

RDA Community Grants - Spring 2026

Regional Development Authority

Application Introduction

The Regional Development Authority strategically funds initiatives to create a vibrant, inclusive, and growing community.

RDA grants are available for a wide range of community development efforts. For guidance on your application, review the RDA grant application resources, which offer key tips, best practices, and crucial do's and don'ts. We recommend reading these documents before you start your application.

- Community Grant Guidelines
- Community Grant Application Criteria & Tips
- Community Grant Amount Frequency & Guidance
- Community Grant Board Scoring Rubric

Qualified Applicants:

- 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) non-profits located in the Quad Cities region, as defined by Scott County, IA and Rock Island County, IL.
- Public school districts: and units of local government (e.g. public libraries, fire departments, et.) **must** be located in Scott County, Iowa.
- All requests must clearly demonstrate a benefit to Scott County, IA or to the Quad Cities Region.

We want to be transparent with you about moving to a one-award-per-year practice so that we can distribute funds to many organizations and causes. While there are situations that justify two grants in a year, those will be the exceptions (see Community Grant Amount & Frequency Guidance). If you have any questions, please reach out to RDA staff.

Proposal Description

Proposal Title*

Create a brief, descriptive title that clearly communicates the purpose of your proposal. **Do not include your organization's name in this title.** This title will be used in public announcements.

Character Limit: 75

Organization Mission*

List or describe your organization's mission and role in our community. If you have a mission statement you can provide that here.

Character Limit: 1000

Opportunity or Challenge Description*

Briefly summarize the opportunity or challenge you propose to work on. Think of the **why**. Why is it important your project happens? Why is your work important to the community?

Character Limit: 1000

Proposal & Goals Description*

Outline your proposal and goals, explaining how they address key community issues as described in the Grant Application Guidelines. Think of the **what**. What is the main thing you plan to do with the grant funds? What do you want to accomplish? Keep in mind in your final report you will share how successful you were and reflect back on this section.

Character Limit: 1500

Overall Impact*

Identify key outcomes/results you can measure to show you made progress. Think of the **how**. How will your proposal make a difference?

For example, you can describe:

- how many people will be impacted
- how vulnerable or hard-to-reach populations are helped
- how your work supports regional collaboration
- how new capacity is built for your organization
- the impact on RDA Focus Areas (e.g., housing, child care, mental health, economic development, safety net, violence prevention, and life skills). While we do fund outside of these RDA Focus Areas, we do prioritize opportunities within those areas.

You might also 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... "

Character Limit: 1500

Community Engagement

Inclusion*

How does your proposal promote or increase inclusiveness and a sense of belonging in our community? Inclusiveness work refers to engaging marginalized populations and increasing access to resources that are needed to be successful.

You could also describe how your organization is becoming more inclusive through your own staff make-up, board membership, or other inclusiveness practices. We value inclusion work as central in creating a vibrant and healthy community where people can belong and thrive.

Character Limit: 1000

Scott County*

How will your proposal benefit the Quad Cities Region? While our primary service area is Scott County, Iowa - we recognize the impact of the overall region's strength and vitality on each community. Grants to Rock Island County need to have a clear connection to a regional impact.

Character Limit: 1000

Budget

Consider the following as you prepare the budget section of your request:

When asking for a multi-cycle award, please know that **these requests are extremely competitive**. The Community Grant Amount & Frequency Guidance resource provides information about how we evaluate these requests. It's best to discuss a multi-cycle request option with RDA staff as you prepare the application.

While not mandatory, the amount of co-funding (other funding sources for the project) and funding leverage (funds from other sources because of receiving the RDA grant) is a strong competitive factor for any application.

Amount Requested*

Enter the amount being requested. If asking for a multi-cycle award, please enter the amount for the entire proposal, which might be awarded over multiple grant cycles or years. You can describe a preferred set up of a multi-cycle arrangement in a question below.

Character Limit: 20

Budget: Clarity & Value*

Summarize how the grant dollars will be spent. Clearly describe how your proposal will use RDA funds and the value brought to the community. (e.g. if you are launching a new program breakdown the categories of expenses you might have - curriculum development, marketing, supplies, etc.).

Character Limit: 1500

Budget: Co-Funding*

Describe how your proposal helps to align resources and other funders. Highlight any secured or potential co-funding opportunities, including sources, amounts, and the status of these funds.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget: Leverage*

Leverage refers to obtaining additional funds from other sources because of receiving the RDA grant. Describe how your project can **leverage** funds from outside of our region. Strong leverage, especially from external funding streams, is highly valued.

Character Limit: 1500

Upload Proposal Budget*

Upload a 1-2 page project budget document that includes the total project cost and how RDA funds will be utilized. Where applicable, also include details on co-funding or leveraging opportunities, including sources, amounts, and their current status.

Focus this budget document on how the grant dollars will be spent, not on your organization's overall budget. If you are asking for operational support, explain how these funds will support *capacity building or provide a financial bridge* during challenging times. Note that while we do support operational funding, it is typically limited to addressing specific, short-term funding gaps.

We do provide a budget template, but we recognize that this template may not fit for all projects. It's up to you to communicate your budget clearly.

RDA Budget Template

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Budget: Sustainability*

Explain how this grant supports sustainability of your project or organization. Describe how the project might continue without RDA funding in the future, and, if applicable, how it contributes to lasting change in the community. If the request is for operational costs, outline the organization's long-term sustainability plan.

Character Limit: 1500

Type of Award*

Check which type of grant you are applying for.

Choices

One-Time Award

Multi-Cycle Award

Multi-Cycle Reasoning

Describe why a multi-cycle award is needed. While we do consider multi-cycle or multi-year requests, our limited capacity makes them highly competitive. If this is a one-time grant request, leave this section blank.

Character Limit: 1000

Multi-Cycle Allocation Plan

Outline how you would like to receive a multi-cycle grant. For example, Year 1: \$50,000; Year 2: \$40,000; and Year 3 \$30,000. Total of \$120,000 over 3 years. If this is a one-time grant request, leave this section blank.

Character Limit: 1500

Supporting Documentation

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

You may attach support letters or other documents that provide additional information about your proposal (note there is a maximum file size).

File Size Limit: 12 MB