

# 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 Community Foundation has allocated \$350,000 this calendar year specifically for nonprofits seeking awards of \$1,000+ 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. Preference will be given to applications that focus on building opportunities for community engagement and building of social capital across differences. For more information on LACF's new commitment to building social capital in La Crosse County, **click here**.

### Organizational Eligibility

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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 be located in and 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

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Grant awards may be used for any project related activities unless listed as ineligible below.

Ineligible mini 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.

\*Proselytization: The purposeful intent to convert one's faith

### Application Timeline

The form will open on January 13, 2025, and will close on February 12, 2025, at 11:59pm. Late applications will be considered during the next open grant round. Technical assistance will be available on an on-going basis to organizations who want to receive assistance in preparing their application.

**RFP announced:** December 1, 2024

**Eligibility Quiz Open:** December 1, 2024

(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:** January 13, 2025

**Technical assistance:** Ongoing, schedule a time, [Ellen's Calendar](#)

**Applications Close:** February 12, 2025 at 11:59 pm

**Applicant Interviews:** February 24, 2025 – February 28, 2025

**Awards announced:** March 24, 2025

**Grant period begins:** upon award notification

### Applying for a Grant

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This process is anticipated to take 2 hours or less.

#### **Grant Application**

All grant applications must be submitted using the foundation's online grant portal. The form will open January 13<sup>th</sup> and will close on February 12, 2025, 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 application!

#### **Application form pdf (viewing only):**

“Click here to preview”

#### **Technical assistance contact:**

Ellen Heydon, Grants Specialist | [ellen@lacrosseareafoundation.org](mailto:ellen@lacrosseareafoundation.org) | 608-782-3223 x29

### Application Evaluation

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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.

\*\*The Grants Specialist, who facilitates the committee, does not participate in evaluating grant applications. We highly encourage applicants to seek technical assistance from the Grants Specialist, as needed, to support putting your best grant application forward.

### Grant Awardee Requirements & Expectations

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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.
- Participation in a Nonprofit Networking session to share outcomes and successes from your mini grant and to learn about other organization's projects at the same time. We anticipate facilitating these sessions quarterly.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
  - Nonprofit Networking & Sharing
    - Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 11:30 am at GROW
    - Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 4:30 pm at Holmen Community Center
    - Monday, August 4, 2025, at 7:30 am
    - Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 4:30 pm

## *La Crosse Community Foundation*

### *LACF Standard Grants Eligibility Form*

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Standard Grants are part of our historic competitive grants program to be responsive to the needs of nonprofit organizations serving La Crosse County.

#### **Ineligible standard 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 effect means to address a priority issue.

\*Proselytization:

The purposeful intent to convert one's faith.

***Please answer each question to the best of your ability. Any questions may be directed to the LACF Grants Specialist.***

Contact Information:

Ellen Heydon, Grants Specialist

608-782-3223 x29

ellen@lacrosseareafoundation.org

#### **My organization:\***

##### **Choices**

Is a public charity, under section 501(c)3 of the IRS, or a unit of government.

Has a fiscal sponsor relationship with an IRS verified 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Is not a 501(c)3 organization and does not have a fiscal sponsor relationship.

#### **My organization is:\***

##### **Choices**

Located and primarily serves residents of La Crosse County.

Located outside of La Crosse County but primarily serves residents of La Crosse County.  
Neither located or serves residents of La Crosse County.

### **My organization has an annual budget of:\***

#### **Choices**

Up to \$50,000  
\$50,000 - \$100,000  
\$100,000 - \$250,000  
\$250,000 - \$500,000  
\$500,000 - \$1M  
\$1M - \$5M  
More than \$5M

### **Our organization agrees to comply with LACF's DEI policy.\***

La Crosse 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 who 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 (lauren@laxcommfoundation.com) with questions or for assistance.

#### **Choices**

Yes  
No

### **Our organization agrees to the grant awardee requirements and expectations.\***

Grant awardees commit to the following engagement with La Crosse Area Community Foundation:

- Participation in Nonprofit Network and Share events to share outcomes and successes from your grant and to learn about other organization's projects at the same time. We facilitate these sessions quarterly.

- Use this grant only for the purpose listed.
- Contact LACF if you cannot use the grant for its designated purpose.
- Your organization certifies to La Crosse Area Community Foundation that no one donor or individual related to the donor will receive any goods, services or other private benefit.
- This grant will not satisfy an existing legally-enforceable obligation or pledge.

