

2025 Eau Claire Community Foundation Operations Grants

Eau Claire Community Foundation

Proposal Overview

ECCF's Operations grants support nonprofits through times of temporary financial stress due to organization transitions, unexpected revenue loss, or unusually high expenses. They're not intended to be ongoing sources of support, so if your request involves ongoing expenses (such as the hiring of new staff), please be clear about how these expenses will be met after the end of the grant period.

Request title*

Name the specific purpose of your Operations request (e.g., "To train a new Executive Director," "To cover lost revenue due to a cancelled fundraiser," etc.)

Character Limit: 250

Grant category*

*Select the ECCF granting category that best fits your organization's mission. Even if your work is relevant to multiple categories, **please check ONE!***

Choices

Create Culture (Visual and Performing Arts, Music, Museums, Literature)

Form Futures (Education, Training)

Give Green (Environment, Recreation, Animals)

Offer Opportunities (Social Services, Accessibility Needs, Programs for Elders, Veterans' Needs)

Grant Catalog Questions

Your responses to the following questions will be shared to our Grant Catalog, which allows holders of Donor Advised Funds to recommend grants to applications that they wish to support.

Fund holders will have access to the Grant Catalog during the grant review process. Any grants they recommend will be included in the final grant allocations approved by the ECCF Board of Trustees at their April meeting.

Grant Catalog Short Description*

Provide a brief description of the program for which you're seeking funding. Imagine that you're in an elevator with potential donors and have only a few seconds to capture their interest. Use wording that would pique the donors' interest in learning about your program.

Character Limit: 250

Grant Catalog Long Description*

This field allows you to provide a longer, more detailed description of your grant request. You don't need to use all 5000 available characters; just use whatever you need to give potential donors an understanding of your organization's funding needs and the benefits an Operations grant to it will create for the community.

Character Limit: 5000

Grant Catalog Amount Requested*

Character Limit: 20

Grant Catalog Contact Name*

Provide the name of the person at your organization who would be the best contact for questions regarding this application.

Character Limit: 200

Grant Catalog Contact Email*

Character Limit: 254

Grant Catalog Telephone Number (###-###-####)*

Character Limit: 25

Grant Catalog Organization Website*

Character Limit: 2000

Grant Catalog Image*

Upload your organization logo or a photo that represents your organization and/or request. This image will appear next to the short description of your application as Fund holders browse the Grant Catalog.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Request Information

Mission statement*

What is the mission statement of your organization?

Character Limit: 300

Target population*

Select all that apply to indicate which populations are directly impacted by your work.

Choices

Children (ages 0-12)

Youth/Teens (ages 13-18)

Adults (ages 19-64)
Seniors (ages 65+)
People with disabilities
Historically underrepresented and/or systemically marginalized groups
People with low or no income

Number served*

Estimate the number of individuals your organization serves during a typical year.

Character Limit: 10

Explanation*

Briefly explain how you arrived at this estimate.

Character Limit: 500

Percentage of Eau Claire County impact*

State the percentage of direct impact that your organization's work has in Eau Claire County.

IMPORTANT: To be considered for funding, at least 80% of this grant proposal's impact **MUST** be in Eau Claire County.

Character Limit: 10

Description of Eau Claire County impact*

What is your organization's impact on Eau Claire County, including its ability to address important community needs?

Character Limit: 1500

Work outside Eau Claire County

If your organization reaches people outside Eau Claire County, which other areas do you serve?

Character Limit: 250

Purpose of Operations request*

Select the choice that best describes your reason for requesting Operations funding at this time.

Choices

- To address a known or expected revenue shortfall
- To cover increased expenses related to capacity building
- To increase operating revenues to a sustainable level

Why did you select this choice?*

Character Limit: 500

Need for Operations funding*

What financial circumstances have led your organization to seek Operations funding? Use bullet points if necessary.

Character Limit: 1500

Impact of Operations funding*

How will the requested Operations funding help address these circumstances? Be specific about how the grant money would be used. Use bullet points if necessary.

Character Limit: 1500

Partial funding*

Can your organization accept partial funding from ECCF?

Choices

Yes

No

Funding priorities

If you responded "yes" to the partial funding question, please list your funding priorities so ECCF can try to fund the most important items even if it can't fund your entire request. Good contingency planning will NOT reduce your proposal's chances of being fully funded!

