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Non State Grant Application

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Non-State Grant Program Overview:

Welcome to the Grants for Local Projects program, a transformative initiative dedicated to supporting non-state organizations in their pursuit of construction projects with a statewide public purpose. We are excited to collaborate with you to create a positive impact in communities across Wisconsin.

Applications with supporting documentation are due October 31, 2025.

Program Details:

The program was established by 2025 Wisconsin Act 15, which provides:

Purpose: The program offers funding to non-state organizations for Capital Infrastructure projects that benefit the broader public.

Eligible Organizations: Entities eligible for grants are non-state organizations that are not a for-profit entity. Examples of eligible organizations include local governments and nonprofits.

Match Requirement: To be eligible for a grant, organizations must have funding in hand from nonstate revenue sources covering at least half of the total project cost at the time of application.

Accountability: As explained more fully below, the state will retain an ownership interest in the project equivalent to the grant amount to ensure it fulfills its public purpose. As such, if a grant-funded project deviates from its public purpose, the amount can be recouped. To implement this, the ownership interest will take the form of a warranty deed, and a 20-year land use restriction agreement (LURA) will be recorded with the county register of deeds.

The Department of Administration (DOA) will review applications and submit a recommended award package to the State Building Commission for its approval.

Due to anticipated high demand, project awards will be capped at \$2 million.

Upon award and a fully executed grant agreement and land use restriction agreement (LURA), the DOA will disburse the grant funds as reimbursements for eligible expenses associated with the project.

Scoring Process Overview:

The scoring process for this program has been designed to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with the program’s public purpose. After receiving all applications, a panel of professionals at DOA will follow a step-by-step process to evaluate each project in an effort to identify and fund the projects with the greatest positive impact in Wisconsin communities.

Step 1: Initial Eligibility Review

To be considered for a grant, applicants must provide documentation that they meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Applicant is not a for-profit entity.
2. Applicant has secured funding for at least 50 percent of the total project cost.
3. Applicant’s project is shovel ready (e.g., the project has completed plans and specifications by an architecture/engineering firm of record).

Step 2: Shovel Ready Review

All eligible applications that make it through the first round of screening will be reviewed to validate the shovel readiness of the project. The review will focus on determining if the project is, at the time of application, ready to begin construction/implementation. For example, a determination that a project is ready to begin construction/implementation could be based on the fact that the project has

completed plans and specifications by a registered Architect-Engineer with property secured and ready to build, or the project has already broken ground and is in construction. DOA has sole discretion to determine if documentation of shovel readiness on a project is sufficient. Projects that are deemed shovel ready move forward to the next round of review.

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Step 3: Categorization by Region and Project Type

All applications determined to be eligible and shovel ready will be categorized by region and by public purpose type as described below.

Public Purposes

When completing your application, you will be required to select ONE public purpose category from the list below. Applications will be scored against other applications in the same category. Your project may fall into multiple categories. You should select the category that best fits your project.

Health and Wellness

Projects in this category aim to improve or maintain Wisconsinites’ access to quality, affordable health care. Projects in this category can include projects that support the health care workforce or research related to health care.

Economic and Workforce Development

Projects in this category include projects that stimulate job growth and economic prosperity in Wisconsin. This encompasses initiatives to attract new businesses, expand existing businesses, invest in tourism-related endeavors, or provide workforce training and education. Education and child-care related projects would also fall in this category.

Public Services

Projects in this category support essential public infrastructure and services such as emergency response facilities, community centers, and public libraries. These projects aim to improve the safety, well-being, and social connectivity of Wisconsin’s residents.

Arts and Culture

Projects in this category enhance the arts, history, and humanities in Wisconsin. Examples of projects in this category include constructing or revitalizing museums, theaters, libraries, historic landmarks, and various cultural establishments.

Regions

Due to high demand for this program, applications will also be scored against other projects in the same region of the state. Funding is allocated regionally based on population to ensure all regions of the state receive funding. An additional benefit of the regional division is that applications for projects benefiting smaller communities will not have to compete on impact against projects in large population centers like Madison and Milwaukee.



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Step 4: Scoring

Eligible, shovel-ready projects will be scored within their category and region on six criteria. The scoring criteria are designed to assess the public purpose, need, impact, viability, organizational capacity, and local support of each project, ensuring that only the most robust and impactful projects move forward for funding consideration. The criteria are weighted equally in the scoring process.

Public Purpose

How well does the project align with the public purpose of the grant program?

Project Need

How effectively does the project address a specific, significant community need?

Project Impact

How meaningful and long-term is the project's impact on the community? Does it allow for the continuation of services or the addition of new services in the community?

Project Viability

Is the project likely to succeed beyond the grant period? Is there a plan for long-term success?

Organizational Capacity

Does the organization have the expertise and experience to execute the project?

Local Support

Does the project have strong local backing and endorsements?