



Grant Cycle FUNDING

Impact Central Illinois' funding cycle runs from July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year. In each funding year we solicit proposals, evaluate them January through May, and announce award decisions in June.

IMPACT GRANTS - \$230,000* \$115,000 IN EACH OF THESE 2 CATEGORIES

- Community Wellness & Stability
- Education & Opportunity

IGNITE GRANT - \$75,000*

- Only for Medium Nonprofits

INSPIRE GRANT - \$25,000*

- Only for Smaller Nonprofits

* These are our goal amounts. These numbers may increase or decrease as membership changes.



GRANTS NEWSLETTER

2026 Grants Leadership Team



Deanne Short, Jami Truelove, and Stacey DelVecchio

Deanne Short

Financial Review Committee (FRC) Chair

Deanne is a retired economist who likes seeing the full picture of applicants, from their financials to the impact of the services they provide. She has been on the Financial Review Committee since she joined ICI in 2022. She will be serving as the FRC Chair for a second and final year.

Jami Truelove

Nonprofit Relations Chair

Jami is an Impact Board member as the Nonprofit Relations Chair and now manages a team of NP Liaisons who will report to her after each GRC meeting. She works in the nonprofit world herself and enjoys helping our local nonprofits apply for funding and show their vision to the women of Impact.

Stacey DelVecchio

Grants Chair

Stacey is in her 6th year with Impact. She loves all things related to advocating for women and is an avid scrapbooker, reader, and new piano player. She lives in Dunlap with her husband and kitty and is a retired Caterpillar engineer. After serving as a GRC Chair and GRC Advisor, she was excited to take on the role of the Grants Chair earlier this year.

KEY CRITERIA

Key Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

Impact Central Illinois has the desire to support programs or projects being proposed by **highly capable** organizations addressing **measurable needs** within our community with **innovative solutions**.

Highly Capable

- Has performed supportive background research for their proposal
- Demonstrates prior experience or capability to bring their proposal to fruition
- Defines an achievable plan of action
- Clarifies and understands any proposal partnerships
- Displays financial integrity through a clear description of their budget and an understanding of how they will proceed if their project is not fully funded

Measurable Need

- Describes the problem or need in central Illinois with measurable statistics
- Demonstrates the risk if the proposal is not implemented now
- Defines the impact on beneficiaries and/or has involved beneficiaries in the development of the proposal
- Contains a plan to measure, monitor, & evaluate
- Envisions and articulates the benefits that go beyond the immediate proposal

Innovative Solution

- Plays a unique role
- Takes a calculated risk tackling a large-scale problem or the root-cause of an issue facing our community
- Adapts a national/global idea for local needs
- Repurposes an older tool or methodology for a new purpose
- Introduces new capabilities to the organization
- Employs innovative or sustainable funding revenue streams to support the proposal



Grant Review Cycle INSIGHTS

- We believe every woman brings valuable knowledge, insight, and life experience to our organization and we welcome every member to the grant review process, regardless of where she may be on her philanthropic journey.
- We believe every nonprofit in our community deserves our respect and recognize them as the experts in determining what type of programs or projects our community most needs.
- We believe in the value of transparency regarding how we use our Key Criteria to evaluate proposals and align each question asked to a corresponding Key Criteria.
- We believe in the value of meeting together as grant review committees. We facilitate constructive conversation within each committee prior to any decisions regarding invitations to nonprofits moving forward in the grant cycle.



FRC/GRC SignUp

FRC: 11/3 - 12/15/25

GRC: 1/1 - 2/14/26

Watch your email for details.

GRC Save the Date

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Meeting #1: Proposal Reveal and Portal Training

5:30 PM Social Time

6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Meeting #2: Initial Proposal Review

5:30 PM Social Time

6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting

Move 5-6 Proposals Forward for Review

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Meeting #3: Final Proposal Review

5:30 PM Social Time

6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting

Select 3 for Site Visits

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Meeting #4: Site Visit Review

5:30 PM Social Time

6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting

Select 2 Finalists for Annual Meeting Vote

**ALL GRC meetings are held at:
Peoria Next Innovation Center
801 W. Main Street, Peoria, IL**



Thank you
Peoria NEXT
for your
continued support.

2026 GRC Chairs & Co-Chairs

INSPIRE Grant

Small Nonprofit
Organizations



Tina Vandermyde, Chair

This is Tina's 4th year with ICI and her 2nd year serving as a GRC leader. She's involved with Crittenton Centers, St Jude, her HOA, & her church. She enjoys gardening, boating, traveling with her husband, and time with her grandkids.



Fiona O'Laughlin, Co-Chair

Fiona is in her 5th year with Impact. She is an Analytics Manager at Caterpillar. Fiona enjoys reading, cooking, yoga, volunteering and creative projects. She and her husband live near Germantown Hills and are recent empty nesters with two sons in college.

IGNITE Grant

Medium Nonprofit
Organizations



Kari Burg-Braggs, Chair

Kari is the branch manager at Morgan Stanley. Her community involvement includes CASA, the Peoria Women's Club, and the City of Peoria Arts Commission. This is her 5th year being a part of a Grants Review Committee.



Jill Sutter, Co-Chair

Jill is in her 5th year with Impact, and has loved learning about the nonprofits in this area, and partnering with women to make a big impact. She works as a nurse part-time, and loves to travel and hike with her husband and spend time with her granddaughter.

IMPACT Grant
Community Wellness
and Stability



Melody Barry, Chair

Melody has served for 5 years as a GRC member. She is retired from OSF Healthcare where she was a Sr. VP. She is on the Council for Children's Hospital and an Ambassador for Almost Home Kids. She has 9 grandchildren who keep her busy.



Shellie Mundorf, Co-Chair

Shellie is in her 3rd year with Impact and sat on the Inspire and Heath & Community Wellbeing GRC's. She is the secretary of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra Guild and is a member of the Junior League of Peoria. She has lived in Peoria for eight years.

IMPACT Grant
Education
and Opportunity



Alecia Bambrick, Chair

Alecia is a proud wife, mom, nana, and doodle lover. She serves on the Eden Thriving Inc. board, volunteers at Midwest Food Bank Peoria, and shares therapy dog visits with her doodle, Mack. She is completing her senior year in Humanitarian Leadership.



Melody Malcom, Co-Chair

Melody lives in East Peoria. She is involved in her church and advocates for women's rights. She joined Impact Central Illinois in 2022 and served on the INSPIRE FRC and GRC. This is Melody's 3rd year as a GRC co-chair.

Abbreviations

GRC: Grant Review Committee
FRC: Finance Review Committee
NP: Nonprofit
ICI: Impact Central Illinois

Nonprofit Grant Cycle Overview

Nonprofit Info Session

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

- New Grant Debut
- Simplified Financials
- Portal Opens

On-Line Portal

Financial Submission

Open: October 8, 2025 through
January 2, 2026 @ 11:59 PM CST

FRC Review

January 3 - February 13, 2026

Approved Applicants notified on
February 14, 2026.

Online Portal

Program Submission

February 14 - March 13, 2026 @
11:59 PM CST

GRC Reviews

March 17 - April 14, 2026

Semi-Finalists Announced

April 15, 2026

GRC Site Visits

April 23 - 28, 2026

Grant Finalists Notified

May 6, 2026

Annual Meeting Vote & Awards

June 2, 2026



Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:

