

RDA Community Grants - Fall 2024

Regional Development Authority

Introduction

Reading through all of the questions before you begin can help you to avoid repeating things in multiple questions.

General Granting Sectors

RDA grants are available to a wide range of community building efforts:

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

The RDA Board has identified a set of community priorities to help us focus on making a bigger difference. These priorities include Affordable/Stable Housing, Life Skills, Mental Health, Safety Net, Violence Intervention, Affordable Child Care, and Economic Development. Having these priorities DOES NOT mean we only fund in those areas.... just that we are looking for innovative ways to help 'move the needle' in those areas. Up to 5 points (out of 60) are available for alignment with these priorities.

Larger multi-cycle grants will be awarded on a limited basis so we can balance the risk of over-extending our commitments in the future. RDA operates in 6-month funding cycles and is totally dependent on Casino revenues for granting ability.

Guidelines are available on the RDA website to help you understand the Board Members' scoring criteria.

Other Application Guidance

- As a point of clarification, applications that include more than one project type are

- difficult to score (e.g., fund-raising support AND program costs in the same application), because each part of your application may have a different priority level when compared to all the other community requests. Please only apply for what you need the most.
- You can save an incomplete application and return to it later by clicking the save button at the bottom. Applications must be fully completed for final submission; some items are required.
- Please take the time to review the application guidelines found on our website to make sure you are in line with the criteria. In order to respect your time, you should know that there are some things we will not fund.
- Please keep your answers brief; you don't need to use all of the space provided. Shorter responses are easier to understand and score.
- RDA has shifted to an electronic funds transfer to pay grants instead of paper checks. If this is an issue, contact pc@rdauthority.org

Proposal Description

Proposal Title*

Title identifies your proposal. This will be used to announce awards to the public. **Please don't include your organization's name in the title** - create a short descriptive title to communicate the purpose of your proposal.

Character Limit: 75

Organization Mission*

Please list or describe your organizations mission.

Character Limit: 1000

Opportunity or Challenge Description*

Summarize the opportunity or challenge your proposal addresses. Give the reader an idea of why your proposal is important. There is another space for what you will do about it, so keep this focused on describing the opportunity or challenge.

This is a good place to talk about if you are working within one of the RDA priority areas (affordable housing, life skills, mental health, safety net, violence intervention, affordable child care, and economic development)

Character Limit: 1500

Proposal Description*

Briefly describe your proposal. What will you do?

Character Limit: 1500

Goals*

What will be different because of your work through this proposal? What can be measured? What will be shared on the final report about the impact of this work?

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Section

Amount Requested*

Character Limit: 20

Total Budget for Proposal*

Enter the total cost for the project or program supported by the grant request.

Character Limit: 20

Proposal Budget*

Please upload a 1-2 page project budget document. For this application, there is no standard budget form because we fund so many different types of projects and programs.

Your budget document should focus on how the grant dollars will be spent, not the budget of the entire organization. If we need an overall budget for the organization, we will contact you.

If you are requesting operational support, please focus on how these dollars will support either *capacity building* or a *financial bridge through* challenging times. While we do support operational funding, we typically limit it to specific and time limited funding gaps.

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Budget Narrative*

Please summarize how the dollars will be spent.

Character Limit: 1000

Leverage Details*

"Leverage" refers to bringing in additional funds to support the project or program, using local funding commitments to draw other funds to the issue. Requests that leverage other funds - especially funding sources outside of our local area - are favored. In this section, please highlight any leverage that can be secured by this request. Where appropriate, please include **sources/amounts/status of co-funding opportunities**. Listing other funding support demonstrates broader support in the community and sustainability for the effort.

Character Limit: 1000

Proposal Impact

This IMPACT section of questions covers a lot of ground. We know that not every question is equally important to every project or program. However, these questions give us a way to find projects that have the most to offer to the community. Board members score each question in this section and then score on overall impact.

Reach*

How many people will be served, participate, or benefit in some way from this proposal? Are the people served or involved part of a vulnerable, difficult to serve, or underrepresented population?

Character Limit: 1000

Inclusion*

This question goes beyond if you serve diverse populations. How does your proposal promote or increase inclusiveness and equity in our community? Inclusiveness work refers to efforts that engage marginalized populations in order to create a more equitable community. Equity work refers to correcting disparities in opportunities.

Also, please describe how your organization is becoming more inclusive through your own staff make-up, board membership, or other inclusiveness policies. We know this has become a critical issue in creating a vibrant and healthy community. Be specific in how your proposal helps to support diversity, equity, and inclusion. RDA's mission is to fund initiatives that create a vibrant, **inclusive**, and growing community.

Character Limit: 1000

Collaboration & Alignment*

How are collaborations or alignment involved? What other services already exist that address similar purposes? How does your request help to align existing efforts/resources?

Character Limit: 1000

Big Picture*

This question is an opportunity communicate other details to help Board members better understand the impact of your proposal.

You might respond in these or other similar ways:

- "As a result of this grant, the community will... "
- "This grant will allow our organization to... "
- "Without this grant... "

Please also describe how this proposal will benefit Scott County, IA. While RDA has an interest

in supporting a strong Quad Cities, we do focus on how the proposal will impact Scott County. This is part of how the Board members score the applications, so please be specific.

Character Limit: 1000

Sustainable Impact

Sustainable Impact*

How does this funding help to create lasting change in the community? If it's a new service or program, what is the plan to sustain it? If funding related to operational costs, describe sustainability of the organization.

Character Limit: 1000

Documents to Attach to Application

Board Membership List*

You may either list (in the space below) or upload a list of the organization's governing board, including each Board member's city and state of residence. Please also indicate officers.

Character Limit: 1200 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Balance Sheet and Income Statement*

All 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are required to upload a Balance Sheet AND Income Statement for their most recent full fiscal year.

Scan the required Balance Sheet AND Income Statement into one file and upload below.

If the organization is new and has not been in existence for a full twelve month period, upload the most recent Balance Sheet AND Income Statement.

For Cities and School Districts - please attach a last audit management letter - not the full financial statements.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Supporting Documents (OPTIONAL)

You may attach support letters or other documents that provide additional information about your proposal (note there is a maximum file size).

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Internal

Proposal Type*

Please choose the best ONE category only. We know that many proposals can fit into more than one category. Select what you believe is the best fit.

Choices

Economic Development
Arts, Culture, and Heritage
Human Services
Education

Board Priority

Choices

Affordable Housing
Life Skills
Mental Health
Safety Net
Violence Intervention
Affordable Child Care and Education
Economic Development

General Category

Choices

Capital
Renovation
Equipment
Event
Innovate
Program
Relief
Funding Bridge
Fundraising Support

Grant Cycle Number

Character Limit: 2

Year Code

Character Limit: 2

Grant Category

Character Limit: 2

Signature

Please Note: By entering data into the next three fields (Name, Title, and Date) you:

- Represent that you are authorized to enter legally binding agreements for the Grantee.
- Agree to submit this grant application electronically on behalf of the Grantee.
- Agree that entering data in these fields constitutes an electronic signature.

You affirm that:

- To the best of your knowledge, this organization complies with all IRS and State of Iowa requirements for nonprofit corporations, with all forms and filings current.
- All data in this application is correct.
- The grant funds will be used as described in the proposal budget or returned unless you receive written permission for alternative use.

Authorized Signature*

Character Limit: 100

Title*

Character Limit: 100

Date*

Character Limit: 10