



Impact Grants Priorities and Processes

I. IMPORTANT DATES

If you are thinking of applying for a 2026 grant from the Eden Prairie Community Foundation, here are important dates to remember:

December 1, 2025 – Foundation begins accepting grant applications

January 31, 2026 – Final deadline for applications

February/March 2026 – Decision on grant awards

April 2026 – Presentation of grant checks

II. GRANTING PRIORITY AREAS

The Eden Prairie Community Foundation supports programs that align with its mission: “Enriching our community through philanthropy, collaboration and leadership.” Since its beginning in 1981, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million in direct grants to more than 100 different nonprofits and agencies serving Eden Prairie.

The Foundation accepts applications in alignment with the following four granting priority areas:

- **Arts & Culture** – Supports programs and organizations that enhance the quality of life in our community through music, visual and performing arts, and other means.
- **Education & Youth Development** – Supports programs that provide educational and development opportunities for youth and adults – most often outside the classroom – which are offered by established institutions or nonprofit organizations, as well as programs that offer learning or community development opportunities.
- **Recreation & Environment** – Supports programs that engage children and adults in activities that improve or sustain the quality of our natural resources. Also supports programs that provide opportunities for children and adults to engage in sports, fitness, and health and recreational activities.
- **Social Services** – Supports programs that provide for important community needs such as food, housing, safety, clothing, furniture, and assistance for people with disabilities.

Note: Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their work aligns with EPCF priorities around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Food Insecurity; and/or Affordable Housing (as applicable). Additional weight will be given to such applications.

Eligibility

The Foundation welcomes requests from eligible organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Classified as charitable organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or classified as an organization under Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- Provides services to residents within the boundaries of Eden Prairie.
- Is part of a governmental body (such as schools or parks).

Who We Fund

In determining what to fund, consideration is given to the availability of Foundation resources. The Foundation concentrates its support toward proposals that fill an unmet need and demonstrate significant community impact, including the number of Eden Prairie residents directly affected.

What We Do Not Fund

The Foundation does not make grants to/for:

- Debt retirement
- Endowments
- Fundraising activities
- Individuals (aside from scholarships initiated or managed by the Foundation)
- Medical research
- Organizations with significant activity considered to be the influencing of legislation
- Political organizations or campaigns
- Religious organizations or those engaged in religious activities
- Requests from re-granting organizations for its own grant making activities
- Tickets for benefits
- Telephone solicitations

III. HOW TO APPLY FOR A 2026 GRANT

Follow these steps and contact us with any questions you have. We are happy to help.

Step 1 – Review our Granting Priority Areas and Guidelines

Start by reviewing the Foundation's granting priority areas, guidelines, and processes (See section II above).

Step 2 – Take the Eligibility Quiz

Our simple online quiz will help to determine if you qualify for a grant. The quiz is located at <https://epcommunityfoundation.org/what-we-do/nonprofits/eligibility-quiz/>

Step 3 – Submit an Inquiry

If our Eligibility Quiz has indicated that you qualify for a grant, the next step is to make an inquiry. Provide a short description of your project or proposal and how it will address an unmet need in Eden Prairie. Submit by e-mail to info@epcommunityfoundation.org.

Step 4 – Submit an Application and Checklist

If an inquiry aligns with one of the Foundation's priority areas and fills a local need, an organization will be encouraged to submit a full application. The Foundation will accept applications for 2026 grants starting December 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026. Applications and materials must be submitted electronically to info@epcommunityfoundation.org.

The Foundation uses the [Minnesota Common Grant Application](#). Organizations must submit both the application (including all attachments) and the [Self-Certification Checklist](#).

Step 5 – Application Reviewed

Applications are acknowledged as they are received. Staff will contact you if there are follow-up questions or more information is needed. Applications will be reviewed for the strength of the match with funding priorities, the potential benefit to the community, the extent to which an unmet need is being met, the number of residents impacted, and the capability of the organization to achieve the proposed results.

Step 6 – Grant Awarded or Declined

The applications are reviewed and the final grant determinations are made by the Board of Directors. Organizations will be notified of the outcome, and grant recipients will be highlighted at the spring EP Gives event.

Step 7 – Funds Disbursed

When a grant is approved, a grant agreement will be sent to you for your review and completion. Upon the return of the signed agreement, a check will be processed for presentation to you.

Step 8 – Impact Report Submitted

Awarded organizations must submit an impact report detailing how the grant funds made a difference in the community. This report is due upon completion of the project, and no later than January 31, 2026.

For more information about the granting process, contact Interim Executive Director, Mark Weber, at mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org or 952-949-8499.