

Standard Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Standard grants are part of our historic competitive grants program to be responsive to the needs of nonprofit organizations serving La Crosse County. **La Crosse Area Community Foundation has roughly \$115,000 for quarter four**, specifically for nonprofits seeking standard grants for result-oriented projects and programs that address a proven community need or priority aimed at making La Crosse County a better place now and for future generations. Standard Grants are a **MINIMUM** request of \$15,000. Preference will be given to applications that focus on building opportunities for community engagement and building of social capital across differences.

Organizational Eligibility

The primary eligibility criteria are:

- Applicant organization must be a public charity, exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or governmental bodies, including schools and municipalities, as long as the project is above and beyond regular budgeted items and does not fill budget gaps OR;
- Must have a formal fiscal sponsor relationship with an IRS verified 501(c)3 nonprofit.
- Must be located in and primarily serve residents of La Crosse County.
- Agrees to meet all Grant Awardee Requirements & Expectations listed below.
- Organizations must comply with “Appendix A” of LACF’s DEIB Policy

Eligible Use of Funds

Grant awards may be used for any project related activities unless listed as ineligible below.

Ineligible grant expenses include the following:

- Repeat grants to the same project on an open-ended basis
- Partisan political activities
- Organizational endowments
- Scholarships or grants to individuals
- Religious activities for the primary purpose of religious education or proselytization*
- Retroactive expenses or activities that occur before notification of an award
- Loan or debt payments

Limitations

Units of Government (city, county, township, etc.): The Foundation does occasionally fund units of government whose proposal extends beyond the traditional governmental functions that impact the broader community or when the request for support is judged to be an effective means to address a priority issue.

Schools: The Foundation will consider funding for public, charter, and private/parochial Pre-K-12 schools and post-secondary educational institutions, when the request for support is judged to be an effective means to address a priority issue, particularly when the issue addresses the needs of a substantial or underserved portion of the population.

*Proselytization: The purposeful intent to convert one’s faith

Application Timeline

The form will open on September 15, and will close on October 15, 2025, at 11:59pm. Late applications will not be considered during this grant round. Technical assistance will be available on an on-going basis to organizations who want to receive assistance in preparing their application.

RFP announced: August 18, 2025

Eligibility Quiz Open: August 18, 2025

(the eligibility quiz will determine if your organization meets the basic requirements for this grant and then the applicant is able to apply within the process if they are found eligible through the quiz)

Applications Open: September 15, 2025

Technical assistance: Ongoing, schedule a time

Applications Close: October 15, 2025 at 11:59 pm

Applicant Interviews: November 3, 2025 – November 7, 2025 (if needed)

Awards announced: December 1, 2025

Grant period begins: upon award notification

Applying for a Grant

This process is anticipated to take 5 hours or less.

Grant Application

All grant applications must be submitted using the foundation's online grant portal. The form will open September 15, 2025 and will close on October 15, 2025, at 11:59pm. Preference will be given to applicants whose mission and/or project supports building social capital in our community. No code required to access application!

Application form pdf (viewing only):

[“Click here to preview”](#)

Technical assistance contact:

Grants Specialist | 608-782-3223 x29

Application Evaluation

The LACF Impact Committee, including the Foundation's Impact Director, will score competitive standard grant requests and send recommendations to the full board for ultimate approval.

****The Grants Specialist, who facilitates the committee, does not participate in evaluating grant applications. We highly encourage applicants to seek technical assistance from the Grants Specialist, as needed, to support putting your best grant application forward.**

Grant Awardee Requirements & Expectations

Grant awardees commit to the following engagement with La Crosse Area Community Foundation:

- Completion of a brief and concise written report to share impact stories/materials and verify eligible spending. Written reports are due upon completion of the grant period. Organizations may request an alternative reporting method, if needed.
- Participation in a Nonprofit Networking session to share outcomes and successes from your mini grant and to learn about other organization's projects at the same time. We anticipate facilitating these sessions quarterly.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
 - Nonprofit Networking & Sharing
 - Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 4:30 pm

Appendix A: DEIB Policy Compliance

La Crosse Area Community Foundation is committed to building diverse, equitable, inclusive, and belonging communities for all to thrive. LACF is committed to supporting our partners in becoming more accessible, welcoming organizations as well. All grantees agree to comply with the following DEIB practices within their organizations, including volunteers and staff:

- Grantees have a responsibility to treat all those with whom they engage with dignity and respect at all times
- Grantees will center DEIB best practices in their internal and external engagement
- Grantees strive to build board and committee member recruitment practices that produce a governing body representative of La Crosse County residents and inclusive of lived experience relevant to its mission
- Grantees strive to ensure equitable access to resources, services, and opportunities provided to the community
- Grantee organization culture expects staff and volunteers to uphold DEIB values in their personal and professional lives

LACF supports an open door policy and is always willing to help grantees navigate challenges that arise due to their commitment to DEIB efforts in their organization and community. Please contact Lauren at lauren@lacrosseareafoundation.org with questions or for assistance.

