



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA)

Resource: Community Grant Amount & Frequency Guidance

RDA is frequently asked for guidance on recommended amounts for different types of grant projects. Our first answer is that each grant application has the opportunity to justify the requested amount. However, the amounts listed below are meant to serve as guidelines (not limits) for typical award amounts. These guidelines are shaped by the total funds we have to give out each grant cycle and our goal is to distribute funds effectively and fairly. While not mandatory, the amount of funding leverage (i.e., other funding sources for the project) is a strong competitive factor for any application. If your organization wants to request higher amounts, you can contact RDA to discuss options.

Capital/Renovation:

- Funds requested for building projects require detailed plans and estimates from contractors, architects, or other professionals to ensure proper allocation, competitive pricing, and a sense that the project is viable. We do refer to the Quad Cities Contributors Council evaluation process.
- Renovation projects should be accompanied by a comprehensive building assessment to evaluate the scope and feasibility of the work. We consider whether the building is a good investment.
- These requests normally require significant leverage with other funding sources and specific details on how the building will be sustained.
- Funding ranges are best negotiated to consider all factors for these typically larger grant awards.

Equipment/Supplies:

- Requests for equipment or supplies should be clearly justified with a detailed explanation of their necessity and expected impact.
- Typical funding up to \$50,000

Event:

- RDA funds events as a way to support community engagement and belonging. Applicants can include a plan for ensuring the event's future sustainability and continued impact beyond initial funding.
- Typical funding up to \$25,000 per event with a 3-year limit

Program/Operations:

- Funding for ongoing programs or operations typically has a 3-year limit to encourage development, sustainability, and growth through other funding sources.
- Typical funding up to \$25,000
- **Funding Bridge:** Available for organizations seeking temporary funding to overcome immediate challenges, build capacity within the organization, or capitalize on time-limited opportunities that would otherwise be missed. Typical funding up to \$50,000.

Relief/Safety Net:

- The community's safety net includes meals, shelter, and emergencies, especially for vulnerable populations. RDA can also respond to community disaster relief needs.
- Typical funding up to \$50,000



Fundraising Support:

- Start-up costs for new fundraising events/programs, or campaigns including challenge matches and local matches for opportunities to leverage larger regional or national grants. We believe that fundraising events should eventually build in the cost of operating the fundraiser event, so the RDA funds would serve as start-up funds.
- Typical funding up to \$25,000

Innovative Projects

- Funds may be allocated for innovative projects that aim to create system-level changes, improving the long-term capacity and function of the community or organization.
- Negotiated range based on project.

Application Frequency

The Regional Development Authority (RDA) offers two grant cycles each year, spring and fall. Early in RDA's history, we encouraged organizations to apply just once per year as a way to distribute funds more broadly. That practice evolved to where more and more agencies apply in both cycles. RDA plans to shift back to a practice in which each organization is routinely eligible to apply for just one of the two cycles per year.

We do recognize that circumstances can arise in which organizations may be justified in applying for both cycles. Please contact RDA staff to explore what those circumstances might be. Below are some of the criteria for when this may be considered acceptable.

Example Criteria for Submitting Two Requests in a Year:

- **Organization Emergency or Unplanned Needs:** Situations where unexpected challenges or emergencies arise, requiring immediate funding to address urgent needs.
- **Larger Grant Matching Opportunity:** Opportunities to secure matching funds or partner funding that require additional support.
- **Critical Timing for Project Implementation:** Projects with time-sensitive components that need funding in different cycles to ensure timely and effective execution.
- **Expansion of Successful Programs:** When a previously funded project demonstrates success, additional funding may be needed to expand or enhance the program's reach.
- **Responding to Emerging Community Needs:** Unforeseen community challenges that arise within the year can require additional resources that couldn't have been anticipated during the initial grant application.

For questions, email ceo@rdauthority.org or pc@rdauthority.org, or call (563) 323-5177