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Introduction and How to Use this Resource Guide:

The primary aim of this Grant Seeking Resources Guide is to be a useful resource for scoping grants and funders who have grant programs that align with the funding needs and goals of parks, recreation and tourism organizations. This resource guide is a working document. This resource will be revised and updated periodically, as new funding sources become available and other grant programs change or end. For the most part, this resource guide is organized by the types of funders (i.e., state, federal, and foundation/association/corporate). The last section features economic development grants, which may align well with efforts to use recreation and tourism as a strategy for economic development.

Each entry provides a brief overview of grants and grant-in-aid programs relevant to parks, recreation and tourism service agencies. Below is a brief description of the types of funders / grants included in this resource guide.

*State grants* from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDECO) serve to distribute federal funding allocated to the State of Illinois to enhance parks, recreation and tourism services and to help acquire and develop open space throughout the State.

*Federal grants* are scarce as most of the grants distributed by the National Park Service and other recreation-focused agencies within the Department of the Interior are for very specific natural resource based conservation grants. Funding that can be used at the local level, such as Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money is distributed to the aforementioned State grants.

*Foundation/Association/Corporate grants* are vast and the list provided is just a starting point. Each of these grants have their own stipulations, such as serving only 501(c)(3) non-profits or being by invitation only. Eligibility criteria such as these are briefly mentioned, but should be reviewed further on their website.

*Economic Development grants* were also included. Enhancements to tourism and recreation infrastructure in rural communities is a great economic catalyst that leads to prosperous communities, but this is only one piece of the puzzle. Investment and development of the workforce within a rural community is another key factor in the development of the local economy in rural areas.

The development of recreation and tourism in rural communities provides innumerable benefits to the local economy, quality of life of residents and can preserve and showcase a community’s unique local heritage and traditions. With a much smaller local tax-base to draw from, relying upon alternate funding sources such as grant-seeking and inter-agency collaboration among the public, non-profit and private sectors is becoming increasingly necessary to help build and restore rural communities throughout Illinois.
Getting Started with Grant Writing:

Finding a grant is step one and writing the grant is the next step to securing funding for your initiative. There are several steps to effective grant writing and entire workshop series and courses are dedicated to grant writing. For this grant guide, we’ll provide some initial guidance and refer you to resources where you can learn the ins and outs of grant writing.

1) **Review for Eligibility:** Be sure your organization(s) are eligible for the grant. Read the request for applications (or proposals) carefully. You can search the PDF using the word “eligibility” and find what you need to know.

2) **Fit with your Ideas:** Look at the aims of the grant program and make sure your project fits their aims and goals.

3) **Develop your Team:** Organize an experienced team whose strengths complement each other that qualify to carry out the work proposed.

4) **Evaluation:** Review the information that describes how applicants are evaluated. Usually a set number of points are allocated to sections such as definition of the problem/issue or identification of need, goals and objectives, methods and/or plan of work carried out to accomplish goals, explanation of the team (e.g., experience, expertise, responsibilities for this proposed project), proposed budget, evaluation plan, and project schedule.

5) **Develop a 1-page Abstract:** Start with a 1-page abstract that describes the issue/problem addressed in the proposal, project aims and scope, and a brief overview of the initiative needed to ameliorate the issue/problem. Get feedback from multiple stakeholders and collaborators.

6) **Letters of Support:** Use the revised 1-page project abstract to secure letters of support and develop a template letter of support that collaborators can tailor.

7) **The Proposal Narrative:** Develop the body (i.e., narrative) of the proposal. Make sure to follow the directions. Proposals that stray from directions are cut from consideration and this happens often. Avoid using jargon or scientific terminology the reviewers will not know.

8) **Budget:** Check to be sure proposed costs are permitted in the budget. Some funding agencies may cap personnel or travel expenses. Be sure you keep your budget at or below the maximum allowed.
9) **Program Evaluation**: Most funding agencies ask that you explain how you will evaluate your project/initiative. Describe the purpose of your evaluation (formative, summative, process, outcome), methods and expected outcomes of your evaluation.

10) **Review and Revise**: Make sure to include time to have stakeholders or experts review your proposal and make revisions based upon feedback.

