



## **DuPage Foundation 2024 Community Impact Grant Program Guidelines**

Through the Community Impact Grant Program (formerly Community Needs), 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  
Education  
Environment  
Animal Welfare

First-time applicants are strongly encouraged to call or e-mail Barb Szczepaniak, vice president for programs, to determine eligibility before beginning the application process.

***New: Please note that arts & culture grants are now being considered through the Arts DuPage Grant Program, which has a separate application and guidelines.***

### **Grant Application Options**

Applicants may apply for a Community Impact grant by submitting one of the following applications:

**Community Impact Grant Application** - for requests up to \$25,000

**Community Impact Mini-Grant Application** - for requests up to \$5,000

Guidelines, eligibility, restrictions, and deadlines are the same for both application options.

Special consideration may be provided for merged organizations in which both of the agencies that have merged applied for a Community Impact grant during the past two years. Agencies are eligible for special consideration for up to three years following the merge. Please contact Barb Szczepaniak to discuss the maximum award amount.

### **Grant Application Due Dates**

Organizations may submit one application (Community Impact Grant Application or Community Impact Mini-Grant Application) for the Community Impact 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.

#### **2024 Spring Cycle**

**Friday, March 1, 2024** – Deadline for **Health & Human Services** applications

#### **2024 Fall Cycle**

**Friday, September 6, 2024** – Deadline for **Education, Environment and Animal Welfare** applications

## 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 which has been provided by our vendor, Foundant, to help you create an account and begin completing your application: [Applicant Tutorial](#)

## Eligibility

Applications to the DuPage Foundation 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.
  - Please note that the Foundation does not generally award grants to organizations that have operated as a 501(c)(3) for less than three years.
- Primarily serve DuPage County residents.
  - Organizations that do not primarily serve DuPage residents but have a facility within DuPage from which services are delivered may apply.
  - Organizations that are not located in DuPage but 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 may apply.

## Restrictions

The Foundation does not award grants from the Community Impact Grant Program to:

- Organizations that have received grants from unrestricted or field-of-interest funds through the Community Needs Grant Program for the past three consecutive years
- Individuals
- Organizations for religious activities (Secular activities provided by religious organizations may be eligible for grant funds.)
- Endowments
- Disease-specific organizations
- Private foundations and private operating foundations
- Hospitals, including supporting foundations
- Historical societies and foundations for projects that do not have a broad reach beyond a specific community
- Food pantries for the purchase of food (Equipment and other programs provided by food pantries are eligible for grant funds.)
- Public, parochial, private, or charter schools (pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade), including supporting foundations

## 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 health & human services grant requests and mid-November for education and environment & animal welfare grant requests.

## Application Questions

Please contact Barb Szczepaniak, vice president for programs, at 630.598.5280 or [barb@dupagefoundation.org](mailto:barb@dupagefoundation.org), with questions concerning the grant program, the application process and program category selection.

## Grant Guidelines

When applying for a grant, please note the following:

- Only one Community Impact application per organization may be submitted within any calendar year.
- 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.*

## 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 education category.

**Health & Human Services** – Primarily supports programs in the areas of affordable housing, behavioral health, access to healthcare and food insecurity.

**Education** – Primarily supports equitable pathways to self-sufficiency including financial, health and language/math literacy and/or the development of leadership skills.

**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.

## 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