

General Grant Guidelines

The WCDA geographic focus is Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota, the primary focus is Worth County with a secondary focus on surrounding counties.

The focus of the grants will be in the following areas community development, tourism, culture and recreation, arts, emergency services, health and human services.

To maximize the effect of our granting, WCDA will favor grants that leverage partnerships with other organizations, governmental entities, and fund matching.

In our effort to evenly effect all areas, education is not included in an area of focus for the below grants. This is due to the fact WCDA awards a substantial amount to Education in the form of Scholarships and Grants to local and surrounding schools. Please work directly with local school boards to help shape where those Grants are directed.

Formula

The total amount available for granting shall be allocated with two separate funding pools as follows:

- 25% of the WCDA grant funds shall be allocated to the Worth County Fund.
- Up to 25% of the WCDA grant funds shall be allocated to the Regional Fund.

Worth County Township Fund. Funds shall be awarded with the goal of community development, tourism, culture and recreation, arts, emergency services, health and human services within Worth County Iowa.

Regional Fund. Funds may be awarded, subject to a matching funds requirement, to qualified organizations. **Any organizations outside of Worth County, which are awarded from Regional Fund, shall be required to obtain, from sources other than WCDA, funds for the organization's specific project equal to 25% of the total project cost.** In determining whether an organization meets this matching funds requirement, in-kind contributions of labor or land toward the specific grant shall not qualify toward the 25%. In-kind material contributions will qualify.

Grant Review Criteria

In reviewing applications, the WCDA Grant Committees and Board of Directors carefully consider the following criteria:

- The relevance of the proposed project to WCDA's mission and our areas of focus. The extent to which the proposal addresses a community need, demonstrates broad-based community support, and provides benefits to the community-at-large.
- Ability of the proposed project to leverage funding and support from other sources.
- Extent to which the proposal maximizes community resources through cooperation and collaboration with other organizations in the community and the elimination of redundant services, programs, or projects
- The capacity of the applicant's organization and staff to achieve the desired result.
- The sustainability of the proposed project without additional long-term financial commitments from the WCDA.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must be an IRS-approved tax-exempt non-profit as described in the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3) or equivalent tax-exempt status or a tax-exempt school (applying via AEA-13) or other government entity. Organizations are not allowed to “share” or “borrow” a 501 (c) (3) status with another organization. The name on the application must match the name on the IRS-issued letter. **A copy of the current IRS 501(c)(3) designation letter must be submitted with each copy of the application, as applicable.**

The organization must be in compliance with the terms and purposes of any prior grant from the Worth County Development Authority. If the organization has violated the terms of any prior grant, the organization will be considered ineligible until such time as the violation has been cured.

GRANTS ARE NOT AWARDED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING USES:

- Participating in, or intervening in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office (within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the IRC)
- Carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (within the meaning of section 4945(d) (1) of the IRC)
- Influencing the outcome of any specific public election or carrying on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of section 4945(d) (2) of the IRC)
- Undertaking any activity for any non-charitable purpose or to the extent that use of grant funds would constitute a “taxable expenditure” (within the meaning of section 4945(d) of the IRC) or in any other manner which would jeopardize or cause the WCDA to lose its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the IRC
- Discriminating against any individual or group based on race, religious beliefs, ethnic or national origin, or otherwise legally impermissible criteria
- Benefiting for-profit businesses
- Supporting private foundations as described in IRC 509 (a)
- Funding projects outside of Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota
- Benefiting church-affiliated organizations for religious purposes (however, support may be provided to non-religious programs like child care, hunger centers, etc.)
- Providing support for benefit and fundraising events, such as galas or athletic tournaments.
- Participating in capital campaigns for hospitals, medical facilities, assisted living projects, nursing homes, independent care, and extended care facilities
- Funding medical research
- Financing publications, films, books, seminars, symposia and conferences
- Applications which request funds to retire an organization’s debt.
- Applications which request funds to make up for deficit spending.
- Grants will not be made to individuals, including scholarships.
- Grants will not be made to support endowment funds.
- Debt incurred or purchases made prior to WCDA grant award notification.
- Salary or operating expenses
- Use of any form of weapons (guns, etc)

Application Guidelines:

- No more than a total of 15 pages will be allowed.
- No binders
- Please include first page only of tax exempt status
- Please include most recent financial statement
- Please include detailed estimates.

Grant Timelines

Deadlines

- February 15th (can be handed in January 1-February 15th)
- August 15th (can be handed in July 1-August 15th)

Award Dates

- April 15th
- October 15th

Grant Award Requirements:

- Grant recipients have 1 year from awarded date to complete projects. If not completed all funds will be required to be returned to the WCDA.
- Before receiving grant money a receipt or invoice must be provided.
- It is up to each award recipient to contact the appropriate press for all thank you acknowledgements and pictures to be taken.
- After each project is completed a person from each organization must contact Kim Miller (641-324-1618) to physically go and inspect that project.
- Grant recipients will use Worth County vendors when feasible.