COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF WEST TENNESSEE

2026-2027 Community Impact Grant
Eligibility and Application Procedures

Eligibility

The Community Foundation of West Tennessee awards Community Impact Grants annually to programs and projects that serve the people of West Tennessee. To be eligible for the 2026-2027 cycle, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Organizational Status:** Applicants must have held 501(c)(3) status for at least three years prior to the application date. Alternatively, the organization must be a current, active fund of the Community Foundation in good standing.
- **Geographic Focus:** The project or program must benefit the residents of West Tennessee. Eligible counties include Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, and Weakley.
- **Funding Term:** Grants are for a one-year term - July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Funding should not be requested to cover expenses that fall outside of this funding term.
- **Collaboration Incentive:** While not required, projects or programs that are a collaboration between two or more organizations are eligible to receive additional points during the evaluation process.
- **Excluded Support:** Grants will not fund unrestricted operating support, endowments, loans, debt services, grants to individuals, areas of government, or fundraising events.
- **Grant Limits:** Funding for a program or project is limited to two consecutive grant cycles.

Application Procedures

- **Timeline:** Applications will be accepted between February 1, 2026, and March 20, 2026. The Community Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any requests submitted after the deadline.
- **Submission:** Applicants must apply online at cfwtn.org/grants.
- **Review Process:** Funding determinations will be made by June 1, 2026. Applicants will be notified by email if selected for a grant award.
- **Grant Agreement:** Grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement prior to the distribution of any grant funds.

Required Documents

- **IRS Determination Letter:** Proof of 501(c)(3) status (unless a fund of the Community Foundation) is required. Grant applications submitted without a proper IRS determination letter will be disqualified.
- **Program/Project Budget:** Provide a detailed budget that includes anticipated income (source, amount, status) and anticipated expenses (overall project costs and specific line items for this grant).
- **Supporting Materials:** If applicable, include letters of support or information pertaining to permits, permissions, or licenses.

If your proposal is selected for further review, you may be asked to submit additional documentation or attend an in-person meeting to discuss the proposal with the review committee. For questions about the grant or application process, please contact Haley Fortune at haley@cfwtn.org or (731) 984-2146.

Proposal Narrative

Applicants will be asked to answer the following questions in the online form.

- **Grant Summary:** Provide a brief, one-sentence description of your proposal. (Example: To provide job skills training for 20 teen boys and girls transitioning from foster care to independence). *Maximum 20 words.*
- **Organizational Overview:** Describe your organization, including the year established, your mission, who you serve, your staff, and your board structure. *Maximum 250 words*.
- **Needs Assessment:** Describe the community issue or opportunity you want to address with this grant. Provide data or evidence showing why this is a priority for the residents you serve. *Maximum 550 words.*
- **Program/Project Details:** Describe how your organization will address the identified needs. Be specific with services or products to be delivered (including quantities), provide a timeline for the project, and explain why this approach is the best method for this task. If collaborating with another organization, specify their role and how the partnership strengthens the project. *Maximum 750 words.*
- **Results and Impact Measurement:** Describe the specific, measurable outcomes you expect to accomplish. Include the exact metrics your organization will track and a timeline for these measurements. *Maximum 500 words.*
- **Financial Strategy and Sustainability:** Explain the program or project budget provided and discuss the timeline for all anticipated income and expenditures. Detail what adjustments will be made to the project scope if you do not receive the full amount requested. *Maximum 250 words*.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?
501(c)(3) organizations with at least three years of standing or funds of the Community Foundation are eligible. Projects must benefit residents of the specified West Tennessee counties.

For a full list of eligible counties, please see page 1 of the grant guidelines.

Can I get extra points for collaboration?
Yes. Proposals that involve a formal collaboration with another organization are eligible for additional points in the scoring process.

How do I access funds?
This is a **reimbursement grant**. Recipients will submit receipts and a Grant Request Form for the entire grant or in increments. A check is typically sent within the Foundation's normal processing schedule.

What are the reporting requirements?
All grant recipients are required to submit an **Impact Report by June 30, 2027**. This must include data on success, participant testimonials, and any photos or videos of the project. Failure to report may affect future funding.

For additional questions or to schedule an information meeting about Community Impact Grants, please contact Haley Fortune at haley@cfwtn.org or (731) 984-2146.