



## Community Economic Development Grant Guidelines

The DeKalb County Community Foundation partnered with DeKalb County Government, the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation, the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies in 2016 to create an economic development vision framework and establish county-wide priorities for the next five years. As a result, the Community Foundation developed the Community Economic Development Grant Program to provide funding support for communities in DeKalb County to create a unique economic development plan and/or to implement priority projects consistent with a community's existing economic development plan.

The objective of the Community Economic Development Grant Program is to incentivize and support municipalities and unincorporated communities in DeKalb County to

- organize and take action toward unique economic development opportunities
- experience tangible economic progress by financially supporting data gathering/planning and/or implementation projects connected to a community's current planning process.

Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to reference and include recommendations from the [2016 DeKalb County Thriving Vision document](#) as appropriate to develop and implement community economic development plans.

### Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

- *Purpose:* Grants are intended for the following purposes:
  - Planning for community economic development
  - Implementing projects associated with a current adopted community economic development plan
- *Eligible Communities:* Each of the 15 distinct communities within DeKalb County including Sandwich, Somonauk, Lee, Hinckley, Waterman, Shabbona, Maple Park, Cortland, DeKalb, Malta, Sycamore, Kirkland, Kingston, and Genoa are eligible. Unincorporated communities and DeKalb County government are also eligible to apply.

- *Eligible Applicants:* Applicants must be either a municipality, an unincorporated community, an organization working in partnership with the community or municipality, or the county government. Applicants must be able to provide evidence of support for the application from the community. Examples of support include: meeting minutes, resolutions by a governing board, and letters of support from collaborating partners.
- *Grant Size:* Each community is limited to a total of \$20,000 over the life of the Community Economic Development Grant Program (estimated to be in place through 2019). Grants may be used toward one or more planning and/or implementation projects.
- *Matching Requirements:* Eligible applicants should provide a minimum of 10% of the total project budget in cash matching funds. The 10% match should not be in-kind, but all in-kind support should be included and described in the budget accompanying the grant request.
- *Qualifications:*
  - Planning Grant requests should include plans to work with a reputable or acknowledged economic planning organization, such as NIU's Center for Governmental Studies.
  - Implementation Grant requests should include a copy of the current economic development plan on which the implementation grant request is based.
- *Application Deadlines:* Applications are reviewed quarterly with deadlines of: February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1
- *Grant Completion and Reporting:* Grantees will be expected to complete the economic development plan or implement the proposed project and complete a Grant Report online within one year. Grantees may be asked to share results of their program as part of a presentation to benefit participating and interested municipalities.

### **How to Apply:**

Applications are available online at the DeKalb County Community Foundation website: [www.dekalbccf.org](http://www.dekalbccf.org). Contact Anita Zurbrugg, [anita@dekalbccf.org](mailto:anita@dekalbccf.org) or 815-748-5383 for more information.