



2025 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Through the *Community Impact* grant program, DuPage Foundation supports programs and projects that impact, improve, enhance, and enrich the quality of life for DuPage County residents. Through two grant cycles each year, the Foundation accepts applications from local not-for-profit organizations serving the community in the following areas:

Health & Human Services
Youth Education
Workforce Development
Environment
Animal Welfare

New this year: *Youth Education and Workforce Development are new categories that replace the previous Education category.*

Grant Application Due Dates

Organizations may submit one application for the *Community Impact* or *Arts DuPage* grant program per calendar year.

Applications must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m.** on the dates listed below. Applications submitted after the specified deadlines will not be accepted.

2025 Spring Cycle

Friday, March 7, 2025 – Deadline for **Health & Human Services** applications

2025 Fall Cycle

Friday, September 5, 2025 – Deadline for **Youth Education, Workforce Development, Environment and Animal Welfare** applications

Grant Opportunities

Seed Grants – \$5,000

Organizations that have had their 501(c)(3) designation for less than three years are eligible to apply for a 1:1 matching grant. These grants are intended to help new organizations raise funds from individual donors and through fundraising events. If awarded a grant, funding will be distributed when proof that the matching dollar amount has been secured. Matching funds must be raised during the grant period.

Sustain Grants – up to \$25,000

Organizations that have had their 501(c)(3) designation for more than three years are eligible to apply for funding to support programs.

- Applicants requesting \$5,000 or less will complete a streamlined version of the application.
- Applicants requesting more than \$5,000 will be required to provide additional financial information and will need to respond to questions about sustainability, collaboration, and specific program outcomes.

Grant Categories and Priorities

The following categories and priorities provide a guideline to the applicant. When applying, category selection should be based on the program's content, not necessarily on the type of organization. For example, if a human services organization is providing after-school tutoring to children at risk for academic failure, the application should be submitted in the youth education category.

- **Health & Human Services** – Primarily supports programs in the areas of affordable housing, behavioral health, healthcare access, food insecurity, and financial/language literacy.
- **Youth Education** – Primarily supports out-of-school educational and leadership programs for youth.
- **Workforce Development** – Primarily supports programs that prepare people for employment, help workers advance in their careers, and build a skilled workforce.
- **Environment** - Supports environmental education; programs that promote conservation and restoration of natural areas, habitats, and green spaces; efforts to reduce pollution and waste; and programs that protect wildlife and endangered species.
- **Animal Welfare** – Supports programs that promote the well-being of domestic animals.

Eligibility

Applications to the *Community Impact* grant program will be accepted from not-for-profit charitable organizations that:

- Are public charities classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Primarily serve DuPage County residents (50% or more of total clients); or
 - Provide services in facilities physically located in DuPage County; or
 - 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

Restrictions

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Individuals
- Organizations for religious activities (secular activities provided by religious organizations may be eligible for grant funding)
- Organizations that have received grants from unrestricted or field-of-interest funds through the *Community Impact* grant program for the past three consecutive years
- Disease-specific organizations
- Private foundations and private operating foundations
- Hospitals, including supporting foundations
- Governmental agencies, including supporting foundations
- Public, parochial, private, or charter schools (pre-k through 12th grade), including supporting foundations

Additionally, the Foundation does not award grants from the *Community Impact* grant program to:

- Endowments
- Historical societies and their related foundations for projects that do not have a broad reach beyond a specific community
- Purchase food (Equipment and other programs provided by organizations that distribute food are eligible for grant funds.)

Funding Guidelines

- Applications may be submitted for existing or new projects, programs, or operating purposes.
- Grants are awarded for a one-year period.
- Applications that do not contain all the requested information in the specified format may be denied.
- Applications will be accepted into the category that best fits the specific program for which funds are being requested. Once submitted, applications may be moved into a different category at the discretion of the vice president for programs.
- DuPage Foundation strives to fully fund grant requests received from its applicants. At the same time, the Foundation receives requests for grants far in excess of the dollars actually available. *As a result, it is strongly advised that the amount of a grant request be thoughtfully considered and accompanied by budgetary rationale to ensure that the amount requested represents the needs of the organization.*

Online Grant Application Process

Proposals must be submitted via the online grant application process.

