

*Impact
Central
Illinois
cultivates
the
collective
wisdom
and
strength
of
women
to
transform
ourselves
and
our
communities
through
philanthropy.*



IMPACT
CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Nonprofit Grant Information Session

October 2025

Thank You
to our facility
host -
**Peoria NEXT
Innovation
Center**





Nonprofit Grant Information Session: **Agenda**

- New Grant Debut
- Grant Guidelines
- Process Overview
- What's Next



The Big Idea: **We ARE Better Together**



\$1,663,000

awarded to our community
in our first five years
&

on pace to award **over**
\$330,000 in this grant cycle



Our Beliefs



IMPACT
CENTRAL ILLINOIS

- 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 meeting together as grant review committees. We facilitate constructive conversation within each committee at each review step.
- **The spirit of collective giving depends upon a transparent and fair process which allows our members to research and vote for the proposals they wish to support.**



New Grant **IGNITE** Debut

New

Pleased to announce the creation of the
IGNITE Grant

Specifically for nonprofits with total revenue
between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000



What does this mean for the other grants?

New

2025 Grant Year	2026 Grant Year
IMPACT - Health & Community Wellbeing \$118,000	IMPACT - Community Wellness & Stability \$115,000
IMPACT - Education & Community Development \$118,000	IMPACT - Education & Opportunity \$115,000
IMPACT - Social Services & Basic Needs \$118,000	IGNITE \$75,000
INSPIRE \$30,000	INSPIRE \$25,000
Four Grants: \$384,000 awarded	Four Grants: \$330,000* awarded

** Amount not finalized until December 2025*



Grant Types & Focus Areas

Impact Community Wellness & Stability	Impact Education & Opportunity	Ignite 	Inspire
\$115,000	\$115,000	\$75,000	\$25,000
Total revenue greater than \$1,500,000	Total revenue greater than \$1,500,000	Total revenue between \$300,000 and \$1,500,000	Total revenue less than \$300,000
Focus Area* Addressing Empowering the health, stability, and basic needs of our community. This category supports projects that foster individual and community well-being	Focus Area* Addressing Investing in the potential of individuals through education, development, and community connection. This category supports projects that help people learn, grow, and lead	Either of the focus areas but it does not need to be identified in the application	Either of the focus areas but it does not need to be identified in the application

** Examples on what's included in each Focus Area can be found in the Grant Guidelines at impactcentralillinois.org*

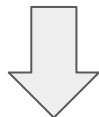


Grant Guidelines - Eligibility Requirements

501(c)(3) & Tax Status	All organizations must have had 501(c)(3) status for 3 full years
Target Locations & Timeline	Peoria, Tazewell or Woodford Counties to be used with 24 months
Proposal Criteria	Must support social outreach or charitable service which serves the community at large
Capital Improvement	Property owned by organization or leased min 5 yrs as of 1/1/2026
Not Allowed	Debt reduction, Endowments/memorials, Bridge funding or interim financing, Operational deficits, Partisan, political lobbying or legislative activities, Private Foundations, Litigation/legal expenses, Fundraising expenses, & General advertising expenses* <i>*unless advertising is directly related to the organization's proposal to directly offer services to the community</i>



Grant Guidelines & Information Available On Website

[Login](#)[Home](#)[About ▾](#)[Become A Member ▾](#)[Apply For A Grant ▾](#)[Events And News](#)[See Our Impact ▾](#)[Member FAQ ▾](#)[Contact Us](#)

Apply For A Grant

Impact Central Illinois Grant Cycle 2026 is now open!

