



IMPACT & INSPIRE Grant Guidelines 2024 Grant Cycle

Overview

Impact Central Illinois is a collective giving organization for women looking to educate and transform themselves and our community through philanthropy. We combine the annual donations of our membership into transformational grants that are awarded to local non-profit organizations. Grant proposals for 501(c)3 organizations with gross revenue greater than \$250,000 may be submitted for our IMPACT grant and are evaluated in one of three focus areas: Education & Community Development, Health & Well Being and Social Services & Basic Needs. It is our goal that these IMPACT grants be at least \$100,000 each. Grant proposals for 501(c)3 organizations with gross revenue less than \$250,000 may be submitted for our INSPIRE grant where all focus areas are evaluated together. It is our goal that these INSPIRE grants reserved for smaller nonprofits be at least \$20,000 each.

The Impact Central Illinois funding cycle runs from July 1st of one calendar year through June 30th of the following calendar year. In each funding cycle membership donations are collected from July 1st through December 31st, grant amounts are announced by mid-December, and grant proposals are solicited per our published Nonprofit Grant Timeline at the time grant amounts are publicly announced. From January through May, Impact Central Illinois members who choose to be involved in the grant review, review grant proposals and select the two (2) strongest finalists for each grant review committee. These finalists present to the entire Impact Central Illinois membership where all members vote and choose the grant recipients.

Specific grant amounts in any given funding year are based on our membership and are announced in mid-December. It is our goal to be able to fund three (3) 2024 IMPACT grants of \$100,000 each, one in each of the three (3) focus areas: Education & Community Development, Health & Community Wellbeing, and Social Services & Basic Needs. The IMPACT grants are reserved for organizations operating with greater than \$250,000 in gross revenue in the previous fiscal year. We also hope to fund one (1) 2024 INSPIRE grant of \$20,000 to be awarded at the same time as the IMPACT grants. The INSPIRE grant is reserved solely for smaller organizations operating with less than \$250,000 in gross receipts in the previous fiscal year. Organizations are eligible for only the IMPACT grant or the INSPIRE grant based on the definition above. Incorrect submissions will be removed from consideration.

The IMPACT grant timeline and the INSPIRE grant timeline follow the same timeline and are identical in the phases required.



IMPACT GRANT Eligibility

An IMPACT Grant eligible non-profit organization must:

- Be classified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code
 - Private foundations are not eligible for any Impact Central Illinois grant.
 - As part of our grant application process organizations will be asked to provide:
 - An IRS 501(c)(3) status approval letter
 - A CO-1 registration form - Required to register a charity with the Illinois Attorney General's office.
 - Financial Documents including:
 - Last three (3) fiscal years of 990 tax filings (will accept Full 990 Form, 990EZ or 990-N, 990-PF will not be accepted)
 - Previous fiscal year end Income Statement and Balance Sheet, or
 - Previous fiscal year end Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) and Statement of Financial Activity (Income Statement)
 - Current fiscal year budget and YTD actuals
 - Three full years of audit reports (if audit eligible and available)
 - Organizations must have held 501(c)(3) classification for a minimum of 3 years.
- Have annual gross receipts of **at least \$250,000 in the previous fiscal year**

INSPIRE GRANT Eligibility

An INSPIRE Grant eligible non-profit organization must:

- Be classified as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code
 - Private foundations are not eligible for any Impact Central Illinois grant.
 - As part of our INSPIRE grant application process, organizations will be asked to provide:
 - An IRS 501(c)(3) status approval letter
 - A CO-1 registration form- Required to register a charity with the Illinois Attorney General's office.
 - Financial documents including:
 - Last three (3) fiscal years of 990 tax filings (will accept Full 990 Form, 990EZ or 990-N, 990-PF will not be accepted)
 - Previous fiscal year end plus 2 previous years of organizational Income Statements and Balance Sheets, or
 - Previous fiscal year end plus 2 previous years of organizational Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Activity
 - Organizations must have held 501(c)(3) classification for a minimum of 3 years.
- Have annual gross receipts of **less than \$250,000 in the previous fiscal year**

Additionally, ALL GRANT PROPOSALS must:



- Outline a proposed project/program which supports social outreach and/or charitable service which benefits the community at large
- Provide services in Peoria, Tazewell and/or Woodford counties, Illinois.
- Detail use of the full amount of the grant with provided budget template found at https://www.impactcentralillinois.org/apply_for_a_grant.php
- Expend the awarded grant funds within a 24-month time period.
 - Any unused grant funds will be forfeited after 24 months.

Other stipulations:

- An organization that has received any Impact Central Illinois grant may not reapply in the following two years. (Two (2) full grant cycles)
- Collaborations among two (or more) non-profits must identify one lead organization to submit a grant application. The leading non-profit organization must demonstrate a significant role in the execution of the program and is responsible for submission of all required documentation, including all financial documentation.

Disclosures

Any 501(c)3 organization satisfying the grant guidelines and with a program within the scope of our funding guidelines may apply for funding **to support social outreach and charitable service programs that benefit the community at large**. Impact Central Illinois does not require the organization to refrain from incorporating its foundational ideology of justice and charity in its program methodology, activities, or facilities which serve the community at large. However, as a collective giving organization, Impact Central Illinois reserves the right to determine the finalists and grant recipients based upon full disclosure of that ideology.