**Additional Resources:**

**The Catalog for Domestic and Federal Assistance**: Developing and Writing a Grant Proposal: https://njms.rutgers.edu/research/rast/DevelopingAndWritingGrantProposals.htm

**Budgeting for Grant Proposals**: A How To Guide: https://upstream.consulting/grant-readiness/how-to-create-a-program-budget

**15 Tips for Grant Writing**: https://www.instrumentl.com/blog/things-to-do-before-you-write-grants

**The Grantsmanship Center**: Webinars (on-demand) and Training: https://www.tgci.com/

**Grants Plus**: https://grantsplus.com/nonprofit-grant-writing/

**Where to Go for More Information about Grants and Funders:**

- Grants.Gov centralizes over 1,000 federal grant programs across federal grant making-agencies, awarding more than $500 billion annually.
- Standardizes grant information, application packages and processes for finding and applying for federal grants in one location. Once registered you can apply to as many federal agency grant programs with one secure login.
- All grant applications through Grants.Gov are online, eliminating the expenses, time, postage and reproductions costs associated with traditional paper-based grant applications.
- Provides an expansive list of filters and advanced search options that makes searching for and researching grants much easier.

**Candid**: https://candid.org/find-funding
- Provides data on nonprofits, foundations and grants connecting people to association grants and funding.
• The Foundation Directory Online (FDO) Tool provides an extensive and up-to-date database of philanthropic giving, with the FDO Professional Subscription offering access to over 23.5 million grants.
• Payment for the FDO professional ranges from $118.67/mo. - $199.99/mo.
• Also offers a comprehensive database of 990 forms for private foundations, public charities and other nonprofits. This allows you to pinpoint funders that support your cause and access key funding insights. 990 finder can be accessed here: https://candid.org/research-and-verify-nonprofits/990-finder

National League of Cities: https://www.nlc.org/resources-training/resource-library/?q=grants&orderby=score
• The National League of Cities is an organization comprised of city, town and village leaders, focused on strengthening local leadership, influencing federal policy and driving innovative solutions.
• The link above provides useful articles relevant to local leaders on the grant seeking process for municipal government.

United States Conference of Mayors: https://www.usmayors.org/resources/grant-and-award-opportunities/
• Provide awards and grants to member cities for a number of opportunities ranging from childhood obesity prevention, to environmental sustainability, to development of the arts.

National Governors Associations: www.nga.org

National Associations of Counties: www.naco.org

Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency Prevention: https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding

Potential Avenues for Funding:

Community Project Funding “Earmarks”:
• Community Project Funding (formerly known as Earmarks) are congressional provisions directing funds towards specific community projects. In this process your elected member of congress gets to pick and rank up to 10 Community Project Funding requests.
• Community engagement and support are crucial in determining what projects are worth federal funding, with projects that span multiple communities and/or are deemed regionally significant being more favorable (as they reach more constituents).
• To propose a project for Community Project Funding, you would want to reach out to set up a meeting with a staff member for your elected congressmen to present your project proposal. Guidelines for the request Process can be found here: https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/Guidance%20on%20Community%20Project%20Funding.pdf
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:

- $350 billion dollars from the $1.9 Trillion Economic Stimulus has been reallocated to be distributed to local recovery funding, with $19.5 billion being designated for cities under 50,000 residents. In Illinois this money has been sent to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDECO) and will be distributed through the IDECO grants listed in the State Grants section of this guide.
  - The purpose of this funding is to improve spaces disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This includes maintenance and upkeep issues that were the result of increased park usage during the pandemic. Improving park space that will benefit the health and wellness of communities is another viable option for parks funding through this funding opportunity.

