



Community Impact and Arts DuPage Grants 2025 Frequently Asked Questions

Grant Process Questions

If applicants are awarded funding in the spring cycle, what is the time frame that the funding will run?

Grants awarded from the spring cycle will be distributed at our open house on June 4 and the grant period is June 4, 2025, to May 1, 2026. 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. Spring cycle applicants will be notified around May 16 and fall cycle applicants 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 fall 2024 grant cycle, can we apply in the spring 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 fall 2024 cycle, you are eligible to apply for a grant in the spring 2025 cycle if the program you are applying for is focused on health and human services.

How many proposals will be funded this spring?

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 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.

When will organizations applying in the fall be able to submit their eligibility quiz?

The application, including the eligibility quiz, for the fall Arts DuPage grants and the Community Impact grants in the areas of youth education, workforce development, environment, and animal welfare will be available in mid-May. If you have carefully reviewed the Community Impact and Arts DuPage grant guidelines (depending on the type of grant you are submitting), you can determine if your organization is eligible. Unfortunately, there have been occasions where organizations have applied but haven't reviewed the guidelines. For example, they may be an organization clearly listed under "restrictions" in the guidelines, or they apply for an environmental grant in the health & human services cycle. The eligibility quiz is intended to prevent organizations that are not eligible to apply from spending time on an application and not having it be considered.

We have a new location opening in DuPage in February. Can we include prospective patients in the number of residents we serve? This is in addition to our other locations already serving DuPage.

Several questions in the application address the number of people served, so you will have the opportunity to explain the number of DuPage residents you have served and the number you anticipate serving when the new location is up and running.

Would capital requests be considered for space modification?

We do consider requests for projects that require some space modifications. However, we don't prioritize major construction projects that involve building a physical structure.

Can you describe what would fall under health & human services? Would community outreach for a disability such as mental health or autism fall under this category?

Some of the types of programs that we have funded in the past that would fall under health & human services include affordable housing, access to healthcare, disability services, mental health, substance use disorder, food insecurity, emergency assistance, and financial literacy.

Would nutrition/healthy eating fall under food insecurity for the health & human services grant?

Yes, however, we do not fund the actual purchase of food through the Community Impact grant program. We will, however, consider requests for equipment and specific programs related to food insecurity.

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 Human Services grant and a Capacity Building grant?

We have not yet finalized the guidelines for the Capacity Building grant opportunity but our intention is that 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.

When will Capacity Building grant guidelines be available and when will applications be due?

We anticipate posting the Capacity Building grant guidelines by late spring. While we are not yet sure when the applications will be due, we anticipate it will be late summer or early fall.

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.