All organizations will be asked to disclose the following information in the Letter of Intent submitted at the first phase of our grant review process.

- Is participation in the program restricted to certain individuals in any way? This may include restricting participation in the program/project to adherents/members of a particular community, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, political orientation, religious affiliation, marital status, age, gender, or other designation. Please explain.
- Does the program require a written or signed document stating belief of a particular ideology in order to participate in the proposed program/project? Please explain.
- Does the program require the participants to join a particular community, political party, or religious affiliation prior to receiving the benefits of the program? Please explain.
- Does the program require the participants to actively engage in public displays of support or worship as a condition of receiving the benefits of the program? Does the program provide an option for those participants who wish to refrain? Please explain.



Restrictions

Impact Central Illinois will NOT fund grant proposals containing the following:

- Debt reduction
- Endowments/memorials
- Bridge funding or interim financing
- Operational deficits
- Partisan, political lobbying or legislative activities
- General fund drives, annual appeals, or explicit fundraising events
- Private Foundations
- Advertising (where the sole purpose of the advertising is to raise the profile of the organization for general awareness)
- Litigation/legal expenses for the organization

Our Grant Guidelines continue to evolve and as such Impact Central Illinois reserves the right to change criteria without prior notice and at any time.

Focus Areas

Impact Central Illinois will accept IMPACT grant proposals in the following three (3) focus areas. Please note INSPIRE grant proposals from smaller nonprofit organizations are not split into focus areas for review.

- *Health & Community Wellbeing*- caring for the holistic health of the people in our community through projects which address mental & physical health, environmental health, therapeutic animal programs, addiction & recovery, healthcare access & advocacy, recreational opportunities and public safety in our community.
- *Education & Community Development* - supporting the development of talents within our community through projects which address educational outcomes, youth development, early childhood development & childcare, career development, job readiness, community leadership, cultural and arts advancement and civic engagement.
- *Social Services & Basic Needs* - caring for basic needs within our community through projects which address adequate and affordable housing, eviction & homelessness prevention & support, recidivism prevention & support, domestic violence case management & family support, child abuse, foster care & adoptive services, crisis intervention, and hunger & food security

An IMPACT grant applicant must select ONE appropriate focus area under which to submit their proposal.



Five Phase Funnel Review Process

Impact Central Illinois utilizes a Five Phase Funnel grant review process for both our IMPACT grant and our INSPIRE Grant. This process will be used to evaluate applicants in each of the three focus areas or the Inspire grant category:

Phase 1 - Letter of Intent (LOI): All interested organizations must submit a Letter of Intent along with a completed Program/Project Budget and provide a copy of the organization's IRS Charitable Status (501(c)3) Determination Letter by the LOI deadline communicated on the Grant Timeline. Impact Central Illinois Financial Review Committee and Grant Review Committee members will evaluate all LOIs and supporting documents and invite selected organizations to submit further financial documentation and a Full Grant Application for Phases 2 & 3.

Phase 2 - Financial Integrity - All invited organizations must submit the required financial documents that are outlined in the grant guidelines, along with the full grant application by the deadline communicated on the grant timeline. Impact Central Illinois' Financial Review Committee will evaluate the financial integrity of all organizations invited to this phase. Organizations who have demonstrated financial integrity will immediately move on to Phase 3 for Grant Application Review.

Phase 3 – Grant Application: Organizations that proceed to this phase will have already completed and submitted a full grant application. Impact Central Illinois Grant Review Committee members will evaluate all grant applications and select organizations to move onto Phase 4 – Site Visit.

Phase 4 - Site Visit: Impact Central Illinois committee members will conduct on site visits to organizations that advance to this phase. Site visits will include one-on-one interviews with selected organization leaders such as the Executive Director and the Chief Financial Officer. Following the completion of all Site Visits, Impact Central Illinois Grant Review Committee members will select two (2) organizations from each review committee as finalists to present at Phase 5 – Annual Meeting.

Phase 5 – Annual Meeting: Information (Executive Summary) about each finalist organization that advances to the Annual Meeting will be provided in advance to all members of Impact Central Illinois. In addition, representatives from each finalist organization will be invited to the Annual Meeting and given 6 minutes to present on their grant proposal. At this meeting, Impact Central Illinois members will vote on a grant recipient – with each member casting one ballot – and the winner (or winners) being announced that evening.

Impact Central Illinois reserves the right to reject any Letter of Intent or Grant Application for any reason.



Key Criteria for Grant Review

It is Impact Central Illinois' desire to fund programs or projects proposed by **Highly Capable** organizations to address **Measurable Needs** within our community with **Innovative Solutions**. These 3 key criteria will be used to guide discussion during all grant reviews. All LOI and Grant Application questions are aligned to one of these three key criteria.

Questions?

More details about Impact Central Illinois are available on our website at www.impactcentralillinois.org. If you have any questions about the Impact Central Illinois Grant Cycle, email us at grants@impactcentralillinois.org.