Workforce Development Resources:

- Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Federal grants are provided to states who then grant money to municipalities to provide Employment and Training services to adults, youth, dislocated workers and vocational rehabilitation participants.
  - Parks, Recreation and Tourism service providers are major employers for each of these types of employees, making seeking these Workforce Development Grants and Resources a viable option.
    - Current legislation is in progress for a Jr. Workforce Development program, which if passed could see even more funding available through WIOA grants.
- In 2021, the Federal Government awarded $99 million in State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grants, with grants ranging from $2 million - $10 million.
  - $85 million of this awarded to states that demonstrated a commitment to increase their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.
  - Current focus is on partnerships with new industries and non-traditional occupations, and industry sectors hit hardest by the pandemic (i.e. tourism & hospitality).
## State Grants

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<tr>
<th>Grant Name</th>
<th>Granting Agency</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
<th>Application Dates</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Fees/Matching Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park and Recreation Facilities Grants (PARC)</td>
<td>Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)</td>
<td>PARC provides funding assistance to local government agencies for park and recreation based construction projects and land acquisition. More information here: <a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/pages/parc-grant.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/pages/parc-grant.aspx</a></td>
<td>Limited to units of local government with the authority to expend public funds for the acquisition and development of land for public indoor or outdoor park, recreation, or conservation purposes. Includes: Counties, townships, municipalities, park districts, conservation districts, forest preserve districts and river conservancy districts.</td>
<td>No current application dates listed</td>
<td>$25,000 to $2,500,000</td>
<td>Grant covers up to 75% of capital project costs for most applicants and 90% for disadvantaged communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant (OSLAD)</td>
<td>IDNR</td>
<td>OSLAD provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks, sport courts and swimming pools to large county parks and natural areas. More information here: <a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/OpenSpaceLandsAquisitionDevelopment-Grant.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/OpenSpaceLandsAquisitionDevelopment-Grant.aspx</a></td>
<td>Limited to units of local government with the authority to expend public funds for the acquisition and development of land for public indoor/outdoor park, recreation, or conservation purposes. An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA).</td>
<td>Annually – Usually opens in July and the deadline is in September (September 30, 2022)</td>
<td>Up to $750,000 for acquisition projects available. Up to $400,000 for development/renovation projects available.</td>
<td>The OSLAD Grant covers up to 50% of project cost and 90% for distressed communities. The remaining 10-50% would need to be matched by the agency receiving the funds.</td>
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| Tourism Attractions & Festivals  | Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (IDECO) | The Tourism Attractions and Festivals Grant program provides funding assistance for the development or improvement of tourism attractions and festivals in Illinois. Grant funds for Tourism Attractions can be used for:  
  - Capital Projects  
  - Equipment  
  - Training  
  - Interpretive Programs  
Grant + funds for Festivals/Events:  
  - Transportation & Housing  
  - Building or equipment rental  
  - Receptions/banquets  
  - Entertainment/programming  
  - Photography  
  - Audio Visual equipment  
  - Temporary staff for the festival/event | Units of local government, not-for-profit organizations, local promotion groups and for-profit businesses are eligible. An entity must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal. | October 10, 2021 - June 30, 2023 | $10,000 to $1,000,000 | Grants to units of local government, municipalities, counties, not for-profit organizations, or local promotion groups may exceed 50% of the entire amount of the actual expenditure for the project; however, preference is given to applicants seeking funding for 50% or less. For profit business, the grant amount will not exceed 25% of the entire amount of actual expenditure for the project. |

More information here: [https://govappsqa.illinois.gov/csfa/Program.aspx?csfa=2645](https://govappsqa.illinois.gov/csfa/Program.aspx?csfa=2645)

Commented [RV1]: I think I stopped here or maybe skipped this? I think you can start here. I need you to check the links, the eligibility requirements, the grant amounts and the application dates. Some of this programs may have sunsets (stopped) or maybe they changed names (or something like that). That can happen – in foundations or government agencies. From time to time they tweak their programs – the goals, grant amounts, the deadlines. Eligibility requirements usually stay pretty stable as to the requirements for matching.

So, go through each program and check out each grant resource listing.
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</table>
| Illinois Broadband Grant Opportunity | Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (IDECO) | Illinois Broadband Grant Opportunity  
More information here: [https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/grants.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/grants.aspx)  
This site is helpful for preparing a successful grant application: [https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/)  
These grants improve broadband infrastructure for homes, businesses and important community agencies (considered as anchors) such as education, telehealth, agriculture and economic development | • Has a valid FEIN number;  
• Has a valid DUNS number  
• Has a current SAM.gov account  
• Is not on the Federal Excluded Parties List  
• Is in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable  
• Is not on the Illinois Stop Payment list  
• Is not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list | Rolling | Up to $10 Million | None |
# Federal Grants

