



Apply Now: The Grove Foundation's 2025 Grant Program

Mission Statement

The Grove Foundation enriches the lives of community members by identifying, supporting, and promoting recreational, educational, and community experiences through innovative and collaborative efforts.

What is the Grove Foundation?

The Grove Foundation, a not-for-profit organization registered with the State of Illinois, has proudly supported the Downers Grove community since 1991 through a variety of initiatives. These include providing financial assistance for educational, recreational, and social programs; developing and implementing its own efforts such as *Helping Children Grow*, a fifth-grade recognition program; and offering grants to grassroots organizations to bolster their operations.

The Foundation also conducts fundraisers to generate support for local programs and accepts land donations by private individuals or businesses thereby providing tax benefits while allowing the land to be given back to suitable organizations within Downers Grove, such as the Park District, School District, or Village.

Examples of Previous Programs and Projects Funded by the Grove Foundation

- Helping Children Grow
- Senior Suburban Orchestra
- Community Adult Day Center
- Grove Players
- Lyman Woods Wetlands 5th Grade Program and the Little Sprouts Program
- South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation (SEASPAR)
- FISH Pantry
- Sharing Connections
- Hope's Front Door
- DuPage PADS
- NAMI DuPage



Grant Program Timeline

The Grove Foundation's 2025 Community Grant Cycle will follow the schedule below:

- Call for Applications Opens: August 1, 2025
- Application Deadline: September 30, 2025
- Review Period: October 1-15, 2025
- Grant Awards Announced: October 20, 2025
- Award Ceremony: November 3, 2025

Dates are subject to change. Any updates will be communicated directly to applicants and posted on thegrovefoundation.org.

Award Amount

Award amounts generally range from \$100-\$1,500. While the standard maximum award is \$1,500, exceptions may be considered.

Grant Program & Project Guidelines

- The program or project must benefit the residents of Downers Grove.
- The program or project must align with the mission of the Grove Foundation.
- Grants may support programs, program materials, and community experiences—defined as events, classes, or activities that are open to the public.
- Applications from organizations with their own foundations are generally not eligible.
- Programs or projects that are unique, designed to become self-sustaining and/or serve diverse populations are preferred.
- Smaller, “grassroots,” local programs or projects are preferred. Large agencies or organizations, with substantial budgets, must clearly indicate the revenue and expenses associated with the Downers Grove program requesting funding.
- Grant funds cannot be used for day-to-day operations or overhead costs.
- The Grove Foundation Board reserves the right to make exceptions to these guidelines at its discretion.



Application Requirements

Organizations seeking funding from the Grove Foundation must complete the [online application form](#), available via Google Forms, with a detailed description of their request. Applicants are required to provide a detailed overview of their proposed program or project and respond to the following questions:

1. Organization name
2. Applicant contact information
3. Organization history and background
4. Other activities the organization participates in
5. Requested grant amount (range: \$100-\$1,500)
6. Specific and detailed program or project revenue, expenses and description of how the grant will be used (Note: Grant funds cannot be used for day-to-day operations or overhead)
7. How is the program or project currently being funded?
8. Who will benefit from the program or project (e.g., senior citizens, teens, etc.)?
9. Describe how the program or project benefits Downers Grove residents.
10. Estimate the percentage of program participants who are residents of Downers Grove.

Application Submission

Organizations applying for funding from the Grove Foundation must complete the online application form linked [here](#). Upon successful submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours.

Important: Your application is not considered accepted until a confirmation email has been received. If no confirmation is received within 24 hours, please contact the Grove Foundation immediately at info@thegrovefoundation.org.

Submission Deadline

All electronic applications must be received by September 30, 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.



Application Review Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the Grant Committee and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Directors.
- Organizations may present their idea to the Grove Foundation Board, if prior arrangements are made.
- Organizations may be asked to attend a Grove Foundation meeting to answer questions about their program.
- Applications will be evaluated according to the attached rubric.
- Guide to Rubric Scoring:
 - 1-2 points - Incomplete/not addressed
 - 3-5 points - Somewhat meets
 - 6-9 points - Meets expectations
 - 10 points - Exceeds expectations



REQUIREMENTS	CRITERIA	POINTS POSSIBLE
Organization name and contact information of applicant	Complete name clearly indicated. Information includes different forms of contact.	10
Organization history and background	History and background information is up-to-date, clearly organized, and precise.	10
Other activities your organization participates in	Diversified activities are engaged in providing support to other non-profit organizations.	10
Requested Grant Amount	The request is precise. While the standard maximum award is \$1,500, exceptions may be considered.	10
Specific and detailed program or project revenue, expenses and description of how the grant will be used	Explanation of how the grant will be used is clear and concise for an event, class, or program open to community members. (Note: Grant funds cannot be used for day-to-day operations or overhead)	10
How is the program or project currently being funded?	Preference is given to smaller, grassroots local programs. Larger organizations with substantial budgets must clearly outline the revenue and expenses specific to the Downers Grove program requesting funding. Please indicate whether your organization has its own foundation. If the program or project is new, please note that—this will not negatively impact your application.	10
Who will benefit from the program or project (e.g., senior citizens, teens, etc.)?	The target audience is clearly defined, including estimated numbers of individuals expected to be served or impacted.	10
Description of how the program or project benefits Downers Grove residents.	Description provides at least three ways the program or project benefits Downers Grove residents.	10
Estimate the percentage of program participants who are residents of Downers Grove.	1-25% = 3-5 point (somewhat meets) 26%-75% = 6-9 points (meets expectations) 76%-100% = 10 points (exceeds expectations)	10
Program or project aligns with the Grove Foundation (GF) Mission Statement.	The GF exists to enrich the lives of community members by identifying, supporting, and promoting recreational, educational, and community experiences through innovative and collaborative efforts.	10
Total Points/Comments		100