To begin the online grant application process, applicants will need to create an account by providing basic information (email address, password, name, organization, EIN#, address, etc.). Once you have initially created your account, you will be able to access current and past grant applications.

The following is a tutorial that has been provided by our vendor, Foundant, to help you create an account and begin completing your application: [Applicant Tutorial](#)

Application Review Process

The Foundation Grant Committee consists of Foundation Trustees and community volunteers. The Committee meets several times to review and evaluate all applications received and to conduct site visits when appropriate. The Committee then makes grant recommendations to the full Board of Trustees for approval.

All applicants will be notified via email whether or not a grant has been awarded. Notification will be sent in mid-May for spring cycle grant requests and mid-November for fall cycle grant requests.

Application Questions

Please contact Laura Ernst, program officer, at 630.598.5295 or laura@dupagefoundation.org, with questions concerning the grant program, the application process and program category selection.

Funds

Grants are made from the earnings of permanent endowment funds established by corporations, foundations, individuals and organizations wishing to make a lasting contribution to the people of DuPage County.

Community Impact grants will be funded from earnings on the following funds:

Unrestricted Funds

Conrad and Doris Brassine Charitable Fund
Cleve E. Carney Fund
Lois L. and Edwin F. Deicke Fund
DuPage Forever Fund
Elizabeth D. Eben Memorial Fund

Alan D. and Jane M. Hoffmann Fund
Joseph and Bess Kindlon Fund
Jack and Virginia Knuepfer Fund
John W. Squire Fund

Field-of-Interest Funds

Access to Recreation Fund

Founding donor: Midwest Community Foundations Ventures (2007)

For accessible recreation programs/projects

Basic Human Needs Fund

Founding donors: First Annual Benefit Attendees (1993)

For emergency housing, food, clothing and health care needs of low-income residents

The Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation Fund

Founding donors: The Alben F. Bates and Clara G. Bates Foundation (2005)
To support the residents of Elmhurst

Shirley and Howard Benson Fund

Founding donors: Shirley and Howard Benson (2008)
To benefit food pantries

Children and Youth Fund

Founding donors: Richard and Carole Cline (1988)
For physical, emotional, educational and intellectual needs of children and youth

Ruth and Hugh Christ Fund

Founding donors: Ruth and Hugh Christ (2000)
For disadvantaged children and youth

Companions' Fund

Founding donor: Anonymous (2004)
For animal welfare

Environmental Fund

Founding donor: Molex Incorporated (1991)
For efforts to improve and/or preserve the quality of the natural environment

Health Fund

Founding donor: Central DuPage Health System (1995)
For broad health needs in the community

Martha McCormick Hunt Fund

Founding donor: Brooks and Hope B. McCormick Foundation (1988)
Primarily for conservation and protection of the natural environment

Abigail Catherine Mueller Children's Fund

Founding donor: James and Jennifer Mueller (2016)
For children's programs

John and Elsie, Mary and Arthur Kolar Fund

Founding donor: Mary and Arthur Kolar (1998)
In support of the environment and wildlife

Wesley E. Luehring Foundation Fund

Founding donor: The Wesley E. Luehring Foundation (1999)
For charities located in or serving the Itasca area

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Fund

Founding Donor: The Inland Real Estate Group, LLC (2023)
To support equitable health, human services, and education with a priority toward serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Mental Health Fund

Founding Donor: Anonymous (2021)
To support mental health programs

Partipilo Fund for Health & Human Services

Founding Donor: Paula Partipilo (2023)

To support health & human services programs

Fund for Persons with Disabilities

Founding Donor: Theodore Utchen (2021)

To support people with disabilities

Douglas A. Schooley Memorial Fund

Founding donors: Lloyd A. and Darlene M. Schooley (2017)

To benefit individuals and families affected by mental illness

Sindelar Family Fund

Founding donor: Peg Sindelar (2002)

For education and health

Donald and Dianne Skeet Fund

Founding donor: Dianne Skeet (2014)

To benefit children

Tellabs Foundation Fund

Founding donor: Tellabs Foundation (2021)

To support health & human services, education and environment