



IMPACT
CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Frequently Asked Questions for Grants

- **What's the difference between the IMPACT, IGNITE, and INSPIRE Grants?**

Your organization must compete in the appropriate category by selecting the Grant Type (IMPACT / IGNITE / INSPIRE) during their Proposal Submission.

- **IMPACT** Grant: For 501(c)3 organizations with total revenue greater than \$1,500,00
- **IGNITE** Grant: for 501(c)3 organizations with total revenue between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000
- **INSPIRE** Grant: for 501(c)3 organizations with total revenue less than \$300,000.

- **What is the value of the Impact Central Illinois IMPACT Grant?**

The amount of the Impact Central Illinois IMPACT grant is dependent on our membership level and is announced in mid-December following our membership recruiting season. Our goal is to award two \$115,000 IMPACT Grants annually, one in each of the two focus areas. Nonprofits that apply also receive exposure to our membership of over 300 philanthropic women in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. This alone is valuable to any organization operating in the Tri-county area.

- **What is the value of the Impact Central Illinois IGNITE Grant?**

The amount of the Impact Central Illinois IGNITE grant is dependent on our membership level and is announced in mid-December following our membership recruiting season. Our goal is to award one \$75,000 IGNITE Grant annually. Nonprofits that apply also receive exposure to our membership of over 300 philanthropic women in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. This alone is valuable to any organization operating in the Tri-county area.

- **What is the value of the Impact Central Illinois INSPIRE Grant?**

The amount of the Impact Central Illinois INSPIRE grant is dependent on our membership level and is announced in mid-December following our membership recruiting season. Our goal is to award one \$25,000 INSPIRE Grant annually. Nonprofits that apply also receive exposure to our membership of over 300 philanthropic women in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties. This alone is valuable to any organization operating in the Tri-county area.

- **Can my organization apply for more than one grant?**

No. Organizations can apply for only one Impact Central Illinois grant per year based on

the organization's annual total revenue.

- **Can I submit a proposal for less than the full amount of either the IMPACT, IGNITE, or INSPIRE Grants?**

No. All applicants must utilize the full amount of the Impact Central Illinois grant for which they apply. Funding for programs that require a lesser amount will NOT be considered.

- **Can I submit a proposal with a total budget greater than the full amount of either the IMPACT, IGNITE, or INSPIRE Grants?**

Yes. If your program's budget exceeds the full amount of the Impact Central Illinois grant for which you apply, you will be required to delineate the portion of the program that is to be funded by that Impact Central Illinois grant on the provided budget form. You will also be asked to identify the additional sources of funding that have been previously secured or applied for to complete the proposal.

- **How do I know which IMPACT Grant focus area is appropriate for my program?**

Impact Central Illinois cannot advise you on selecting an appropriate focus area. A program could fall into more than one focus area. Because the number and quality of applicants in any given focus area can vary from year to year, it would be unfair for Impact Central Illinois to guide any individual applicant toward a specific focus area.

- **If I am unsure which IMPACT Grant focus area is appropriate for my program, can I leave it blank and allow Impact Central Illinois to select a focus area for me?**

No. IMPACT Grant applicants must select a focus area. Proposals without a selected Focus Area will be deemed incomplete and therefore not considered.

- **Can my organization submit a proposal in more than one focus area?**

No. Organizations applying for an IMPACT Grant must choose only one focus area.

- **My organization is faith-based. What restrictions apply to faith-based organizations seeking consideration for an Impact Central Illinois grant?**

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 in its program methodology, activities, or facilities which serve the community at large.

- **Will Impact Central Illinois consider a proposal from a group of nonprofit organizations working in collaboration?**

Yes. However, one organization must be identified as the “lead” organization and apply for the Impact Central Illinois grant as if it were an individual organization on behalf of the group. This includes submitting their financial documents. The leading nonprofit organization must demonstrate a significant role in the execution of the program. The leading organization must also be willing to take on all rights, responsibilities, restrictions, and liabilities of the grant, should the collaborative program be selected as the grant recipient. Note that this means the lead organization will NOT be able to submit a proposal outside of the collaborative proposal, and if the collaborative proposal is selected, the lead organization will not be able to reapply for subsequent Impact Central Illinois grants for at least 24 months.

- **My organization is not a 501(c)(3). However, we are collaborating with a 501(c)(3) and are using them solely as a fiscal partner. Do we qualify?**

No. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) to qualify.

- **My organization is exempt from paying sales tax in the state of Illinois, and we have a certificate from the state. Can we use this to prove our nonprofit status?**

No. Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) and provide a determination letter from the IRS to that effect during the initial financial documentation submission.

- **My organization is a national organization with a local office providing services in Peoria, Woodford, and/or Tazewell counties. Can it receive funding from Impact Central Illinois for our local operations?**

Yes. If the program that you are proposing will provide services for residents of Peoria, Woodford, and/or Tazewell County, and if you can provide financial documentation representing the financial health of your specific chapter/office, organizations are encouraged to apply. The organization must be able to demonstrate adequate controls to ensure that the funds will serve the residents of our community.

