



\$5 Million

LOVE *Where You*
LIVE!



Lake County's Community Foundation

GRANT OVERVIEW WEBINAR



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Mission Statement

Transforming Lake County by providing strategic leadership and impactful philanthropic support to ensure equitable opportunity for all communities that we serve.



Work with donors to help them reach their charitable giving goals.



Provide Lake County serving organizations capacity building resources via grants, partnerships, and learning lab
Awarded almost \$5.9 Million in 2025



Provide Lake County high school seniors and college students scholarship opportunities.
Awarded over \$1.5 Million in 2025



Engage with residents and small businesses to strengthen community, sense of belonging and resources.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE GRANT OVERVIEW

- Transform shared spaces into vibrant community assets that reflect the voices, identity, and aspirations of Lake County residents.
- Projects should create spaces that invite people to gather, interact, and experience community life together.
- Program is designed to fund projects that show clear community benefit, project readiness, organizational capacity, and a plan for long-term maintenance and use.
- Projects must be located in Lake County, Indiana.
- Funds must be spent and proposed project completed by November 1, 2028.



PROGRAM GOALS

- Increase equitable access to high-quality public spaces
- Empower communities to shape and activate the places they gather
- Support investments that transform shared spaces reflective of the voices and identity of Lake County residents
- Enhance community connection and civic life
- Improve accessibility and universal design in public spaces
- Transform vacant or underutilized areas into vibrant community assets



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE GRANT

AWARD AMOUNTS

Awards will range from \$100,000 - \$1,000,000 with the following estimated award breakdown.

Approximately
5 to 7 projects
ranging from
\$100,000 to \$500,000

Approximately
3 to 4 projects
ranging from
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000

- Awards are intended to support projects at the full request amount.
 - In rare cases, adjustments may be made through partial awards when appropriate.
- Matching funds are not required, but additional committed resources may strengthen a proposal.
- Payments to awarded organizations will be distributed according to a pre-determined schedule established at the time of the grant agreement.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE GRANT

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- 501(C)3 nonprofit organizations
- 501(C)4 nonprofit organizations
- Municipal or local government entities
- Parks departments, libraries, or public agencies
- Collaborative partnerships led by an eligible nonprofit or public entity

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- Applicants must serve Lake County, Indiana
 - Applicants may only submit one proposal
 - Partnerships with local residents, artists, businesses, and community groups are encouraged in project design and implementation



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Projects should activate public spaces or create community places where people gather and spend time
- Projects can include creating or upgrading spaces
- Projects must be located in Lake County, Indiana
- Public spaces may NOT require a membership fee or paid subscription for individuals to access or participate in the primary public space

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Exceptions may be considered for vendors, events, or specific activities within the space that may include associated fees, the overall space must remain open and accessible to the broader community.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

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- Projects can include creating or upgrading spaces
- Projects must be located in Lake County, Indiana

Examples of eligible projects:

- Public space development, including downtown plazas, or neighborhood hubs
- Park enhancements, including creating or upgrading parks, community gardens, green spaces, multi-purpose sporting, and outdoor gathering areas
- Outdoor performance spaces, including bandshells, amphitheaters, or multi-use platforms
- Recreation amenities, by creating or upgrading public recreation spaces, including indoor and outdoor venues
- Indoor or outdoor public market spaces, through the development of permanent spaces that support local vendors, food access, and community gathering

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Funds may be used to support costs directly associated with the planning, development, construction, and activation of public spaces.

Eligible expenses may include:

Planning & Project Development:

- Site assessment
- Community engagement
- Professional services (engineering, architecture, etc.)
- Permitting and regulatory approvals

Construction & Capital Improvements:

- Construction, renovation, or rehab of public spaces
- Site prep and infrastructure improvements
- ADA improvements
- Utilities, lighting, landscaping, and hardscape
- Permanent structures (plazas, pavilions, market stalls, etc.)

Placemaking & Public Space Enhancements:

- Public art installations or cultural design elements
- Wayfinding signage, lighting, and other placemaking features
- Site furnishings (benches, bike racks, planters, shade structures, etc.)

Implementation & Admin Costs:

- **Project management and coordination**
- **Staff time related to project planning/implementation**
- **Administrative/overhead costs associated with implementing the project**
- **Administrative and staff expenses may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.**

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Ongoing programmatic activities or recurring program costs unrelated to the physical space
- Recurring event series



Funds may be used to launch and engage the community. Ongoing programming or operations should demonstrate how those costs will be sustained through other funding sources.

- Maintenance projects or expenses
- General organizational operating expenses not directly tied to the project
- Property acquisition or land purchase (unless otherwise approved by the foundation)
- Debt repayment or refinancing of existing obligations
- Expenses incurred prior to grant approval
- Lobbying or political activities
- Endowments or reserve funds

APPLICATION PROCESS



ROUND 1 | PROPOSAL

Deadline to submit:
Sunday, June 7, 2026
5:00 PM Central

Notification date:
Tuesday, July 7, 2026



ROUND 2 (INVITATION ONLY) | FULL APPLICATION

Application opens:
Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Deadline to submit:
Saturday, September 5, 2026
5:00 PM Central

Notification date:
Tuesday, October 20, 2026

All applications must be submitted through Legacy's online grant portal.

If your organization has not previously applied for a Legacy Foundation grant, an account will need to be created.

