

RDA Community Grants - Fall 2021

Regional Development Authority

Introduction

Granting Priorities for Fall 2021 Grants

The RDA application is open to a wide range of community building efforts, but prioritizes proposals that work on: 1) economic development; 2) pandemic response, recovery, and rebuilding; 3) racial equity; and 4) systems and root cause approaches to strengthening our community. **It may help to review all of the questions before you start.** This can help you to avoid repeating things in multiple questions.

Larger multi-cycle grants will be awarded on a limited basis until we know more about how the pandemic will resolve. RDA operates in 6-month funding cycles and is totally dependent on Casino revenues for granting ability. We are less able to make significant future funding commitments until the the current situation clears up.

Scoring guidelines are available to you on the RDA website so that you know what the Board members are looking for.

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 may have a different priority level. Please apply for what you need the most.

You may save an incomplete application and come back to it later by clicking the save button at the very bottom of the application. Applications must be fully completed to allow submission - some items are required.

Please take the time to review the application guidelines to make sure you are in line with the criteria. There some things we will not fund.

Proposal Description

Organization Mission*

Please list or describe your organization's mission.

Character Limit: 200

Proposal Title*

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

Character Limit: 75

PROPOSAL TYPE: For the next question, please use these descriptions:

- **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

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. Category examples are listed above.

Choices

Economic Development
Arts, Culture, and Heritage
Human Services
Education

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 the opportunity or challenge.

Character Limit: 500

Proposal Description*

Briefly describe your proposal. What will you do?

Character Limit: 1000

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 budget for a specific project or for ongoing program.

Character Limit: 20

Support Type

Be specific on what grant dollars will be spent on. This is one of the more important questions to help the Board members make grant decisions. We ask you to attach a budget for the project below. This question asks you to give a general description of how the dollars will be spent.

Character Limit: 1000

Proposal Budget*

There is no standard budget format... projects can be very different, so that no one budget format fits all types. For this question, we are more interested in **how the actual grant dollars will be spent** than we are in your organization's full budget at this stage. If we need a full organizational budget, we will contact you.

If this is a request for operational support, focus this part of the application on how these dollars will support *capacity building* or a *financial bridge through* challenging times.

Please upload a 1-2 page document itemizing how the grant dollars will be spent. Some applicants include leverage sources on this budget document. This depends on how you want to show leverage.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Leverage Details

All other things equal, requests that leverage other funds - especially funding sources outside of our local area - will be preferred. In this section, please highlight any leverage brought by this request. Where appropriate, please include **sources/amounts of leverage**. Listing other funding support demonstrates broader support in the community and sustainability for the effort.

Character Limit: 1000

Proposal Impact

This section of questions covers a lot of ground. We know that not every question is equally important to each project, but the range of questions gives us a way to find projects that have the most to offer to the community.

While each question is scored individually, funding decisions are made by the Board on the overall impact... regardless of the scores on any of the items. Focus on the main strengths of our project.

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

Diversity Equity & 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 minority populations or disadvantaged people in order to create a more equitable community. Equity work refers to correcting disparities in opportunities.

If your core mission is already about inclusiveness, take it a step further and 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 the community we want for each other. 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

Pandemic Response Recovery & Rebuilding

The pandemic has impacted our economy in significant ways. A common approach to relief is to look at three levels of funding support: 1) Response; 2) Recovery; and 3) Rebuilding.

Response: Funds for immediate human need (e.g., food & shelter)

Recovery: Operational support to return to prior levels of services and activity (e.g., rehiring staff to get service unit billing back up or outfitting facilities to adapt to new health realities)

Rebuilding: Innovations to improve infrastructure and take advantage of lessons learned as we move forward (e.g., broadband access to support learning and remote working)

Funding will most often be awarded to plans that focus specifically on one of these areas, with specific costs. Generalized approaches for more than one of the above areas will be less likely to state a clear impact and less likely to receive funding. Please focus on specific needs.

Character Limit: 1500

Community Infrastructure & Engagement

How does the proposal help to strengthen our community infrastructure. For example, does it promote and support volunteerism or promote other things that make a stronger community?

Character Limit: 1000

Collaboration & Partnerships

How will collaboration and partnerships support this project. We know that not all projects need collaboration. If your proposal does involve collaboration, please briefly describe.

Character Limit: 1000

Organizational Sustainability

Please describe how your organization is doing in the current challenging financial environment: 1) current funding challenges and 2) how the organization is adapting to those funding challenges.

We are sure this is a difficult question to answer. RDA has a responsibility to understand the status of entities we consider for funding. One advantage of receiving applications from many agencies is that we can start to see a bigger picture and develop opportunities for community-wide solutions. We will share what we learn as themes arise.

Character Limit: 1000

Big Picture

Big Picture

This last question is an opportunity communicate other details to help Board members better understand the value 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 people in Scott County, IA. While RDA has an interest in supporting a strong Quad Cities, we do focus on how Scott County residents will benefit from grant funding. This is part of how the Board members score the applications.

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).

Do not attach your Certificate of Existence or Letter of Determination as a nonprofit here. We are able to check that automatically in our new online system.

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 an officer or other agent for the applicant Grantee duly authorized to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the Grantee
- agree to submit this grant application in an electronic form on behalf of the Grantee which shall be bound by its contents as an electronic transaction
- agree that your insertion of data into these following fields constitutes an electronic signature

Further, you affirm that:

- to the best of your knowledge and belief, this organization is in compliance with all IRS and State of Iowa requirements for nonprofit corporations and that all relevant forms and filings are current
- all data in this application are correct
- the grant funds will be used as described in the proposal budget or be returned, unless you receive written permission for alternate use

Authorized Signature*

Character Limit: 100

Title*

Character Limit: 100

Date*

Character Limit: 10

Internal

Grant Cycle Number

Character Limit: 2

Year Code

Character Limit: 2

Grant Number

Character Limit: 3

Grant Category

Character Limit: 2

Complete Grant Code

Character Limit: 10

Grant Category Code

Choices

Capital

Equipment

Event

Funding

Innovate

Program

Relief

Renovation