

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 allocated grant dollars this year 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. Priority will be given to applications that focus on building opportunities for broad community engagement and building 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 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. Applications are limited to one per school district, school system, or university.



***Proselytization:** Participation in the funded program is dependent on required attendance at religious services or participation in religious study/instruction to access services and/or the purposeful intent to convert one's faith.

Capital Requests: Awards for capital requests are generally capped at \$25,000.

[Application Timeline](#)

The form will open on July 7, 2026, and will close on August 6, 2026, at 11:59pm. Late applications will not be considered during this grant round. Technical assistance will be available on an ongoing basis to organizations who want to receive assistance in preparing their application.

Technical assistance contact:

Keli Frigo, Impact Specialist | 608-782-3223 x29

RFP announced: June 4, 2026

Eligibility Quiz Open: July 7, 2026

(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: July 7, 2026

Technical assistance: Ongoing, schedule a time

Applications close: August 6, 2026, at 11:59 pm

Applicant interviews: September 8-11, 2026 (if needed)

Awards announced: Week of September 28, 2026

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 July 7, 2026, and will close on August 6, 2026, 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 the application.

Fiscally Sponsored Organizations

LACF requires a copy of the fiscal sponsorship agreement to be submitted with the application. A template can be found [here](#). Fiscally sponsored organizations need to apply under the sponsoring organization's account. Contact Keli Frigo at keli@lacrosseareafoundation.org or 608-782-3223 x29 for assistance.

Application form pdf (viewing only):

[Click here to preview](#)

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.

*NOTE: No paid staff members participate in the formal voting and recommendation process, only initial evaluation scoring, which is weighted equally with all other evaluators.

**The Impact Specialist, who facilitates the committee, does not participate in evaluating grant applications. We highly encourage applicants to seek technical assistance from the Impact 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.

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.