

# Grant Funding Report

Wichita, KS



# Economic Transition, Community Stability, and Opportunity

Wichita has long been shaped by manufacturing, aviation, and logistics — industries that continue to define the local economy while also creating cycles of workforce disruption. In 2026, nonprofits across Wichita and Sedgwick County operate in an environment influenced by economic transition, housing affordability pressures, workforce reskilling needs, and persistent disparities in health and education outcomes.

While Wichita benefits from strong civic leadership, family foundations, and employer-anchored philanthropy, grantmakers increasingly expect nonprofits to demonstrate measurable impact, financial discipline, and cross-sector collaboration. Funding opportunities exist at the city, county, state, and private foundation levels, but competition is increasing as more organizations pursue limited unrestricted dollars.



# Key Local Grantmakers & Programs

## Wichita Community Foundation

The region's primary community foundation

**Supports initiatives in:**

- Education and youth development
- Health and human services
- Arts and culture
- Neighborhood vitality

**In 2026, priorities increasingly emphasize:**

- Equity-driven outcomes
- Capacity building
- Collaborative and place-based initiatives

**Strong local presence and governance matter**

## Kansas Health Foundation

**Major statewide funder with strong Wichita investment**

**Focus areas include:**

- Health equity
- Access to care
- Healthy communities

**In 2026, KHF emphasizes:**

- Systems-level change
- Policy-aligned strategies
- Data-driven health outcomes

## City of Wichita – Housing & Community Services

### **Administers federal and local funding, including:**

- HUD CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds
- Neighborhood revitalization and public services grants

### **2026 priorities include:**

- Housing stability and homelessness prevention
- Community-based service delivery

### **Compliance and reporting capacity are critical**

## Sedgwick County Health & Human Services

### **Funds programs addressing:**

- Behavioral health
- Aging services
- Child and family stability

### **In 2026, the county favors:**

- Evidence-based programs
- Cross-agency coordination
- Alignment with countywide plans

## United Way of the Plains

### **Funds initiatives focused on:**

- Education
- Financial stability
- Health

### **Emphasizes:**

- Measurable outcomes
- Collective impact approaches
- Long-term community change

## Aviation- and Industry- Anchored Corporate Foundations

### **Includes corporate giving programs tied to:**

- Aviation
- Manufacturing
- Logistics

### **Often prioritize:**

- Workforce development
- Youth education and STEM
- Community resilience

**Alignment with employer needs strengthens proposals**

# Most Competitive Grants in Wichita

## Wichita Community Foundation Competitive Funds

Highly competitive; favors strong governance and local impact

## City of Wichita CDBG & ESG Grants

Federal compliance required; limited funding pools

## Kansas Health Foundation Grants

Outcomes-driven and policy-aligned

## United Way of the Plains Partner Funding

Requires strong data and collaborative capacity

# Macroeconomic & Social Trends Impacting Wichita Nonprofits

## Workforce Transition & Economic Mobility

- Manufacturing and aviation cycles create workforce instability
- Funders prioritize reskilling, credentialing, and job placement

## Housing Affordability

- Rising rents strain low-income households
- Homelessness prevention and stabilization are growing funding areas

## Health Disparities

- Persistent gaps in chronic disease outcomes
- Behavioral health demand continues to rise

## Youth & Education Gaps

- Opportunity gaps remain across neighborhoods
- Funders emphasize early intervention and career pathways

## Immigrant & Refugee Communities

- Growing immigrant population contributes to workforce and service demand
- Funders support culturally competent, community-led programs

# Best Practices for Competing in Wichita's Grant Landscape

## Demonstrate Economic Impact

- 1 Link programs to workforce participation and household stability.
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## Show Local Knowledge

- 2 Neighborhood-level understanding strengthens proposals.
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## Collaborate Across Sectors

- 3 Partnerships with employers, schools, and healthcare systems are valued.
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## Invest in Compliance & Data

- 4 Public funders expect strong financial controls and reporting.
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## Center Equity Practically

- 5 Equity must be reflected in outcomes and operations.
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## Communicate Learning

- 6 Funders value transparency and continuous improvement.
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## Maintain Community Presence

- 7 Participation in coalitions and planning processes matters.
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# Grant Readiness Checklist: Wichita Nonprofits

## Organizational Materials

- 501(c)(3) determination letter
- Kansas charitable registration
- Recent 990 or audited financials
- Board list with local representation
- Operating and program budgets

## Programmatic Materials

- Logic model or theory of change
- Evaluation plan and KPIs
- Participant stories tied to Wichita neighborhoods
- Local data demonstrating need

## Community Partnerships

- MOUs and letters of support
- Coalition participation
- Community input in program design

## Public Grant Compliance

- Familiarity with federal and state reporting
- Financial tracking and audit readiness

## Post-Award Management

- Outcome tracking tools
- Sustainability planning
- Regular funder communication

## Fundraising Relationship Building

- Attendance at funder briefings
- Proactive stewardship of funders
- Consistent impact storytelling

# Strategic Considerations for 2026

## Diversify Revenue Streams

Blend grants with individuals, corporate partners, and earned income

## Strengthen Infrastructure

Development, finance, and data capacity are critical

## Engage Regionally

County-wide collaboration improves competitiveness

## Advocate Thoughtfully

Policy alignment supports long-term funding

# Stability Through Strong Local Leadership

In 2026, Wichita nonprofits play a vital role in supporting families and stabilizing the local economy. Funders are seeking organizations that combine deep community trust, operational discipline, and collaborative leadership.

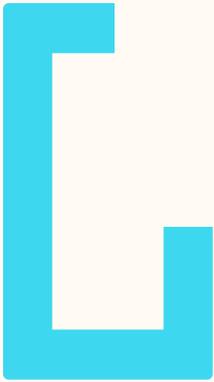
Organizations that invest in readiness, partnerships, and measurable outcomes will be best positioned to secure funding and scale impact across Wichita and Sedgwick County.

**Harness provides grant strategy, writing, and compliance support for nonprofits committed to sustainable growth in Wichita and across Kansas.**



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