Character Limit: 500

Fundraising capacity*

How many staff positions (in FTEs) are dedicated to fundraising in your organization? For example, if only one staff person dedicates about 20% of their time to fundraising, your response would be .2 FTE. If you have a full-time development person and a director who dedicates a quarter of their time to fundraising, your response would be 1.25 FTE.

Character Limit: 10

Financial sustainability*

Describe your organization's plan for long-term financial sustainability. Include estimates for future annual income from grants, individual contributions, program service revenue like ticket sales or fee for service, investment income, and other sources. Use bullet points to enumerate each aspect of your plan.

Character Limit: 1500

Role of Operations funding in long-term financial sustainability*

Explain how the requested Operations funding would fit into your organization's plan for long-term financial sustainability. What would it allow you to do that you couldn't otherwise accomplish?

Character Limit: 1500

Indicate what percentage of your organization's annual budget revenue comes from the following sources:

Government and/or charitable grants

Character Limit: 10

Individual donations

Character Limit: 10

Program service revenue (ticket sales, fees, etc.)

Character Limit: 10

Investment income

Character Limit: 10

Other sources of income

Character Limit: 10

If you selected "Other," briefly describe your other revenue streams.

Character Limit: 250

Financial oversight*

How is the Board evaluating the financial health of your organization? What type of financial documents do they review, and how often?

Character Limit: 500

Operating reserve, endowment, or line of credit*

Does your organization have an operating reserve, endowment, and/or line of credit available?

Choices

Yes

No

If yes, how much money is available from these sources?

Character Limit: 20

Board policy

If yes, what policy has your organization's Board adopted regarding when and how the operating reserve, endowment fund, and/or line of credit can be used?

Character Limit: 500

What percentage of your previous year's actual expenses were spent on Program?*

Character Limit: 20

What percentage of your current year's budgeted expenses are allocated to Program?*

Character Limit: 20

Additional information (optional)

Include any other information concerning your organization that you'd like us to consider.

Character Limit: 1500

Additional Organization Information

Grant Period Eligibility*

I verify that the requested grant money will be used within the ECCF grant period (June 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026).

Choices

Yes

No

Application Eligibility*

I have read and understood the ECCF grant eligibility requirements (listed in the Grantmaking Guidelines document), and I verify that my organization and grant proposal meet all of these requirements.

Choices

Yes

No

Year of your organization's incorporation

Character Limit: 5

Is your organization's name the same as on the IRS letter provided in the File Uploads section?*

Check "no" if your organization is currently operating under a different name or if you're using a fiscal sponsor and providing that organization's tax-exempt information.

Choices

Yes

No

If your organization's name is NOT the same as on your provided IRS letter, please explain.

IMPORTANT: If you're using a fiscal sponsor, you MUST provide a letter of support from that organization in the File Uploads section.

Character Limit: 1000

Organization's fiscal year*

Character Limit: 100

Authorization by the organization's Executive Director or equivalent officer*

I certify that the information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that additional information may be required by ECCF to aid the Grants Committee in their review of this request, and I'm available to answer your questions.

NOTE: Applicants who answer "no" are NOT eligible for grant funding.

Choices

Yes

No

Previous ECCF Grants

Please list the date(s) and amount(s) of any previous Community or Women's Giving Circle grants your organization has received in the last three years.

Character Limit: 250

Required File Uploads

Thorough, detailed financial information is necessary in order to be considered for an Operations grant. Please ensure that you include all required information for each upload item.

You can email grants@eccfwi.org if you have any questions about the following required attachments.

Proof of Tax-Exempt Status*

Copy of tax exempt status letter from the IRS, Government Certificate of Exemption, or equivalent proof of tax-exempt status

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Budgets to Actuals*

Three years of organizational budget to actuals (current year-to-date, plus the previous two years). Separate documents need to be combined into one file for the upload. If your organization is less than three years old, send whatever budget information is available.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Year-to-date Financial Statements*

Your organization's most recent financial statements, including your balance sheet and statement of activities

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Board of Directors*

List of current Board of Directors or equivalent governing body members

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Letter of Support (required if you have a fiscal sponsor)

A letter of support for your request is required from your fiscal sponsor if you have one.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Organization logo*

Please upload your organization's logo.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

PLEASE NOTE: As part of our due diligence process, we will check the charitable status of your organization.