- **How should local branches or subsidiaries submit financial documentation?**

We need to be able to review local program-level financials. If your organization operates under the 501c3 of a parent organization, be it a conglomerate like a hospital, or a statewide or national organization, then you must submit the ICI Financial Review template with the financial data of the limited sub-organization or the affiliated local organization that is competing for the grant with 3 years of comparable financial data and the current year estimates. In addition, the treasurer or president must sign the template affirming that the data is true and accurate.

- **When funding capital improvement projects, does Impact Central Illinois have**

specific requirements with respect to ownership/leasing of the property?

Yes. The property must be currently owned by the applicant or leased with a minimum of five years remaining on the lease as of January 1st of the grant award year.

- **When an organization receives a grant from Impact Central Illinois, can it reapply the following year?**

No. Grant recipients must wait at least 24 months (2 grant cycles) before applying for another Impact Central Illinois grant.

- **If my organization submits a proposal this year but is NOT selected to receive the Impact Central Illinois grant, how soon can we submit another proposal?**

Your organization is encouraged to apply again in the following year/grant cycle. You may reapply with the same proposal if desired.

- **If Impact Central Illinois rejects my proposal for a specific reason/problem, will we be given the chance to correct that issue and resubmit our proposal for consideration in this grant cycle?**

No. All rejections are final. Organizations are encouraged to correct issues and resubmit proposals in the next grant cycle if appropriate. However, we attempt to share constructive feedback with all applicants who are not moving forward in the process. Feedback is managed through the [Nonprofit Liaison Chair](#) only.

- **Can I send additional materials with my proposal? For example - brochures, newsletters, or letters of recommendation?**

No. Additional materials should not be sent with proposal submissions. These materials will be deleted.

- **Does Impact Central Illinois fund programs that utilize grant funds over an extended period?**

No. Impact Central Illinois' Grant Guidelines state that the program must start within 45 days of award and that all funds must be utilized within 24 months. Any unused grant funds will be forfeited after 24 months.

- **Can we submit our Statement of Activity and Balance Sheets from the last 3 years rather than using the ICI Financial Review template?**

No, you must complete the ICI Financial Review template. We do not want to risk misinterpreting your internal financial statements.

- **Our organization files a 990 EZ or 990 postcard (990 N). Are these sufficient?**

No, you must complete the ICI Financial Review template.

- **What documents are required for the financial review?**

The ICI Financial Review Committee (FRC) needs three years of comparable financial data.

- If your organization has filed a 990 for each of the last 3 years, we require those to be submitted. If your organization is required to have an audit by an independent CPA, we ask that you include that as well. You also need to include a Copy of your 501(c)3 designation letter and Proof of CO-1 registration (as required by IL attorney general) or Proof of Good Standing (from IL Secretary of State). These are sufficient documents for us to conduct the financial review.
- If your organization is not required to file a 990 with the IRS, and you have not done so voluntarily, then we require you to complete the ICI Financial Review template, which captures information from your Statements of Activity and Balance Sheets from the prior 3 years. The treasurer or president must sign the template affirming that the data is true and accurate. You also need to include a Copy of your 501(c)3 designation letter and Proof of CO-1 registration (as required by IL attorney general) or Proof of Good Standing (from IL Secretary of State). These are sufficient documents for us to conduct the financial review.
- If your organization operates under the 501c3 of a parent organization, be it a conglomerate like a hospital, or a statewide or national organization, then you must submit the ICI Financial Review template with the financial data of the limited sub-organization or the affiliated local organization that is competing for the grant with 3 years of comparable financial data and the current year estimates. You also need to include a Copy of your 501(c)3 designation letter and Proof of CO-1 registration (as required by IL attorney general) or Proof of Good Standing (from IL Secretary of State). These are sufficient documents for us to conduct the financial review.

- **What kind of communication can my organization expect from Impact Central Illinois through the grant application process?**

Until semifinalists are selected for Site Visits, all communication will be conducted via email. Once semifinalists are identified, communication may include telephone calls. All communication will be coordinated through the Impact Central Illinois [Nonprofit Liaison Chair](#).

- **How will I know if Impact Central Illinois is going to make a site visit to my organization?**

All Site Visits semifinalists will be notified. Site Visits will occur within a specified week in the late spring. Once selected as a Site Visit semifinalist, nonprofits will be contacted by the [Nonprofit Liaison Chair](#) to finalize on-site visit logistics and date.

- **Is there a publicly available list of Impact Central Illinois members?**

No. Impact Central Illinois does not publish our membership list.

- **Who can my organization contact to discuss my proposal once it has been submitted?**

For all questions, please contact our Nonprofit Liaison Chair at grants@impactcentralillinois.org.

Impact Central Illinois is committed to a fair and unbiased grant award process. We will not entertain ANY behavior that could be perceived to create unfair influence or advantage. This includes unsolicited communication related to any topics other than grant guidelines, processes or forms. Applicants must not contact members of Impact Central Illinois in any way unless and until Impact Central Illinois contacts you for additional information. Any attempt to unfairly influence the grant award process is grounds for the elimination of a grant applicant's proposal.