

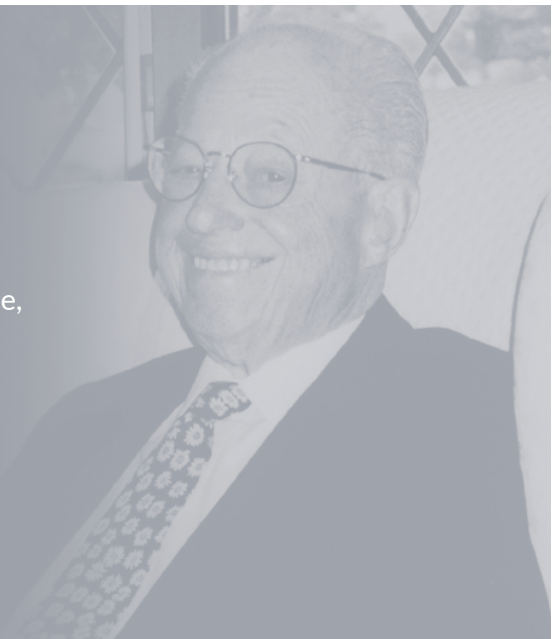


2025 Grant Application Guidelines

At the Dunham Foundation, we strive to honor John C. Dunham’s vision for building a healthy, thriving community with our grantmaking program. We encourage nonprofit organizations who are dedicated to our community and located within our Service Area to apply for grant funding. This document is created to help navigate the application process.

Our Mission

The mission of the Dunham Foundation is to honor the legacy of John C. Dunham. In that spirit, the Foundation supports organizations that work to make the world a more comfortable, safer place for mankind to live and prosper, giving special consideration to Aurora area organizations engaged in providing education and to organizations engaged in assisting individuals to attain heights they may not have attained without the benefit of such assistance.



The Legacy Continues

Today, the Dunham Foundation Board of Directors honors John C. Dunham’s charitable wishes through grantmaking programs that celebrate Education, Economic Growth, and Community in the Aurora area. The Board of Directors has established grant evaluation criteria that are unique to the Foundation. Those grant proposals that closely adhere to the Dunham Foundation’s grantmaking areas of interest and application criteria are most likely to be considered for and receive funding.



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Applying for a Grant

All applicants for a Dunham Foundation grant **must** complete an online application. It is strongly recommended that the grant applicant review this guide and contact the Dunham Foundation's Program Director at info@dunhamfoundation.org before beginning the online application process at www.dunhamfoundation.org. The guide contains some helpful information about the Foundation's grantmaking goals and funding priorities and should facilitate the preparation of materials and gathering of data for online entry.

Grantmaking Goal

The Dunham Foundation's primary grantmaking goal is to measurably and permanently impact the Dunham Foundation Service Area through support of programs in the areas of Education, Economic Growth, and Community. These programs and projects must be innovative, collaborative and potentially self-sustaining, while being purposefully designed to effect positive change through close alignment with the missions of the grant-seeking organization and the Dunham Foundation.

The Dunham Foundation Board of Directors do not advocate that the Foundation become a permanent source of funding for a program and encourage organizations through challenge grants and matching funds to seek program sustainability from other sources.

Areas of Interest



EDUCATION

We believe that access to strong early care and educational opportunities is the foundation for a child's success in school and in life.

Strategy: IF we invest in high-quality support for children from birth through age eight, THEN they will have the necessary foundation to be reading at grade level by the time they reach the third grade.

The first eight years of a child's life play a significant role in guiding their success in school and beyond. It is critical to take a holistic approach to a child's wellbeing by focusing on programs and initiatives that support their long-term development and success; and ensures that they are healthy, safe and engaged.

When a child's early experiences and educational opportunities positively contribute to their lifetime success, the community as a whole benefits for generations.

Our Goals: Our long-term goal for our education initiatives is to increase the number of children in the Dunham Foundation Service Area that are reading at grade level by the third grade.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

We believe that by investing in people's skill sets and stimulating economic opportunity, we can foster a strong community.

Strategy: IF we invest in high-quality programs and resources to develop strong skills and training in the workforce, THEN individuals will be able to build and cultivate skills and maximize economic growth to become prosperous members of our community that support a vibrant economy.

As the skills gap widens for youth struggling to enter the workforce and for workers who have lost their jobs and need to learn new skills, employers are in great need of qualified workers to meet the unique demands of the ever-changing workforce.

All individuals need access to programs and resources that build and strengthen their technical, analytical, social, and communication skills as well as their knowledge, in order to maximize economic opportunities. By investing in these programs and resources, we can advance equitable access to quality education and employment for young people and adults throughout our Service Area.

Our Goals: Individuals in the Dunham Foundation Service Area have access to training and support that allows them to enter into a career that they are passionate about and that provides them a living wage and a promise of a fulfilling future for them and their families.

Individuals, nonprofits, and local business owners in the Dunham Foundation Service Area have access to high-quality opportunities and experiences that support their economic growth, leading to stronger, more equitable outcomes for our community.



COMMUNITY

We believe in building and maintaining a vibrant community where people have equitable access to healthcare, cultural, and economic opportunities as well as human services so that all of our neighbors can succeed and thrive.

Strategy: IF we invest in nonprofits and programs that address critical community issues, THEN we can improve access to high quality healthcare, human services, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Our support of nonprofit organizations through grants and professional development helps to ensure that local agencies are financially stable and effective so that they can provide the highest quality services to those in our community.

It is essential that all of our neighbors in need have access to the finest community-based services and opportunities in order to help them reach their full potential.