2025 Fall Standard Grant Application

La Crosse Community Foundation

Standard Grant Application

Standard grants are part of our historic competitive grants program to be responsive to the needs of nonprofit organizations serving La Crosse County. La Crosse Community Foundation has allocated \$350,000 this calendar year with **roughly \$110,000 for quarter four**, specifically for nonprofits seeking awards of \$1,000+ for result-oriented projects and programs that address a proven community need or priority aimed at making La Crosse County a better place now and for future generations. **Standard Grants are a MINIMUM request of \$15,000.** Preference will be given to applications that focus on building opportunities for community engagement and building of social capital across differences. For more information on LACF's new commitment to building social capital in La Crosse County, [click here](#) (p.26).

Application Timeline

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Application Evaluation

The LACF grants committee, including the Foundation's Impact Director, will score competitive mini grant requests and send recommendations to the full board for ultimate approval. The rubric for scoring applications is [attached here](#).

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Organization Name**Character Limit: 75***EIN or Fiscal Sponsorship*****Choices**

My organization has its own EIN.

My organization has a fiscal sponsor.

Project Name**Character Limit: 100***Project Summary***

In 3 sentences or less, provide a general summary of your project and the anticipated impact.

*Character Limit: 500***Total Requested Amount***

Awards may range from \$15,000+. (This should represent the total amount for all years of funding requested.)

*Character Limit: 20***Number of Years for which you are seeking funding***

The Board of Directors prefers to make one-year grants, however we are open to making two year grants when that is the most effective way to advance work that is important to the community. In rare circumstances, we will make three year grants.

Choices

- 1
- 2
- 3

For multi-year requests, please indicate how much you are requesting per year

The amount you indicated above in the "Amount Requested" box should represent the total amount for all years of funding requested. Please use this space to show how much you need per year.

*Character Limit: 500***Partial Funding***

What is the minimum partial funding you can accept for this request? Please include a description (i.e. no partial funding accepted as we need the entirety to do the project or \$20,000 partial funding and we can complete phase 1).

Character Limit: 500

Alignment*

What makes your organization the right organization to carry out this project or program? How does the project or program help fulfill your mission?

Character Limit: 750

Community Need*

What is your organization's mission? What community need does this project or program help alleviate? Use data where applicable.

Character Limit: 750

Social Capital Alignment*

Share how your project advances the social capital in our community. For more information about social capital on page 26, [click here](#).

Character Limit: 750

Strategy and Program Design*

Describe the activities and capacity needs that will support the completion of the project. For ongoing projects, please describe the measurable impact the program has achieved to date (with examples).

Character Limit: 2000

Partners/Collaboration*

Do you have any partners or collaborations with this project request? If so, who?

Character Limit: 500

Letters of Support

Please attach any Letters of Support regarding your partnerships.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Project Evaluation*

List your project goals and steps/milestones that will evaluate or determine success.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget*

Use this space to explain any items in the budget that may need further explanation. In the event the foundation is unable to meet your full request, please indicate priority/catalyst items here. (This would include bare bones items, you can't move the project forward at all without this supported.)

[Click here to download a sample budget template.](#)

Character Limit: 1000 / File Size Limit: 8 MB

Sustainability*

What are the long-term strategies for funding this project or program at the end of the grant period?

Character Limit: 750

Supporting Documents

Please attach any additional information you would like the evaluation community to review with your application.

File Size Limit: 8 MB

Impact Questions

La Crosse Area Community Foundation is embracing the Trust Based Philanthropy model and the data collected in this section will be used to guide future evolutions to meet nonprofit needs and will not be used against you in any capacity. To learn more about Trust Based Philanthropy, [click here](#).

Which of these best describes the purpose of your project?*

Choices

New Strategy to meet community need
Improved Strategy to meet community need
Required Growth to meet community need
Existing Program Support

Service Area*

Please select which communities your organization serves.

Choices

Bangor/Rockland
Holmen
La Crosse
Onalaska
West Salem
La Crosse County only
Coulee Region (multiple counties)
Wisconsin
National
International

Which of these impact areas best describes your project, program, or organization?*

Please select those that most closely relate to your work. Select **no more than three (3)** impact areas. [Click here](#) for definitions related to each impact area.

Choices

Arts and Humanities
Community Improvement
Culture and Diversity
Education and Scholarships
Environment
Faith
Health and Human Services
Recreation and Wellness

Which Sustainable Development Goal(s) does your project support?

Please select all that apply. [Click here](#) for more information about Sustainable Development Goals and to review definitions.

Choices

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.
17. Partnerships for the Goals

Organization EIN

Organization EIN*

Please enter your organization's nine digit EIN (no dash).

Character Limit: 9

Fiscal Sponsorship Information

Fiscal Sponsorship

Please include the appropriate information for your fiscal sponsorship.

	Sponsored Applicant ("the project")	Fiscal Sponsor
Organization Name		
Primary Contact Name		
Primary Contact Email		
Primary Contact Phone		
EIN		

Fiscal Sponsor Agreement*

Please upload your fiscal sponsorship agreement. If you do not have a current agreement, please use this **template**.

File Size Limit: 2 MB