

2025 Leadership Grant Program

Investments from the Leadership Grant program (made possible by the Better Together Fund) are rooted in community plan alignment, and prioritize and foster inclusive engagement and impact to improve quality of life for all in our community. The purpose of the Leadership Grant Program is to **catalyze and challenge Greater Des Moines to impact systems change and significantly influence community outcomes and opportunities** by:



Expanding Access to Housing and Transportation



Advancing Community Health and Resilience



Fostering Inclusive Economic and Workforce Development



Cultivating a Thriving and Inclusive Community

Leadership Grant Program Timeline

Grant Cycle	Spring	Fall
Letter of Intent Due	April 9 at Noon	October 1 at Noon
Finalist Applications Due	May 22 at Noon	November 7 at Noon
Finalist Presentations	June 5	November 19
Grant Awardees Notified	June 18	December 11

Steps to Apply

Our goal is to help facilitate strong applications. For this reason, we require potential applicants to explore project alignment with a member of the Community Impact Team prior to submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI) each cycle.

Step 1: Schedule Contact Jenny McCloud, mccloud@desmoinesfoundation.org, to schedule a Leadership Grant conversation with a member of our team.

Step 2: Meet During the meeting, discuss alignment of your project with Grantmaking Priorities and community plans, potential grant amount (typically, grant investments have exceeded \$100,000) and more.

Step 3: Share Send a draft of your LOI to our team prior to the submission deadline and we will provide feedback to help you submit the best letter possible.

Step 4: Submit Complete the **LOI Submission Form** via the Manage My Grants Portal and **upload your Letter of Intent (LOI)**.

Note: If you do not have credentials for the Manage My Grants Portal, register your organization at bit.ly/GranteeRegistration.

Leadership Grant Submission Information

When you submit your Letter of Intent, you will be asked to complete an LOI Submission Form with the following information:

Nonprofit/Organization

- Organization Name
- Mailing Address
- Employer Identification Number/Tax ID
- Mission Statement
- Annual Operating Budget Amount
- Executive Director/CEO/ Lead Staff Member and Email Address

Project/Initiative

- Project/Initiative Title
- Brief description of timeline
- Total Budget Amount
- Is this posted on GIVEdsm?
 - If not, are there any barriers to posting on GIVEdsm?

This Grant Request

- Funding Amount Requested from the Community Foundation
- Person to Contact (Grant Contact) including:
 - Title/Position
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number

Your narrative style Letter of Intent should answer the following:

- Describe the **community issue or opportunity** your project will address. How does this issue or opportunity fit into the Community Foundation's Grantmaking Priorities and where is it highlighted in community plans?
- Why is your organization **uniquely positioned** to address this issue or opportunity?
- How will your project **create significant impact** around the issue or opportunity you've described?
- Please provide a **project summary** and reflect on the anticipated outcomes, collaborations or partnerships, and how your project prioritizes and fosters inclusive engagement and impact.

Keep in Mind:

Projects not eligible or competitive for Leadership Grants may be a better fit for our Capacity Building or Strategic Alignment Grant programs or as a funding campaign posted to GIVEdsm.

Ineligible projects include:

- Ongoing annual operating and program expenses.
- Capital infrastructure projects (bricks and mortar) that do not have strong alignment to our grantmaking priorities.
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith

For questions about the Leadership Grant Program, please contact:

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