### Choices

Yes

No

# Standard Grant 2025

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## *La Crosse Community Foundation*

### *Standard Grant Application*

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#### **Application Timeline**

Eligibility Quiz Opens: December 1, 2024

Applications Open: January 13, 2025

Applications Due: February 12, 2025

Applicant Interviews: February 24 - February 28, 2025

Awards Announced: March 24, 2025

#### **Application Evaluation**

The LACF grants committee, including the Foundation's Impact Director, will score competitive mini grant requests and send recommendations to the full board for ultimate approval. The rubric for scoring applications is [attached here](#).

\*\*The Grants Specialist, who facilitates the committee, does not participate in evaluating grant applications. We highly encourage applicants to seek technical assistance from the Grants Specialists, as needed, to support putting your best grant application forward.

#### **Organization Name\***

*Character Limit: 75*

#### **EIN or Fiscal Sponsorship\***

##### **Choices**

My organization has its own EIN.

My organization has a fiscal sponsor.

#### **Project Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

## Project Summary\*

In 3 sentences or less, provide a general summary of your project and the anticipated impact.

*Character Limit: 500*

## Total Requested Amount\*

Awards may range from \$15,000+. (This should represent the total amount for all years of funding requested.)

*Character Limit: 20*

## Number of Years for which you are seeking funding\*

The Board of Directors prefers to make one-year grants, however we are open to making two year grants when that is the most effective way to advance work that is important to the community. In rare circumstances, we will make three year grants.

### Choices

- 1
- 2
- 3

## For multi-year requests, please indicate how much you are requesting per year

The amount you indicated above in the "Amount Requested" box should represent the total amount for all years of funding requested. Please use this space to show how much you need per year.

*Character Limit: 500*

## Partial Funding\*

What is the minimum partial funding you can accept for this request? Please include a description (i.e. no partial funding accepted as we need the entirety to do the project or \$20,000 partial funding and we can complete phase 1).

*Character Limit: 500*

## Alignment\*

What makes your organization the right organization to carry out this project or program? How does the project or program help fulfill your mission?

*Character Limit: 750*

## Community Need\*

What is your organization's mission? What community need does this project or program help alleviate? Use data where applicable.

*Character Limit: 750*

## Social Capital Alignment\*

Share how your project advances the social capital in our community. For more information about social capital on page 26, [click here](#).



*Character Limit: 750*

### Strategy and Program Design\*

Describe the activities and capacity needs that will support the completion of the project. For ongoing projects, please describe the measurable impact the program has achieved to date (with examples).

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Partners/Collaboration\*

Do you have any partners or collaborations with this project request? If so, who?

*Character Limit: 500*

### Letters of Support

Please attach any Letters of Support regarding your partnerships.

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### Project Evaluation\*

List your project goals and steps/milestones that will evaluate or determine success.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Budget\*

Use this space to explain any items in the budget that may need further explanation. In the event the foundation is unable to meet your full request, please indicate priority/catalyst items here. (This would include bare bones items, you can't move the project forward at all without this supported.)

[Click here to download a sample budget template.](#)

*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 8 MB*

### Sustainability\*

What are the long-term strategies for funding this project or program at the end of the grant period?

*Character Limit: 750*

### Supporting Documents

Please attach any additional information you would like the evaluation community to review with your application.

*File Size Limit: 8 MB*

## Impact Questions

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La Crosse Area Community Foundation is embracing the Trust Based Philanthropy model and the data collected in this section will be used to guide future evolutions to meet nonprofit

needs and will not be used against you in any capacity. To learn more about Trust Based Philanthropy, [click here](#).

### Which of these best describes the purpose of your project?\*

#### Choices

New Strategy to meet community need  
Improved Strategy to meet community need  
Required Growth to meet community need  
Existing Program Support

### Service Area\*

Please select which communities your organization serves.

#### Choices

Bangor/Rockland  
Holmen  
La Crosse  
Onalaska  
West Salem  
La Crosse County only  
Coulee Region (multiple counties)  
Wisconsin  
National  
International

### Which of these impact areas best describes your project, program, or organization?\*

Please select those that most closely relate to your work. Select **no more than three (3)** impact areas. [Click here](#) for definitions related to each impact area.