Legacyfdn.org



PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Character limits range from
1,500 - 3,000 per question.

Proposal application questions include:

- **Project Location:** Physical address of the proposed project



If not the land owner, describe land use agreement in place

- **Grant Request:** Amount being requested for proposed project



Request amounts should be necessary, realistic, feasible, and aligned with full scope of work.

- **Total Project Cost:** Only include actual cash expenditures, not in-kind contributions
- **Project Description:** Summary of proposed project, including major components, intended users, how the space will function, and how project meets program goals and eligibility criteria.
- **Lead Applicant Background and Capacity:** Organization structure to demonstrate program eligibility, applicant's ability to manage the grant and complete the project, organization leaders responsible for delivering the project, and identification of partners.



PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Character limits range from
1,500 - 3,000 per question.

Proposal application questions include:

- **Budget Narrative:** Describe how grant funds will be used and identify additional or anticipated funding sources or leveraged resources, if applicable.
 - **\$** If available, attach a line-item budget and/or cost estimate documentation within the 'Proposal Uploads' section. A line-item budget will be required for projects invited to submit a Full Application.
- **Community Impact:** Describe the community need or opportunity the project addresses, the intended public benefit, and any community input, partnerships, stakeholder engagement, or local support that has informed, or will inform, the project.
- **Project Status, Readiness, and Feasibility:** Summary of the current status of the project, including the status of architecture or engineering plans, identification and status of permits required, and the status of site control for the project.



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- **Project Status, Readiness, and Feasibility:** Summary of the current status of the project, including the status of architecture or engineering plans, identification and status of permits required, and the status of site control for the project.

 The status update should demonstrate the ability to meet the grant expenditure deadline of November 1, 2028.



PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Character limits range from
1,500 - 3,000 per question.

Proposal application questions include:

- **Activation and Public Access:** Explain how the project will activate a public space and ensure that the space remains accessible to the broader community.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Briefly explain how the space will be maintained and stewarded over time.
- **Recognition of Support:** Identify how your organization will acknowledge Legacy Foundation's support, including planned communications, visibility, branding, or naming opportunities associated with this project.
- **Project Timeline:** Outline when project will be implemented, highlighting key milestones.



PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Proposal application questions include:

- **Project Uploads:** Attach any relevant information that would help us evaluate your proposal, including:
 - ✓ Line-item budgets
 - ✓ Preliminary cost estimates
 - ✓ Renderings
 - ✓ Existing site pictures
 - ✓ Engineering design plans
 - ✓ Site development plans
- **Organization Upload:** Board of Directors or governing body list



Deadline to submit:
Sunday, June 7, 2026
5:00 PM Central

Notification date:
Tuesday, July 7, 2026



Lake County's Community Foundation

FULL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Full Application may include:

- Detailed project budget and timeline
- Documentation of committed funding or other resources
- Evidence of site control
- Status of design, engineering, or other predevelopment work
- Organizational, financial, and prior grant experience materials
- Other supporting documentation required within Request for Full Application
- Interview with grants committee

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Priority will be given to projects that show strength in the following areas:

Community impact and public benefit: project creates meaningful, visible, and lasting benefit for Lake County residents and strengthens community connection, civic life, and sense of place.

Community involvement and support: project reflects meaningful community engagement, local input, and demonstrated support from residents, partners, or stakeholders. The availability of matching funds or other committed project resources will also serve as a strong indicator of broader support and investment in the project.

Project feasibility and readiness: project is realistic, well-defined, and supported by an achievable scope, budget, timeline, and implementation plan.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Priority will be given to projects that show strength in the following areas:

Organizational capacity and stewardship: applicant has the experience, staffing, partnerships, and financial capacity to manage the grant and successfully complete the project.

Activation of Space: project demonstrates either the activation of a new or distressed public space, or improved accessibility or usability of an existing public space.

Long-term sustainability: project will remain accessible, well-maintained, and actively used over time, with a clear plan for ongoing stewardship and community benefit.





GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT

Applicants may request between \$100,000 - \$1,000,000.

Organizations should ensure that their request amount is

- realistic
- feasible
- aligned with the full scope of work they can successfully implement

Proposals with

- inflated budgets
- unsupported cost estimates
- expenses that are not clearly justified or essential to the project

may be viewed less favorably during the review process

ONGOING PARTNERSHIP & PROJECT SUPPORT

- Legacy Foundation staff will remain actively engaged throughout each project to support successful implementation and long-term impact.
- Foundation staff will maintain regular communication with grantees to provide guidance, answer questions, and help address challenges as they arise.
- Scheduled check-ins and occasional site visits will create opportunities to celebrate progress, strengthen relationships, and better understand project needs and successes.
- Grantees will provide periodic progress updates aligned with Legacy Foundation's reporting requirements to the Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- Projects will be supported through shared milestones, timelines, and deliverables to help keep implementation moving forward and ensure alignment with the approved project goals.



APPLICATION REVIEW & IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



Activity	Approximate Date
Proposal Due	Sunday, June 7, 2026 5:00 PM Central
Finalists Notified & Full Application Period Opens	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Full Application Due	Saturday, September 5, 2026 5 PM Central
Recipients Notified & Grant Agreements Sent	Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Final Day to Submit Signed Grant Agreements	Thursday, November 19, 2026
Project Completion Deadline	Wednesday, November 1, 2028