Considerations:

In evaluating applications, the Foundation considers the following factors:

- Does this project effectively serve a community need or problem?
- What is the overall impact of the project?
- Is the project collaborative and partnering with other local groups/agencies? Does the project build on or avoid duplicating the services of other agencies?
- Are the project goals and outcomes clear and measurable?
- Does this project meet the funding interests of the LWCF?
- Is the project budget realistic and thoughtfully completed?

Guidelines for Applicants:

- Applications must be submitted online through the Foundation's grant management system at <https://goapply2.akoyago.com/dubuque/application/lwcf2026>
- Applications for grants must be submitted before midnight March 2, 2026
- Grants will be awarded in April 2026 and recognized at the LincolnWay Community Foundation Annual event on Monday, November 2, 2026.
- All projects must complete a Grant Status Report through the grant management system describing the use of the funds either after the project/program completion or before January 31, 2027, to be eligible for future grants