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</table>
| Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program     | U.S. Dept. of Agriculture- Rural Development | Provides funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the development of the community in a primarily rural area (does not include private, commercial or business undertakings). | **Eligible applicants:**  
  - Public bodies  
  - Community-based non-profit corporations  
  - Federally-recognized Tribes  

**Essential community facilities include:**  
  - Health care facilities (i.e., hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, assisted living facilities)  
  - Public facilities (i.e., town halls, courthouses, airport hangars, street improvements)  
  - Community support services (i.e., child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing)  
  - Public safety services (i.e., fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment)  
  - Educational services (i.e., museums, libraries or private schools) | Not listed | Maximum 75% of project cost:  
  - Pop. under 5,000  
  - Median income under poverty line or 60% State non-metro median household income  

**Maximum 55% of project cost:**  
  - Population under 12,000  
  - Median income under poverty line or 70% State nonmetropolitan median household income  

**Maximum 35% of project cost:**  
  - Population under 20,000  
  - Median income under poverty line or 80% State nonmetropolitan median household income  

**Maximum 15% of project cost:**  
  - Population under 20,000  
  - Median income under poverty line or 90% State nonmetropolitan median household income |
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<tr>
<td>National Recreation and Park Association</td>
<td></td>
<td>Offers a variety of grants at different times of the year and offers additional resources for grant prospecting.</td>
<td>Grants offered directly by NRPA require your organization to be a member of the association</td>
<td>Various</td>
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<td>Check here for updates: <a href="https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/">https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Pacific Foundation Local Grants Program</td>
<td>Union Pacific</td>
<td>Provides funding for efforts focused on Safety, Workforce Development, and Community Spaces. Supports programs and organizations working to advance diversity, equity and inclusion of underrepresented populations. Prioritize funding for programs that:</td>
<td>Eligible Applicants: Must be 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organizations (does not fund government entities without 501(c)(3) designation) Must primarily benefit a community that is served by Union Pacific Union Pacific Locations: <a href="https://up.jobs/why/locations/explore/index.htm">https://up.jobs/why/locations/explore/index.htm</a> Union Pacific in Illinois: <a href="https://www.up.com/cs/groups/public/@uprr/@corprel/documents/up_pdf_nativedocs/pdf/illinois_usguide.pdf">https://www.up.com/cs/groups/public/@uprr/@corprel/documents/up_pdf_nativedocs/pdf/illinois_usguide.pdf</a></td>
<td>2021 application period is closed. Grants will be posted in early 2022 for the full 2022 grant cycle timeline.</td>
<td>$2,500 - $25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
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Eligible Applicants:
- Must be 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organizations (does not fund government entities without 501(c)(3) designation)
- Must primarily benefit a community that is served by Union Pacific