OVERVIEW

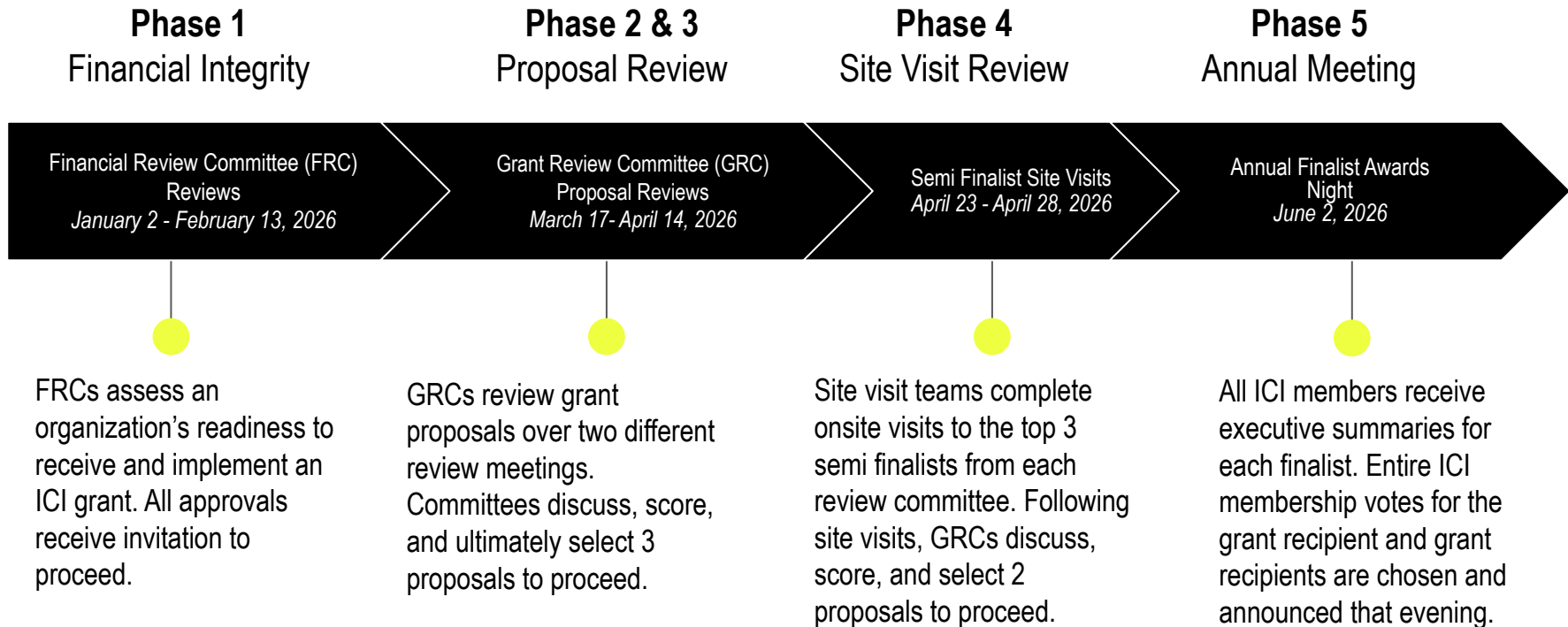
Impact Central Illinois is a collective women's giving organization which combines annual \$1,100 donations from our members to give high-impact grants to local, worthy causes selected and voted on by our members. In June 2026, Impact Central Illinois will again award two Impact grants at \$115,000 each, one Ignite grant at \$75,000 and one Inspire grant for \$25,000. All amounts are subject to change as membership finalizes.

Impact grants are reserved for nonprofits with total revenue greater than \$1.5M. **Ignite** grants are reserved for nonprofits with total revenue between \$300,000 and \$1.5M. **Inspire** grants are reserved for nonprofits with total revenue less than \$300,000.





What is the Five Phase Funnel?





What does Phase 1 mean for me?

Nonprofits submit required financial documentation

**October 8, 2025 -
January 2, 2026**

Financial Review Committee (FRC)
Reviews
January 3 - February 13, 2026

Phase 1

Financial Integrity

Financial Documentation

- 3 years of year-end financial documentation from 2024, 2023, & 2022
 - Past three 990s **OR**
 - ICI Financial Review Template completed & signed with three years of year-end financial data
- 501(c)3 designation letter (copy)
- CO-1 registration form from IL Attorney General (copy)
- Most recent audit, if audit eligible
- Online organization questionnaire



Phase 1 Financial Integrity Review - what we are looking for?

Liquidity

- Assessing availability and flexibility of operating funds to meet short-term financial obligations
- Goal of this metric is to ensure they have enough unrestricted cash and other assets readily available to cover day-to-day expenses and emergencies.

Service at the Center

- Assessing funding priority of program expenses vs administrative and fundraising expenses

Diversified Revenues

- Assessing ability to fund operations without dependency on a critical few donors.

Financial Sustainability and Resiliency

- Ensuring sufficient resources to operate and fulfill their mission without compromising future operations



What does Phase 1 mean for me?

Nonprofits submit required financial documentation

October 8, 2025 -
January 2, 2026

Financial Review Committee (FRC)
Reviews
January 3 - February 13, 2026

Phase 1

Financial Integrity

- Do NOT need grant proposal information at this time.
- All organizations reviewed and considered ready to be considered for an ICI grant will receive an invitation by February 14, 2026 to submit your proposal



What do Phases 2 & 3 mean for me?

