

Grantmaking Reimagined From Proposal to Impact

For more than 50 years, Bridge Builders Community Foundations has had the privilege of stewarding a legacy of generosity through scholarships, grants, and strategic charitable investments that strengthen our region today and for generations to come.

As our grantmaking continues to evolve, we seek opportunities to refine the grant application process for our nonprofit partners. Our new process reflects this commitment through a redesigned approach that streamlines the application experience while ensuring our investments remain strategic, transparent, and focused on achieving lasting community impact.

1. Request for Proposals (RFPs)

BBCF publishes funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, application timelines, and funding priorities for the upcoming grant cycle.

2. Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

Applicants submit a brief Letter of Intent and basic organizational information outlining the proposed project, community need, and anticipated impact.

4. Full Proposal Submission

Invited applicants provide detailed information about their organization, project, budget, anticipated outcomes, and evaluation plan.

3. Invitations Issued

Following review of all Letters of Intent, BBCF will invite select organizations to submit a full grant proposal.

5. Applicant Interviews / Site Visits

Depending on the grant opportunity, BBCF may schedule interviews or site visits with selected applicants to better understand the proposed project, answer questions, and learn more about the organization's work within the community.

6. Grant Awards

Funding decisions are finalized, and successful applicants are notified and awarded grants.

7. Final Reporting

Following the award process, grant recipients submit a report outlining project outcomes, measurable impact, and how grant funds advanced the proposed initiative.

FAQs:

Q: Can our organization submit more than one application during a grant cycle?

A: Yes. Organizations are welcome to submit multiple Letters of Intent for different projects or funding opportunities, provided each proposal aligns with the eligibility requirements and priorities outlined in the applicable Request for Proposals (RFP).

Q: Will this new process make the grant application timeline longer?

A: While the process includes additional stages of review, BBCF has designed the new process to be a more efficient and intentional experience for applicants. By introducing a Letter of Intent as the initial step, only selected organizations will be invited to complete a full proposal, allowing both applicants and BBCF to focus time and resources where there is the strongest alignment with funding priorities.

Q: What information will organizations need to provide in the Letter of Intent (LOI)?

A: Each Letter of Intent will include basic organizational information, a description of the proposed project, the community need being addressed, and the anticipated impact of the project. Additional requirements will be outlined in each Request for Proposal.

We look forward to launching this new approach to grantmaking and continuing to partner with organizations that are creating meaningful and lasting change throughout the communities we serve.

If you have questions about the new grantmaking process, please contact our office at (814) 677-8687.