Union Pacific Locations: https://up.jobs/why/locations/explore/index.htm

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| Captain Planet Foundation Grants | Captain Planet Foundation | Captain Planet Foundation grants strive to empower youth by providing hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities that uses the environment as a context for applied and STEM learning.  
**Two classes of support available:**  
• Material support - predetermined supplies, kits, training, and activities  
• Monetary support to fund the materials necessary to implement proposed projects that meet CPF criteria.  
This is not a typical grant; rather funder supports the implementation of pre-established Captain Planet Foundation STEM learning programs. Could be applicable to parks and recreation providers looking to expand upon environmental education program offerings. | **Eligibility for Monetary Support:**  
• Exempt from federal taxation under the IRS Section 501  
• Maintain an annual operating budget of less than $3 million (only for nonprofits)  
**Eligibility for Materials Support:**  
• Educators (formal and informal)  
• Schools and eligible nonprofits that meet funding criteria                                                                 | September 15 – January 15 & March 15 - July 15 | $2,500 | Preference given to requests that have secured match or in-kind funding commitments to support projects. |
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| **Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards** | The United States Conference of Mayors               | Aims to support programs that engage community members and promote:  
- Childhood obesity prevention  
- Environmental health & sustainability  
**Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiatives:**  
- Healthy food access projects, community gardens, support farmers’ markets and/or free or low-cost food distribution  
- Cooking and nutrition programs focused on teaching kids how to eat better and/or how to prepare healthy meals  
- Programs that encourage kids to exercise in and out of school  
**Environmental Health and Sustainability Initiatives:**  
- Projects that develop parks, and other open spaces  
- Strategies to encourage and improve residential recycling rates  
- Food waste reduction initiatives, composting etc.  
- Beach and other community clean-up initiatives  
- Projects promoting water conservation  
- Projects promoting bike paths, neighborhood walkability, etc.  
More information here: [https://www.usmayors.org/programs/abfha-awards/](https://www.usmayors.org/programs/abfha-awards/) | All member cities of The United States Conference of Mayors are eligible to receive this award, including service cities. Each application must include a signed letter of support from the Mayor. There is no limit on the number of applications a Mayor can support or submit. Eligible cities in Illinois can be found here: [https://www.usmayors.org/mayors/meet-the-mayors/](https://www.usmayors.org/mayors/meet-the-mayors/) | Annually between August and October: See their FAQs at the link to the program in the “description” column |                                                                  | **1st Place**  
$125,000-$250,000  
(Award amount dependent upon size of city)  
**2nd Place**  
$50,000  
**3rd Place**  
$15,000 |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFL Grassroots Grant</td>
<td>NFL Foundation</td>
<td>Provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. The program provides grants for capital improvement projects.</td>
<td>Only proposals that locate projects in low and moderate-income communities are considered. Proposal should clearly state how the field improvements would benefit the community.</td>
<td>Deadline not yet listed for 2022. 2021 grant awarded in May</td>
<td>Up to $250,000</td>
<td>Requires minimum local match of one dollar for every NFL Foundation Grassroots Program dollar (1:1). Match funding at a higher ratio will strengthen the proposal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Criteria for selecting grants includes:*
- Feasibility of the proposed project.
- Project readiness (i.e., sources of funding for entire budget should be identified)
- Security of future field maintenance and safety (i.e., detailed five-year maintenance plan required)
- Capacity of organization and its partners to carry out project (demonstrate ability to manage a large-scale capital project)

More information here: [https://www.nflfoundation.org/grassroots](https://www.nflfoundation.org/grassroots)
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Research Foundation - Direct Service Grants</td>
<td>Retirement Research Foundation (RRF)</td>
<td><strong>RRF awards Direct Service Grants for projects that:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Increase availability and effectiveness of comprehensive community programs that help older people stay in their homes. Provide supportive services to older people in residential settings (e.g., congregate living facilities, group homes, and assisted living facilities)&lt;br&gt;• Coordinate provision of care and services for older adults with chronic conditions who live in community settings&lt;br&gt;• Offer new and expanded opportunities for older adults to stay meaningfully engaged in community life&lt;br&gt;More information here: <a href="https://www.rrf.org/apply-for-a-grant/direct-service-grants/">https://www.rrf.org/apply-for-a-grant/direct-service-grants/</a></td>
<td><strong>Direct Service Grants</strong> are provided to nonprofit organizations that are:&lt;br&gt;• Looking to enhance new direct service programs or significantly expand existing programs intentionally focused on persons age 65 and older&lt;br&gt;• Located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Florida</td>
<td>Letter of Inquiry Due Date December 1, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Name</td>
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<td>Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health Grant</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)</td>
<td>Fund proposals that contribute to health equity. Interested in ideas that address: • Future of Evidence • Future of Social Interaction • Future of Food • Future of Work.</td>
<td>Preference given to 501(c)(3) applicants</td>
<td>Proposals will be accepted throughout the year on a rolling admission.</td>
<td>Average Pioneering in 2019 was $315,031.</td>
<td>There is not an explicit range for budget requests. Grant periods are flexible, though generally range from 1 to 3 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applications evaluated based on:**

- **Strength of health equity focus:** How will this project increase opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make?
- **Strength of insight:** How will this project help us anticipate, adapt to, and influence the future in 5 to 15 years?
- **Strength of idea:** Is this project pioneering in one or more of these ways?
  - Offers a new take or perspective on a long-running, perplexing problem
  - Challenges assumptions or cultural practices
  - Takes an existing idea and gives it a new spin—or a novel application
  - Applies ideas from other fields
  - Explores how an emerging trend will shape the future

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</table>
| WM Community Impact Grants      | Waste Management (WM) | WM provides funding to projects that make communities safer, stronger and more sustainable through:  

**Environmental Conservation:**  
Give priority consideration to organizations and programs that preserve and/or enhance renewable resources.  