Nonprofits submit required financial documentation

October 8, 2025 to January 2, 2026

Financial Review Committee (FRC)
Reviews
January 3 - February 13, 2026

Phase 1

Financial Integrity

Nonprofits submit grant proposal online

February 14 to March 13, 2026

Grant Review Committee (GRC)
Proposal Reviews
March 17 - April 14, 2026

Phase 2 & 3

Proposal Review

- Submit grant proposal & budgets
- Narrative & completion of questions aligned to ICI's three Key Criteria
 - Highly Capable
 - Measurable Need
 - Innovative Solution



What does Phase 4 mean for me?

Nonprofits submit required financial documentation

October 8, 2025 to January 2, 2026

Nonprofits submit grant proposal online

February 14 to March 13, 2026

Site Visits for Semi Finalists

April 23 to 28, 2026

- Semi Finalists visit with GRC teams for ~2 hours at your site
- Share proposal details, tour, & organization highlights
- Include your date preference at the time of your proposal submission

Financial Review Committee (FRC)
Reviews
January 2 - February 13, 2026

Phase 1

Financial Integrity

Grant Review Committee (GRC)
Proposal Reviews
March 17 - April 14, 2026

Phase 2 & 3

Proposal Review

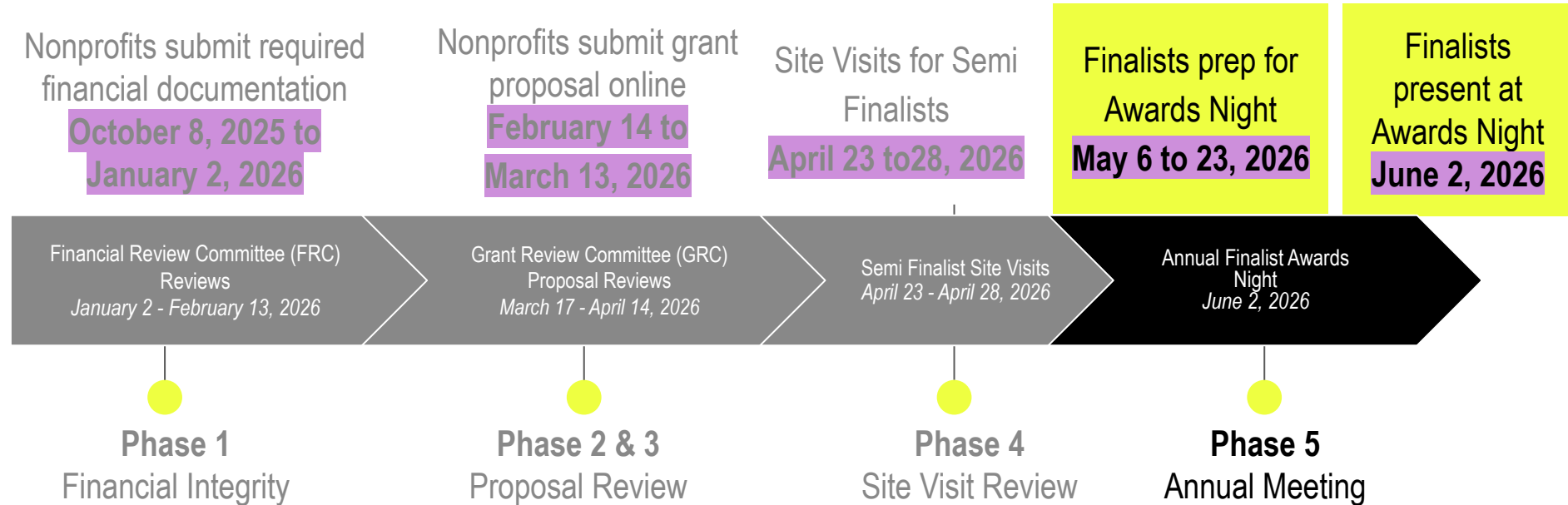
Semi Finalist Site Visits
April 23 - April 28, 2026

Phase 4

Site Visit Review



What does Phase 5 mean for me?



