

WEST CENTRAL INITIATIVE COMMUNITY CHANGE MAKERS GRANT PROGRAM

The Community Change Makers Grant Program aims to help west central Minnesota communities become more socially-connected, equitable, hopeful and empowered. The program does this in one of two ways:

- 1) by funding participatory efforts that bring people of diverse perspectives together to plan and/or act to improve their community; or
- 2) by funding locally-delivered technical assistance or training that builds a diverse base of community leaders or improves the ability of nonprofits to raise local dollars to address a high-priority community need.

The ideal project will engage residents, contribute to social cohesion and implement strategies that strengthen the communities of west central Minnesota. Because this is a new grant program, it is subject to revision and improvement. To assure you have the most up-to-date material, check the expiration date on the bottom of this page.

ELIGIBILITY

Grant applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits, school districts, or local units of government that serve the people and communities in Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and/or Wilkin counties. Individuals are not eligible to apply for grant funds.

AWARD AMOUNT AND MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Change Maker grants will seldom exceed \$5,000. Generally, the grant will fund 50 percent or less of the total project budget. Priority consideration will be given to projects that have already secured local financial support.

GRANT PRIORITIES

Change Maker grants support projects that address at least one of the following priorities:

- Help communities to become more welcoming of new residents and more adept at engaging with diverse populations.
- Involve a broad range of residents in a planning process that addresses a critical community issue and results in a plan for positive change.
 - Efforts that result in a community action plan focused on affordable housing or the development of high-quality child care will receive special consideration.
- Engage a broad range of residents and organizations in implementing a plan that has resulted from community planning process and engaged a variety of community members.
- Experiment with new approaches to identifying and supporting community leaders to broaden engagement in civic life.
- Through technical assistance or training, strengthen the ongoing ability of west central Minnesota nonprofits to secure more local investment for a high-priority community need.

The listed priorities may be changed by WCI to reflect what was learned during the previous grant round. To make sure you have the most current listing of grant priorities, check to see that the expiration date on the bottom of this page has not passed.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The criteria that will be used as a basis for funding decisions are listed below.

- **Priority Fit:** The project clearly addresses at least one of the listed priorities of the Community Change Makers Grant Program.
- **Program Fit:** The project is a clear fit for the Change Makers Program. The applicant has provided a convincing case that their project will make the proper use of WCI's funding and will help their community become more connected, equitable, hopeful and empowered.
- **Work Plan:** The proposal plainly describes the need for the project and the action steps to be taken. Sufficient time and personnel have been allocated to execute the activities described in the proposal.
- **Budget:** The budget is reasonable and adds up. Sufficient detail is provided regarding use of funds.
- **Evaluation:** The applicant clearly communicates what project success will look like and how impact will be measured.

Funding decisions may be influenced by West Central Initiative's commitment to achieving equitable distribution of grant funds across the nine counties we serve.

2018 - 2019 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Community Change Maker grants are awarded three times a year through a competitive review process.

Proposal Due Dates
Friday, July 6, 2018
Friday, November 9, 2018
Friday, March 8, 2019

The length of review time for funding decisions will vary with the number of applications received. WCI will contact applicants to let them know when to expect a funding decision within six weeks of the proposal due date.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please complete the attached form. If the expiration date at the bottom of this page has passed, please contact Wendy Merrick for the current form. Call us at 1-800-735-2239 or send an e-mail to wendy@wcif.org with any questions about this application.

Send or e-mail the completed application to Wendy Merrick, wendy@wcif.org, West Central Initiative, PO Box 318, Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0318.

Expires 07/06/2018

**West Central Initiative
46 COMMUNITY CHANGE MAKER GRANT APPLICATION**

APPLICANT

Organization name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Telephone:

Contact person:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Type of organization: 501(c)(3) Unit of Government Other (specify) _____

Applicant's federal tax identification number:

FISCAL AGENT

This section should be completed only if the applicant organization is not a 501(c)(3) or governmental agency and therefore not eligible to receive grant funds directly from WCI.

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Contact person:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

Fiscal agent's federal tax identification number:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Project

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$

Cash requested of WCI \$

Cash match \$

In-kind match \$

Project Period

From:

To:

Number of organizations participating in or benefiting from this project:

Number of participants expected to be involved in this project:

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information contained in this grant application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have the authority to apply for the funds requested:

Signature:

Title:

Date:

While you may use a different form for communicating the proposed budget, it is important that the format include both cash and in-kind costs and sources of funds.

PROPOSED BUDGET

ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS	CASH REQUESTED OF WCI	CASH FROM APPLICANT & OTHER SOURCES	IN-KIND FROM APPLICANT & OTHER SOURCES	TOTAL PROJECT
Salaries and benefits				
Consulting fees				
Meeting expenses				
Travel for participants				
Travel for staff/consultants				
Communications (postage, printing, telephone, etc.)				
Supplies				
Other: (List)				
Other: (List)				
Other: (List)				
TOTAL COSTS				
SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR PROJECT	CASH PROVIDED BY EACH SOURCE		IN-KIND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY EACH SOURCE	TOTAL PROVIDED BY EACH SOURCE
Request of WCI				
Applicant				
Other: (List here)				
Other: (List here)				
Other: (List here)				
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS				

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

At this point, please insert your program narrative.

Your program narrative must be provided in size 12 font and may not be more than 4 double-spaced, single-sided pages in length.

Do not include any hyperlinks in your narrative or provide any attachments.

You must address the following seven (7) questions in your narrative.

PROJECT NEED AND PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

1. Why is the proposed project needed?
2. How will the proposed project address the need?
3. What are the project action steps and by what date will each step be completed?

PROJECT PLANNING AND NETWORKING

4. How has the community been involved in identifying the need for this project and in developing the action plan?
5. How will this project help your community become more socially-connected, equitable, hopeful and empowered?

FINANCIAL NEED AND RESOURCES

6. How will the funds requested from WCI be used?

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

7. What measures will you track and report back to West Central Initiative to demonstrate that this project has had a positive impact?