



DEKALB COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Community Economic Development Grant Guidelines Implementation Grants

In 2016, 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 to create an economic development vision framework and establish county-wide priorities for the next five years. As a result, the Community Foundation developed and committed \$300,000 for 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 DeKalb County Community Foundation continues to be committed to supporting economic development throughout DeKalb County. In an effort to steward the initial financial commitment and incentivize communities to continue to implement their economic development plans, the Community Foundation is pleased to offer Community Economic Development Implementation Project Grants to communities through a grant program.

The objective of the Community Economic Development Implementation Grant Program is to incentivize and support municipalities and 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.

Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

- *Purpose:* Grants are intended for the following purposes:
 - Implementing projects associated with a current adopted community economic development plan or to support additional economic development planning
- *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. The DeKalb County government is also eligible to apply.

- *Eligible Applicants:* Applicants must be either a municipality, an organization working in partnership with the community or municipality, or the county government. Applicants must be able to provide evidence of support and connection to the finalized economic development plan in the application from the community. Examples of support include: project reference in the economic development plan, meeting minutes, resolutions by a governing board, and letters of support from collaborating partners.
- *Grant Size:* Each community is limited to a grant total of \$20,000 over the life of the Community Economic Development Implementation Grant Program (estimated to be in place through 2024). Grants may be used toward one or more implementation projects.
- *Matching Requirements:* Eligible applicants should provide a minimum of 10% of the total requested amount 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:*
 - 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 through 2024 with deadlines of: February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1.
- *Grant Completion and Reporting:* Grantees will be expected to complete the economic development implementation 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: dekalbccf.org/community-economic-development-grants. Contact Teri Spartz, t.spartz@dekalbccf.org or 815-748-5383 for more information.