



## Community Impact and Arts DuPage Grants 2025 Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Grant Process Questions**

#### **What is a "disease-specific organization"?**

*The organizations that we consider "disease-specific" are those that are focused on and provide programming and support for people with a specific disease such as the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Alzheimers Association, and American Cancer Society.*

#### **For Seed grants does the matching funds need to be from one source of funding or can it be multiple fundraising/donations? What is the timeline that the matching fundraising needs to be achieved? If a Seed Grant match is met before the end of the grant period, will the funds be disbursed at that time?**

*Seed matching funds can be raised from various sources but must be received by the organization during the grant period which is December 1, 2025 to November 1, 2026 for fall cycle grants. Seed grants are disbursed as soon as the organization provides documentation that matching funds have been raised.*

#### **What will workforce grants prioritize?**

*These grants are intended to help build a skilled workforce and prepare people to be gainfully employed. Examples of the types of programs we will prioritize include training opportunities for people with barriers to employment, programs that help individuals expand their skills to advance in their careers, programs that provide or lead to apprenticeships in the trades, and programs that help struggling employees obtain and maintain employment. Grants are not intended to support the hiring of new staff members.*

#### **If we are a new applicant, would you recommend against applying for the full amount (\$25k) even if the funding is needed in light of our service needs?**

*We usually recommend that new applicants start by requesting a smaller amount. The Grant Committee usually recommends grants of \$25K to organizations that already have a good record of stewardship with previous funds we have given them. Our funding is limited so it is more likely that the Grant Committee will take a chance and recommend a grant to a new applicant if the request is smaller.*

#### **If applicants are awarded funding, what is the time frame that the funding will run?**

*Grants awarded in the fall will be distributed at our open house on December 10 and the grant period is from December 10, 2025, to November 1, 2026.*

#### **How and when will we find out the status of our application?**

*Emails will be sent to the contact person listed on the application around November 21.*

#### **If we haven't applied before but have had our 501(c)(3) status for more than 3 years, should we apply for the Seed grant? Is the Seed grant the first grant we can apply for?**

*Seed grants are intended only for organizations that have had their 501(c)(3) status for less than three years. If you have had your 501(c)(3) designation for more than three years and indicate this in the eligibility quiz, you will automatically be directed to the Sustain grant opportunity whether or not you have applied in the past.*

**If we applied in the spring 2025 grant cycle, can we apply in the fall 2025 grant cycle?**

*Organizations may apply for one Community Impact or Arts DuPage grant per calendar year. If you applied for a grant in the spring 2025 cycle, you are not eligible to apply for a Community Impact or Arts DuPage grant in the fall cycle, even if you did not receive funding.*

**How many proposals will be funded?**

*It's hard to determine how many applications will be funded. We have specific grant budgets for each category and it will depend on the dollar amount of the requests received in that area.*

**Can you explain the funding process? Does DuPage Foundation front the funding or is it coming from various funds under financial management at the Foundation? If the latter, how do these funders learn about the nonprofits? Are they on the grant committee? Does the DuPage Foundation determine which funds are selected for a particular grant request?**

*We establish an annual grant budget for the Community Impact and the Arts DuPage grant programs using the income generated from unrestricted and field-of-interest funds under management at the Foundation. These funds are listed in the grant guidelines and were made possible by donors who have invested with the Foundation. Income from unrestricted funds is used to support multiple issues. Income from field-of-interest funds is used to support the specific issue areas that were specified by the original donor. After our grant committee conducts a first review of grant applications, we share a list of applications still under consideration with Foundation donor-advisors and a few key donors. If they are interested in a specific program, they have the opportunity to recommend a grant from their donor-advised fund or make a donation to support that specific request. Last year, donors and donor-advisors expanded our budget by over \$700K. The grant committee and staff determine the organizations that will receive funding from the unrestricted and field-of-interest funds. Donor-advisors/donors select the organizations they wish to fund through the Community Impact or Arts DuPage grant processes.*

**If the project consists of health & human services and workforce development, is it ok to apply at the beginning of the year?**

*Organizations should apply in the category based on the program's primary content. For example, if the program is geared toward helping people with disabilities prepare for employment, the category would be workforce development instead of health & human services.*

**Would we be eligible if our organization doesn't have 50% of total clients in the area but would like to apply only for our DuPage area program?**

*If less than 50% of your organization serves DuPage residents, you would be eligible to apply if you provide services in facilities physically located in DuPage County or if you already have a demonstrated presence, such as an existing track record of programming with specific DuPage-focused outcomes, a DuPage-specific budget, and board members located in DuPage.*

**If we have a program that assists children throughout Illinois and we know that a good percentage of the children come from DuPage, but the program itself is not based in DuPage County, would it be eligible?**

*It would be eligible as long as you can show that more than 50% of the children being served are from DuPage. However, the grant committee tends to prioritize programs that will impact the greatest number of DuPage kids.*

**If the organization was founded in a different state but currently provides programs only in DuPage County, is it eligible to apply?**

*Yes, it would be eligible to apply as long as the organization primarily serves DuPage County residents or provides services in facilities physically located in DuPage County or if the organization already has a demonstrated presence, such as an existing track record of programming with specific DuPage-focused outcomes, a DuPage-specific budget, and board members located in DuPage.*

### **Capacity Building Grants**

**Can organizations apply for/receive both a Community Impact grant and a Capacity Building grant?**

*Yes, applying for a health & human services, youth education, workforce development, environment, or animal welfare grant would not preclude an organization from applying for a Capacity Building grant.*

### **Arts DuPage Grants**

**Is an organization eligible for grant funding if it is located just inside Cook County but has many board members, subscribers, patrons, actors, and students living in DuPage?**

*No, Arts DuPage grants are distributed to organizations that serve DuPage County residents and provide services in venues physically located in DuPage County.*

**Are artists eligible for an Arts DuPage grant in support of a specific project?**

*No, grants are only awarded to not-for-profit organizations. Individual art artists are not eligible to apply for funding through this program.*

**If two organizations collaborate on a production, should they apply under one application or separately?**

*We recommend submitting one application for collaborative projects. A strategic partnership is often beneficial to all entities involved, as it allows them to leverage their resources, build audiences, and cut costs, all of which can lead to a more successful result.*

**Do arts organizations need to be members of Arts DuPage to apply?**

*Membership is not a prerequisite, but it may play a role in the decision-making process. Often, representatives on the Review Committee become familiar with the applicants through their membership activities and can better advocate for them when presenting their findings to the Grant Committee.*