



Innovation Seed 50th Anniversary Grant

Grant Description

The Innovation Seed Grant is a special **one-time initiative** of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation in honor of its 50th Anniversary designed to empower nonprofit organizations to develop and pilot experimental programs with the potential for significant, scalable impact within the Fond du Lac community. This grant encourages innovative approaches and bold ideas that address pressing community needs in new and transformative ways.

One \$50,000 grant will be awarded.

Applications must be submitted by **11:30 p.m. on July 31, 2025**.

Organizations may apply for 50th Anniversary Grants, Impact Grants, and Unrestricted Grants (Grant Cycle II); however, each nonprofit will be eligible to receive **only one** grant award. Grant applications will be carefully evaluated, and final awards will be determined by the Foundation's Board of Directors. Additionally, nonprofits receiving either a 50th Anniversary Grant or an Impact Grant will not be eligible to receive another Impact Grant for a period of three years. This structure ensures that funding is distributed equitably, supporting a broad range of impactful initiatives within the community.

Innovation Seed Grant Summary

- **Embrace Innovation:** Propose novel program models or strategies that depart from traditional service delivery.
- **Demonstrate Scalability:** Outline a clear plan for how the pilot program could be expanded or replicated to reach a wider audience or address broader community challenges.
- **Foster Collaboration:** Encourage partnerships and collaborative efforts among non-profit organizations to maximize impact and leverage resources.
- **Promote Community Impact:** Clearly articulate the potential for the project to create positive, measurable change within the Fond du Lac community.
- **Utilize Seed Funding to Advance:** Demonstrate how the \$50,000 will be used to test, validate and prepare the experimental program for broader implementation.

The Fond du Lac Innovation Seed Grant aims to spark transformative change by providing critical seed funding to organizations willing to take calculated risks and explore new frontiers in community service.

Required Application Information

Provide a detailed description of your project, including the following information:

- **Problem Statement:** Clearly articulate the community need or challenge your project addresses.
- **Innovative Approach:** Describe the experimental program model or strategy you will implement, highlighting its unique features and potential for transformative change.
- **Scalability Plan:** Outline a clear plan for how the pilot program could be scaled up or replicated to reach a wider audience or address broader community challenges.

- **Project Goals and Objectives:** Clearly state the goals and measurable objectives of your pilot program.
- **Activities and Strategies:** Outline the specific activities and strategies you will implement to achieve your objectives.
- **Target Population:** Describe the specific population you will serve, including demographics and any unique challenges they face.
- **Timeline:** Provide a realistic timeline for project implementation, including key milestones.
- **Collaboration:** Describe any partnerships or collaborations with other organizations, detailing each partner's specific role and contribution.
- **Risk Assessment:** Identify potential challenges or risks associated with the experimental program and outline mitigation strategies.

Budget Provide a detailed budget outlining how the \$50,000 grant funds will be used to support the pilot program.

- Pilot Program Development
- Materials and Supplies
- Personnel (if applicable)
- Evaluation and Data Collection
- Dissemination/Presentation of Findings

Evaluation Describe how you will evaluate the success of your pilot program, including the following information:

- Evaluation methods
- Data collection procedures
- Reporting mechanisms
- Plan for sharing findings and lessons learned.

Organization Information Provide information about your organization(s), including the following:

- Mission and history
- Programs and services
- Staff and volunteers
- Financial stability
- Proof of non-profit 501(c)(3) status.

Community Impact Describe the anticipated impact of your pilot program on the Fond du Lac community, including the following:

- Potential for long-term, scalable impact
- Measurable outcomes
- Potential for replication or adaptation by other organizations.

Supporting Documents Include the following supporting documents:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter
- Current budget(s)
- List of board members