**Environmental Education:**  
Committed to enhancing communities through programs that make them cleaner and better places to live.  

**Community Vitality:**  
Seek to provide the best living environment for customers, employees and stakeholders.  

Typically do not support:  
• operating costs  
• capital campaign  
• multi-year requests  
• individuals or foundations. | Applications are accepted year round and are reviewed on a continuous basis. |                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Name</th>
<th>Granting Agency</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
<th>Application Dates</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| MLB Youth Development Foundation Grants                      | Major League Baseball Players Youth Foundation | Make grants to organizations in the United States and internationally for a variety of purposes including funding capital projects (e.g., field renovations), baseball/softball programs, and education initiatives. | Organizations supported include:  
  - 501(c)(3) organizations  
  - Public schools  
  - Municipalities  
  - American Indian Tribes | Submissions on a rolling basis throughout the year |

*Seeks to fund organizations with:*  
- Bold, innovative and creative ideas to increase opportunities for youth  
  - In particular, youth who are minorities, girls and/or located in underserved communities.  
- Strong sense of mission and ability to accomplish that mission.  
- Related experience and/or a proven track record.  
- Committed leadership and a dedicated staff  
- Understanding and knowledge of the community and population served.  
- Financial stability for sustainability.  

More information here:  
https://www.mlbplayers.com/ydf
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Application Dates</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Fees/Matching Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T-Mobile Hometown Grants</td>
<td>T-Mobile</td>
<td>These grants are awarded for a variety of community projects (e.g., downtown improvements, park renovations, arts and cultural projects, etc.). A list of recent grant recipients is available. <a href="https://www.telecompetitor.com/t-mobile-announces-the-next-25-hometown-grant-recipients/">https://www.telecompetitor.com/t-mobile-announces-the-next-25-hometown-grant-recipients/</a> More information on the grant program: <a href="https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants">https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants</a></td>
<td>Towns/Cities with a population under 50,000 are eligible to apply</td>
<td>Grants are awarded quarterly: Applications open: January – March April – June July – September October - December The application portal closes on the last day of each quarter and reopens for the new quarter on the first of the month Notification: 30-60 days after the end of each quarter</td>
<td>Up to $50,000</td>
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Keep (Used for Spacing)
## Economic Development Grants

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Rural Development</td>
<td>The RISE Grant Program supports job accelerator partnerships for the promotion of private investment in regional economies.</td>
<td>The RISE project must serve a rural region small enough to allow close collaboration among partners and include important elements of the region's prioritized industry cluster.</td>
<td>Between May and August (varies yearly)</td>
<td>$500,000 to $2,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Objectives of RISE are:</strong></td>
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<td>• Improve the ability of rural communities to create high-wage jobs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Accelerate the formation of rural businesses,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Strengthen regional economies.</td>
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<td><strong>Grant funds can be used to:</strong></td>
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<td>• Build or support a business incubator facility</td>
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<td>• Provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs</td>
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<td>• Train existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs</td>
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<td>• Develop a base of skilled workers and improve their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries.</td>
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<td>USDA Rural Health and Safety Grant Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Rural</td>
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<td>Good Neighbor Citizenship Company Grants</td>
<td>State Farm</td>
<td>Company grants focus on three areas:</td>
<td>Eligible Applicants:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Safety, Education, Community development</td>
<td>Educational institutions.</td>
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<td>Community Development: Maintaining the vibrancy of communities by assisting</td>
<td>Municipal, county, state</td>
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<td>nonprofits that support: Affordable housing</td>
<td>or federal government</td>
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<td>First time homeowners</td>
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<td>Neighborhood revitalization</td>
<td>501(c)(3) Charitable</td>
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<td>Financial literacy</td>
<td>nonprofit organizations.</td>
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<td>Job training</td>
<td>501(c)(4) Volunteer fire</td>
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<td>Small business development</td>
<td>companies.</td>
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<td>501(c)(6) Chambers of</td>
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