



## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA)

Instructions: Grant Application Guidelines (Spring 2025)

**RDA's mission is to strategically fund initiatives that create a vibrant, inclusive, and growing community.**

RDA grants are available for a wide range of community development efforts including those listed in the **General Purposes, Priority Focus Areas, and Community Capacities** sections below. We are moving towards becoming more focused on specific types of impact, while continuing to support the broad range of requests we have funded since 1991. Our goal is to become a more effective funder by supporting efforts around specific objectives in community development. We plan to engage with community stakeholders to help advance these categories of impact. Our **definitions for each of these impact areas** are intentionally broad and we are open to exploring your ideas as part of the application process.

**General Purpose Grants** – Support for a broad range of projects that benefit our region.

- **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 the 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

**Priority Focus Areas** – While RDA will continue to fund a broad range of community projects, we have also identified a few focus areas as a way to help to make more specific impact in work to improve access to **affordable/stable housing, mental health, high quality child care, life skills development, safety net resources, violence prevention systems, and economic development initiatives.**

**Community Capacities** – Innovative opportunities to invest in system level change, such as:

- **Collaboration:** Formal/informal coalitions to convene stakeholders, align resources and efforts.
- **Regional Plans:** Unified master plan to address regional challenges, align stakeholders, and clarify goals/metrics.
- **Grassroots Volunteerism:** Efforts to engage volunteer time/resources to address community challenges.
- **Root Causes Approach:** Identify basic causes of challenges and use data to direct resources to achieve desired outcomes.

The Spring 2025 Community Grants application is open to considering any of these impact ventures. We are also open to discussing these ideas to clarify the opportunities.

**For questions, email [ceo@rdauthority.org](mailto:ceo@rdauthority.org) or [pc@rdauthority.org](mailto:pc@rdauthority.org), or call (563) 323-5177**