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515.883.2626

# 2021 Leadership Grants

The Community Foundation leadership grant program seeks to improve the quality of life in Central Iowa. As our community continues to contend with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, we have intentionally evolved our grantmaking priorities and cycles to provide more nimble funding, center grant awards around equity, and serve populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

## Current timeline:

- Grant Cycle 1: Letter of Intent due (Feb. 25 at noon), Finalists notified (March 4); Full application due (March 22 at 4pm); Grants approved (April 15)
- Grant Cycle 2: Letter of Intent due (April 14 at noon), Finalists notified (April 23); Full application due (May 17 at 4pm); Grants approved (June 17)

The Leadership Grant program awards grants to launch or scale up initiatives positioned to strengthen our community in seven key focus areas drawn from community priorities. We focus our grantmaking on organizations serving Greater Des Moines, and our Better Together philosophy embraces projects that leverage the strengths of diverse stakeholders.

## Characteristics of a well-aligned 2021 Leadership Grant project:

- Serves populations in Greater Des Moines that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Addresses one or more of the 2021 grantmaking priorities noting how the project utilizes equity-centered strategies for strengthening our community in a post-COVID era.
- Leverages other funders, partners, and/or stakeholders in a project that has broad community benefit.

Projects not eligible or competitive for the Leadership Grant program may be a better fit for our Capacity Building Grant program or as a funding need posted to our [GIVEdsm](#) platform. This might include:

- Ongoing annual operating and program expenses.
- Capital infrastructure projects (bricks and mortar) that do not have strong alignment to 2021 grantmaking priorities.
- Sectarian religious programs promoting a particular faith.

**Grant amounts:** Typically, Leadership Grants range from \$25,000 to \$250,000 although there is no formal minimum or maximum.

**Interested in applying?** Our goal is to help facilitate strong applications. For this reason, we require potential applicants to explore project alignment with a member of the Community Impact team. Please reach out to Bridgett Robinson, [robinson@desmoinesfoundation.org](mailto:robinson@desmoinesfoundation.org) to schedule a meeting.

Organizations will be asked to submit a letter of intent and finalists will be invited to complete an online application and present to the Grantmaking Committee.

## Letters should include:

- An executive summary of the project you are seeking funding to support. Elements of the narrative must include: Specific project goal, population served, project timeline, anticipated outcomes, and any collaborations/partnerships supporting the work.

- The 2021 grantmaking priority being addressed by your project noting how the project utilizes equity-centered strategies for strengthening our community in a post-COVID era. Please reflect on why your organization is uniquely positioned to address the issue.
- Budgetary information relevant to the project, noting any additional pending requests/award from other funders.
- Contact name, email and phone number for the staff person most appropriate for us to contact with any additional questions.

The grantmaking committee will review letters of intent and finalists will be provided additional details for the electronic application and login credentials to Manage My Grants.

**For more information on the Leadership Grant Process, please contact:**

Brianne Sanchez, Director of Nonprofit Relations | [sanchez@desmoinesfoundation.org](mailto:sanchez@desmoinesfoundation.org) or (515) 883-2629