

RDA Community Grants - Fall 2025

Regional Development Authority

Introduction

RDA Mission Statement: Strategically fund initiatives to create a vibrant, inclusive, and growing community.

We encourage you to review our application resources that include: 1) Community Grant Guidelines; 2) Community Grant Application Criteria and Tips; 3) Community Grant Amount & Frequency Guidance; 4) Community Grant Board Scoring Rubric. There are important do's and don'ts in these documents that will help you be successful in your application.

RDA grants are available for a wide range of community development efforts described in the RDA Grant Application Instructions.

Qualified Applicants: 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) non-profits; public school districts; and units of local government (e.g., public libraries, fire departments, etc.) Public school districts and governmental units must be located in Scott County, Iowa. Non-profits can be located in the Quad Cities region, as defined by Scott County, IA and Rock Island County, IL. All requests must clearly demonstrate a benefit to Scott County, IA or to the Quad Cities Region.

NOTICE: We want to be transparent with you about moving to a one-award-per-year practice so that we can distribute funds to many organizations and causes. While there are situations that justify two grants in a year, those will be the exceptions (see *Community Grant Amount & Frequency Guidance*). You can reach out to RDA staff to clarify.

Proposal Description

Proposal Title*

Create a brief, descriptive title that clearly communicates the purpose of your proposal. **Do not include your organization's name in this title.** This title will be used in public announcements.

Character Limit: 75

Organization Mission*

Please list or describe your organization's mission and role in our community.

Character Limit: 1000

Opportunity or Challenge Description*

Briefly summarize the opportunity or challenge you propose to work on.

Character Limit: 1000

Proposal & Goals Description*

Outline your proposal and goals, explaining how they address key community issues as described in the Grant Application Guidelines.

Character Limit: 1500

Overall Impact*

How will your proposal will make a difference? For example, you can describe: 1) how many people will be impacted; 2) how vulnerable or hard-to-reach populations are helped; 3) how your work supports regional collaboration; 4) how new capacity is built for your organization; or **5) the impact on RDA Focus Areas (e.g., housing, child care, mental health, economic development, safety net, violence prevention, and life skills)**. While we do fund outside of these RDA Focus Areas, we also do prioritize opportunities within those areas.

You might also 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... "

Character Limit: 1500

Community Engagement

Inclusion*

How does your proposal promote or increase inclusiveness and a sense of belonging in our community? Inclusiveness work refers to engaging marginalized populations and increasing access to resources that are needed to be successful.

You could also describe how your organization is becoming more inclusive through your own staff make-up, board membership, or other inclusiveness practices. We value inclusion work as central in creating a vibrant and healthy community where people can belong and thrive.

Character Limit: 1000

Scott County*

How will your proposal benefit the Quad Cities Region? While our primary service area is Scott County, Iowa - we recognize the impact of the overall region's strength and vitality on each community. Grants to Rock Island County need to have a clear connection to a regional impact.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget Section

Grant Amount Guidance: Please see Application Instructions for guidance on an amount for your request.

When considering a multi-cycle request, please know that **these requests are extremely competitive**. The Instructions provide information about how we evaluate these requests. It's best to discuss a multi-cycle request option with RDA staff as you prepare the application.

Amount Requested*

Enter the amount being requested. If asking for a multi-cycle award, please enter the amount for the entire proposal, which might be awarded over multiple grant cycles or years. The next question allows you to describe the preferred set up of a multi-cycle arrangement.

Character Limit: 20

Type of Award*

Check which type of grant you are applying for.

Choices

One-Time Award

Multi-Cycle Award

Multi-Cycle Reasoning

Please describe why a multi-cycle award is needed. While we do consider multi-cycle or multi-year requests, our limited capacity makes them highly competitive. If this is a one-time grant request, you can state "one-time" in this section or leave it blank.

Character Limit: 1000

Multi-Cycle Allocation Plan

Outline how you would like to receive a multi-cycle grant. For example, Year 1: \$50,000; Year 2: \$40,000; and Year 3 \$30,000. Total of \$120,000 over 3 years.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget: Clarity & Value*

Please summarize how the grant dollars will be spent. Clearly describe how your proposal will use RDA funds and the value brought to the community.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget: Co-Funding / Leverage*

Describe how your proposal helps to align resources and other funders. Also, describe how your project can **leverage** funds from outside of our region. Highlight any secured or potential co-funding opportunities, including sources, amounts, and the status of these funds. Strong leverage, especially from external funding streams, is highly valued.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget: Sustainability*

Explain how this grant supports sustainability of your project or organization. Describe how the project might continue without RDA funding in the future, and, if applicable, how it contributes to lasting change in the community. If the request is for operational costs, outline the organization's long-term sustainability plan,

Character Limit: 1500

Upload Proposal Budget*

Please upload a 1-2 page project budget document that includes the total project cost and how RDA funds will be utilized. Where applicable, also include details on co-funding or leveraging opportunities, including sources, amounts, and their current status.

Focus this budget document on how the grant dollars will be spent, not on your organization's overall budget. If operational support is requested, explain how these funds will support *capacity building or provide a financial bridge* during challenging times. Note that while we do support operational funding, it is typically limited to addressing specific, short-term funding gaps.

We do provide a budget template, but also recognize that this template may not fit for all projects. It's up to you to communicate your budget clearly.

RDA Budget Template

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Documents to Attach

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

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

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

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

RDA Focus Areas

Check one item that is the best fit.

Choices

Affordable Housing
Child Care
Mental Health
Economic Development
Safety Net
Violence Prevention
Life Skills

Community Capacities

Choices

Collaboration
Regional Planning
Root Cause / Data Driven
Grassroots Volunteerism
General Purposes

Recommended Payment Schedule

Choices

One Time
Multicycle (every 6 months)
Multicycle (every 12 months)

Multi-Cycle Applicant Called

Did Applicant call ahead to discuss multi-cycle option?

Choices

No
Yes

MC Comments

Assessment of a MC request

Character Limit: 1000

Grant Cycle Number

Character Limit: 2

Year Code

Character Limit: 2

Grant Category

Character Limit: 2