#### Choices

Arts and Humanities  
Community Improvement  
Culture and Diversity  
Education and Scholarships  
Environment  
Faith  
Health and Human Services  
Recreation and Wellness

### Which Sustainable Development Goal(s) does your project support?

Please select all that apply. [Click here](#) for more information about Sustainable Development Goals and to review definitions.

#### Choices

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-Being

- 4. Quality Education
- 5. Gender Equality
- 6. Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7. Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- 10. Reduced Inequalities
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13. Climate Action
- 14. Life Below Water
- 15. Life on Land
- 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.
- 17. Partnerships for the Goals

### *Organization EIN*

#### **Organization EIN\***

Please enter your organization's nine digit EIN (no dash).

*Character Limit: 9*

### *Fiscal Sponsorship Information*

#### **Fiscal Sponsorship**

Please include the appropriate information for your fiscal sponsorship.

	<b>Sponsored Applicant ("the project")</b>	<b>Fiscal Sponsor</b>
<b>Organization Name</b>		
<b>Primary Contact Name</b>		
<b>Primary Contact Email</b>		
<b>Primary Contact Phone</b>		

EIN		
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**Fiscal Sponsor Agreement\***

Please upload your fiscal sponsorship agreement. If you do not have a current agreement, please use this **template**.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

Categories/ Questions	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
	WEAK		AVERAGE		STRONG	
<b>I. ALIGNMENT</b>	Project not aligned with overarching mission.	Project not well aligned with overarching mission; concerns around mission drift	Project has connection to overarching mission.	Project aligns with overarching mission.	Project aligns well with overarching mission; have experience implementing.	
<i>Mission Drift – Occurs when a nonprofit organization’s activities and resources begin to move away from its original goals (intended purpose)</i>						
<b>II. COMMUNITY NEED</b>	No identified need in the community.	Lack of clarity around need (scope, target audience)	Community need identified	Community need identified with qualitative <b>OR</b> quantitative data	Community need identified with qualitative <b>AND</b> quantitative data	
<b>III. SOCIAL CAPITAL ALIGNMENT</b>	Does not advance social capital	Has minimal impact on advancing social capital; primarily through bonding	Has moderate impact on advancing social capital; primarily through <b>BONDING</b>	Advances social capital; includes bonding & bridging <b>OR</b> linking	Significantly advances social capital; strongly through bridging <b>OR</b> includes all 3 networks	
<i>Bonding – Strong relationships that develop between people who are similar in backgrounds, interests and resources</i>						
<i>Bridging – Connection between people with different backgrounds, experiences, or perspectives</i>						
<i>Linking – Involves relationships between people at different levels of power or authority</i>						
<b>IV. STRATEGY/ PROGRAM DESIGN</b>	Key activities are not described	Key activities are described.	Key activities are described; success is identified.	Key activities are outlined with measures of success identified	Key activities defined; success is outlined, contingency plan is stated	
<i>Described – What are you doing?</i>						
<i>Outlined – What are you doing? How are you doing it? When are you doing it?</i>						
<b>V. PARTNERS/ COLLABORATION</b>	No partners/ collaborations demonstrated; no LOS	Minimal partners/ collaborations demonstrated; no LOS	Partners/ collaborations exist; LOS provided	Partners/ collaborations are utilized; LOS provided to demonstrate collaborative work	Partners/ collaborations utilized to share capacity and resources; LOS demonstrates mutually beneficial relationship	
<b>VI. PROJECT EVALUATION</b>	No milestones or project goals listed	One or two milestones or project goals are listed	Three or more milestones or project goals are listed	Milestones or project goals are listed; potential barriers or restrictions are noted	Milestones are set with clear determinates of success; potential barriers or restrictions are noted with plans for resetting	
<b>VII. BUDGET</b>	No budget provided.	Organizational budget provided.	Project budget provided; has not requested other funding support	Project budget provided; has requested or secured other funding support	Provided budget is clearly understood; demonstrates diverse funding sources	
<i>Diverse Funding Sources: Individual Giving, Earned Income, Corporate Partnerships, Grants, Government, etc.</i>						
<b>VIII. SUSTAINABILITY</b>	No plan after this request	Recognize need for continued funding; no plan identified other than seek additional funds (e.g. grants)	No plans after this; <b>ONE TIME REQUEST</b>	Recognize need for continued funding and diverse funding potential identified	Project can be sustained after funding expires and demonstrated.	
					<b>Total: _____ / 40</b>	