



General Funding Criteria

Application Guidelines: All applications are now accepted only through an online application system. Applications are due by 11:59 pm on the date listed for each grant cycle period. The online system closes at that time and no exceptions are made in order to be fair to all applicants.

Qualifications: Applicants must be a non-profit organization with a valid 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) status under the U.S. IRS Code, a qualified educational institution, or governmental entity. An applicant's 501(c)(3) status is verified through Guidestar (<https://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>). The status of educational and governmental entities will be confirmed as part of the application process.

Funded Activities:

- **Economic Development:** proposals that strengthen our region's business climate, build capacity for business start-ups/expansion, support an environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, support workforce development, human capital, and leadership initiatives, attend to generational transfer of businesses/assets, and develops tourism, our riverfront, and neighborhoods
- **Arts, Culture, and Heritage:** proposals that enrich our region's artistic, creative, and cultural amenities, advance inclusiveness of diverse ideas and populations, create a sense of place that attracts people to our region, presents a welcoming environment, and highlights our regional history
- **Education:** proposals that expand access to educational opportunities, increase educational attainment, foster parent engagement, and create high quality educational capabilities
- **Human Services:** proposals that address human need among vulnerable populations, engage people in solving community problems, and strengthen organizations in our region's safety net

Support Type: What will grant funds spent on? Be specific on actual costs involved. Clarity on costs is an important part of deciding which applications will receive funding.

- **Events** draw people to the region, innovate on how people can come together, develop our human potential, draw attention to important issues, and raise funds for charitable causes
- **Venues** to engage people, maintain tradition, and excitement for our region
- **Projects** invest in opportunities of inclusion of diverse and marginalized populations
- **Construction/renovations** that develop, improve, and maintain spaces for people
- **Capital campaign** fund-raising
- **Technology** to connect people, entertain, improve efficiencies, and build skills
- Develop **human capital** through leadership, education, skill-building, creative pursuits
- Create **strategic direction** and/or organizational efficiencies for nonprofit organizations

RDA Board Priorities: The RDA Board has identified a set of community priorities that will start to shape funding decisions. **While the priorities do not restrict funding to the same broad range of we have engaged since our beginning,** we are looking for opportunities to help 'move the needle' in some specific areas over time. Priorities as of June 2021 include affordable housing, life skills, mental health, safety net, violence intervention, childcare and education, economic development



Granting Criteria:

- Applicants must be located in Scott County, IA or Rock Island County, IL and the grant must include clear benefit to residents of Scott County, IA.
- Grant awards must be used for the specific purpose outlined in the grant application. Any variance from this original purpose must be approved by RDA or the grant award must be returned to the RDA.
- The organization must have available for review upon request: 1) the organization's budget for the current year for which the grant is sought; 2) a copy of its most recent IRS Form 990, and 3) a financial statement for the previous fiscal year prepared by an independent accountant.
- Multi-cycle grants are occasionally awarded to make larger grant awards possible. These awards are payable based on the success of Rhythm City Casino Resort. While the intent of the RDA is to fully fund all multi-cycle grant awards, the written grant award agreement is not a legally binding document to pay the full amount. Each grant cycle payment is approved by the Board based on revenues available for that cycle.
- Requests for operational or personnel expenses are considered, with preference given to capacity building, transitional, or collaborative needs.
- Ongoing funding is not awarded for the same purpose or project for multiple grant cycles. Grant allocations prioritize innovation, capacity building, regional supports, and leveraging. If you are uncertain about this, please contact the RDA staff to discuss.
- For educational institutions: All public school grant applications must be submitted by a Principal and forwarded to a District Review Committee that prioritizes all District grant applications for each grant cycle. All applications must be approved by a Principal and the District Superintendent.
- Authorizations or certifications: If an applicant is applying for funds for any program/project which involves property that is not owned/operated by the applicant, authorization from the owner/operator of the facility (such as the school administration or the city), must accompany the application. This would include city properties or properties or facilities owned/operated by other agencies. It would also include any documentation certifying an agency to perform any activity granted by another agency or unit of government.
- No distribution to any organization that has an employee, officer or director who is a member or affiliate of the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.
- No support of individuals, including scholarships or fellowships.
- No support for political causes and candidates or lobbying activities.
- No support for religious sectarian missions or programming.
- No support to fund operating deficits.

For questions on the application process, please contact RDA at ceo@rdauthority.org & pc@rdauthority.org or call (563) 323-5177.