

Rural Vitality Grants

The Rural Vitality Grant exists to support rural vitality in local communities, focusing on the launch and establishment of new, ongoing programs or projects, as well as enhancing current services. Through the generosity of Compeer Financial, this grant cycle is administered jointly by the Fond du Lac Area Foundation and Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation to support rural vitality in our communities.

GRANT SNAPSHOT



Who is Eligible?

- Communities with population less than 10,000
- Rural micropolitans with population less than 50,000
- Fond du Lac County and Dodge County 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to apply.
- City of Fond du Lac and City of Beaver Dam are ineligible due to population.

Requests may be \$10,000 - \$50,000.

Multi-Year Grant Awards

Nonprofits may select their preference to be awarded either a one-time grant or a multi-year grant depending on the specific scope, goals, and needs outlined in your submission request.

- One-time grants are designated for distinct, short-term initiatives, capital purchases, or immediate project needs, providing a single injection of capital to achieve a defined outcome.
- Multi-year grants support extended initiatives, allowing organizations to secure predictable, multi-step funding across a two-year timeframe to build capacity, execute multi-phase projects, or ensure mid-term program stability.

When evaluating proposals, the review committee will give **priority to requests for multi-year funding** over single-year grant applications. Because this grant program is designed to help launch and establish new, ongoing programs or projects, multi-year proposals better align with our goal of fostering long-term sustainability and impact. Securing multi-year support provides the initial runway needed to fully operationalize a concept, build organizational capacity, and establish a firm foundation for the project's continued success well beyond the funding period.

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Approved Areas for Granting

- **Agriculture** – Programs, projects, and services that enhance the agricultural landscape and opportunities.
- **Community Development** – Contributing to the essential needs of the community, encompassing healthcare, daycare, and other areas impacting the quality of life for all community members.
- **Entrepreneurship/Small Business Development** – Helping creative, cutting-edge entrepreneurs and/or small business owners.
- **Housing Expansion** – Rural housing enhancements to single family, multifamily and work force housing.
- **Youth and Adult Leadership Development** – Inspire, train, and promote leadership for both youth and adults.
- **Rural Education** – Enhancing programming, innovations, and experiences at preK-12 schools to ensure students have access to world-class education.
- **Workforce Development** – Attracting, retaining, training, and sustaining community members to vital careers and jobs in the community and agriculture.

Requests Not Considered

- Sporting teams, activities, recreation
- Food insecurity and homelessness
- Arts and culture-related activities
- Scholarships
- Endowments

Questions? Call the Foundation at (920) 921-2215 or email info@fdlareafoundation.com