REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RDA)
Resource: Transformational Initiatives Application Criteria and Tips

Grant Criteria:

- **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. Grant proposals must benefit Scott County directly or through creating of a stronger Quad Cities region.

- **Amount of Request:** This granting program typically awards between $100,000 - $200,000 per year for each of three years, for a total of $300,00-$600,000 per project. The Board compares the value adds of each request to support the greatest impact, including leverage and alignment.

- **Authorizations or certifications**: If an applicant is applying for funds for any program/project that 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.

- No grants awarded to religious purposes. Religious-based entities can apply for projects that serve vulnerable populations or secular community purposes as long as religious activity is not a required part of the program.

- No support of individuals, including scholarships or fellowships.

- 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.

- 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.

- Once awarded, funds 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 funds must be returned to the RDA.

Tips for Successful Grant Applications:

- **Review the Entire Process First:** Before starting your application, thoroughly review the entire process and all the questions. This will help you plan an application that effectively tells your story and addresses key scoring criteria.

- **Be Concise:** The online application system limits the length of your answers, but you don't need to fill the entire space. Concise responses help Board volunteers (who review multiple applications) grasp the big picture more easily.

- **Quantify the Impact:** Where possible. provide specific numbers, especially the percentage of Scott County residents who will benefit from your proposal. This helps assess the proposal's reach and effectiveness.

- **Submit Up-to-Date Financial Documents:** Applicants must provide recent Balance Sheets and Income Statements. Current financial documents indicate a strong and accountable organization. Outdated or missing financial information may disqualify your proposal.

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

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