- Finalists notified on May 6, 2026
- Submit one-page executive summaries for ICI members
- Prepare six minute presentations for Annual Awards Night
- Grant recipients chosen and announced the June 2, 2026 meeting



Our 2026 Grants Newsletter



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

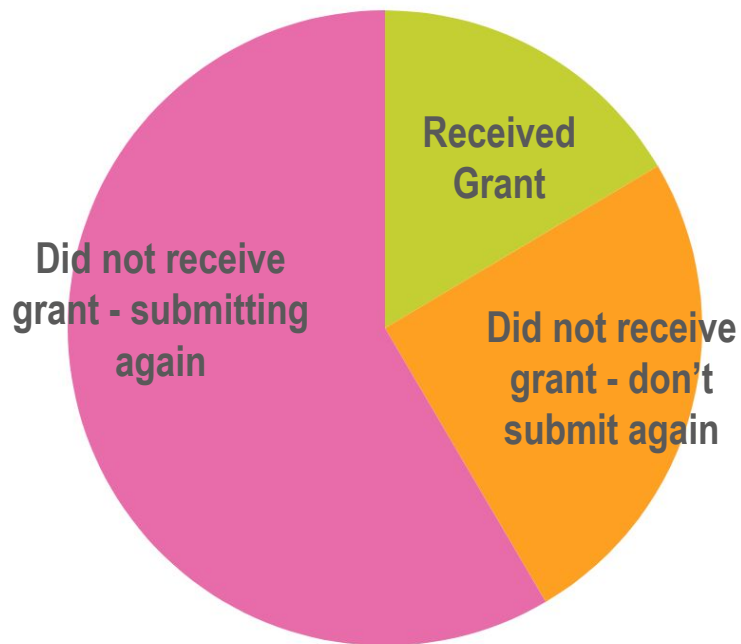
- We believe every woman brings valuable knowledge, insight, and life experience to our organization and we welcome every member to the grant review process, regardless of where she may be on her philanthropic journey.
- We believe every nonprofit in our community deserves our respect and recognize them 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.





Over the past 5 years

91 Different Organizations



By the numbers

- 91 different organizations applied a grant
- 15 different organizations (17%) received a grant
 - 5 (33%) were first time submissions
 - 10 (67%) submitted two to four times
- 30% of organizations only submit one year if they do not become a grant recipient

We encourage you to remain part of the process and reapply.



Three Key Criteria

Impact Central Illinois has the desire to support programs or projects
being proposed by a **Highly Capable** organization
to address a **Measurable Need** within our community
with an **Innovative Solution**.

Capable	Measurable Need	Innovative Solution
● Displays financial integrity ● Defines an achievable plan ● Contains supportive research ● Prior Experience or Demonstrated Capability	● States the Central Illinois problem/need w/measurable statistics ● Demonstrates the risk if not implemented ● Can define the impact on beneficiaries ● Contains a plan to measure, monitor, & evaluate	● Unique (minimizing a duplication of efforts) ● Calculated risk tackling a large-scale or root-cause ● Adapts national/global ideas locally ● Repurposes an older tool for a new purpose ● Innovative funding or sustainable funding revenue streams



Our Review Committees - Reviewing the Grant Proposal





2026 Grant Cycle Timeline

★ Action Needed by Nonprofit

Phase 1

Financial Integrity

Financial Review Committee (FRC) Reviews
January 2 - February 13, 2026

★ **Online Portal Financial Submission**
October 8, 2025 to
January 2, 2026 @11:59 PM CST

FRC Review
January 3 - February 13, 2026

Approved Applicants Notified
February 14, 2026

Phase 2 & 3

Proposal Review

Grant Review Committee (GRC)
Proposal Reviews
March 17 - April 14, 2026

★ **Online Portal Program Submission**
February 14 to
March 13, 2026 @11:59 PM CST

GRC Reviews
March 17 - April 14, 2026

Semi-Finalists Notified
April 15, 2026

Phase 4

Site Visit Review

Semi Finalist Site Visits
April 23 - April 28, 2026

★ **GRC Site Visits**
April 23 - 28, 2026

Grant Finalists Notified
May 6, 2026

Phase 5

Annual Meeting

Annual Finalist Awards Night
June 2, 2026

★ **Grant Finalists Lunch & Information Session**
May 15, 2026

★ **Executive Summaries Due**
May 20, 2026

★ **Annual Meeting Presentation, Vote, & Awards**
June 2, 2026

★ **Grant Terms Signed**
June 23, 2026



What's Next?

Thank You.

The Portal is open NOW

For Financial Documentation & Organizational
Questionnaire Submissions



What's Next?

Q & A Portal Preview

All communication must go through the Nonprofit Relations Team, Jami Truelove, grants@impactcentralillinois.org