Our Goals: Nonprofits in the Dunham Foundation Service Area have the tools necessary to maintain fiscal and organizational health, and build effective partnerships to maximize resources so that they can best serve our most vulnerable neighbors.

All individuals in the Dunham Foundation Service Area have access to equitable opportunities to grow and thrive regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.

Service Area

Preference is given to grant applicant organizations located within the Dunham Foundation Service Area ([See map here](#)). Organizations outside the Service Area may apply for grants, but proposed projects must demonstrate a significant impact in the Service Area. The Dunham Foundation Service Area is defined in the John C. Dunham Trust Agreement as the area in Illinois lying within Kane, DuPage and Kendall Counties that is bounded on the north by Illinois Route 38, on the east by Illinois Route 59, on the south by U.S. Route 34 and on the west by Illinois Route 47, hereinafter referred to as the “Aurora area”.

Online Grant Process: Requests that exceed \$50,000

We accept Letter of Intent (LOIs) with online submission deadlines of **February 1st** (Cycle 1) and **June 1st** (Cycle 2) for grant requests that exceed \$50,000.

Please review the application process information below and contact the Dunham Foundation’s Program Director, with any questions. Email: info@dunhamfoundation.org



STEP 1: ASSESS ELIGIBILITY AND FIT

Organizations seeking Dunham Foundation support must meet the following criteria:

- Be tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code or have a fiscal sponsor that has a 501(c)(3) status.
- Engage in work that aligns with the Dunham Foundation’s mission and priority areas.
- Provide services in the Dunham Foundation Service Area ([See map here](#)).

STEP 2: LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

If an organization’s request is more than \$50,000, a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to be considered by the Board of Directors to submit a full proposal. Sign into the Dunham Foundation’s online portal to complete the LOI application. Deadlines to submit an LOI are **February 1st** (Cycle 1) and **June 1st** (Cycle 2). If the deadline falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the LOI is due the following Monday by 5:00 p.m. LOIs will be reviewed by the Dunham Foundation’s Board of Directors.

STEP 3: GRANT PROPOSAL

Following the LOI submission, organizations will be notified if they have been invited to submit a full proposal. Directions for submitting the full proposal will be sent in the proposal invitation.

STEP 4: GRANT AWARDED

If your grant is approved by the Dunham Foundation's Board of Directors, you will be notified by the Program Director and receive an award letter and grant agreement. This grant agreement must be signed prior to receiving the awarded funds.

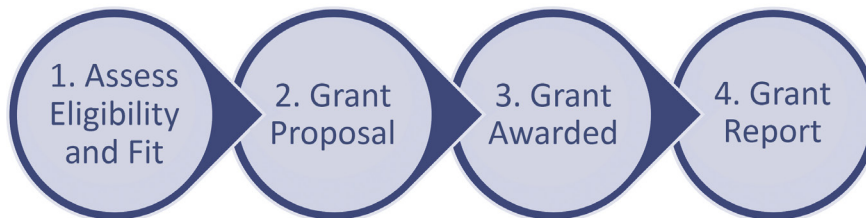
STEP 5: GRANT REPORT

At the conclusion of the grant, funded organizations will be expected to submit a financial and program report. Specific information regarding reporting requirements will be outlined through the submission process and in the grant agreements.

Requests that are \$50,000 or less

We accept grant requests through online submissions on a rolling basis during the calendar year for grant requests that are \$50,000 or less. October 1st is the final day to submit applications for that year. Please note that letters and emails sent directly to the Dunham Foundation requesting support for programming or sponsorships will no longer be accepted.

Please review the application process information below and contact the Dunham Foundation's Program Director, with any questions. Email: info@dunhamfoundation.org



STEP 1: ASSESS ELIGIBILITY AND FIT

Organizations seeking Dunham Foundation support must meet the following criteria:

- Be a tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code or have a fiscal sponsor that has a 501(c)(3) status.
- Engage in work that aligns with the Dunham Foundation's mission and priority areas.
- Provide services in the Dunham Foundation Service Area ([See map here](#)).

STEP 2: GRANT PROPOSAL

If an organization's request is \$50,000 or less, an application must be submitted through the Dunham Foundation's online portal.

STEP 3: GRANT AWARDED

If your grant is approved by the Dunham Foundation's Board of Directors, you will be notified by the Program Director and receive an award letter and grant agreement. This grant agreement must be signed prior to receiving the awarded funds.

STEP 4: GRANT REPORT

At the conclusion of the grant, funded organizations will be expected to submit a financial and program report. Specific information regarding reporting requirements will be outlined through the submission process and in the grant agreements.

Restrictions and Clarifications

- The Dunham Foundation encourages the participation of others in funding projects, and often provides matching funds and challenge grants in an attempt to encourage funding response from other sources.
- Grants from the Dunham Foundation are generally **NOT** made:
 - a. For organizations not based or having substantial operations in the State of Illinois.
 - b. To organizations that are not current with federal, state and local regulatory obligations.
 - c. For programs and projects that don't significantly impact the Dunham Foundation Service Area. Example: At least 25% of the organization's participants in the proposed Dunham Foundation grant program or project must reside or receive services in the Foundation's Service Area or a capital project must substantially benefit the Service Area.
 - d. For projects that duplicate existing services.
 - e. For any purpose that discriminates as to race, creed, sex, or ethnic group.
 - f. To fund contingency funds, reserves or endowments.
 - g. Ongoing, permanent funding for existing programs, or programs previously funded by the Dunham Foundation.
 - h. To fund religious organizations or governmental entities.
 - i. For the payment of interest or taxes.
 - j. To cover deficit spending or a shortfall in other funding sources.
 - k. For obligations previously incurred.
 - l. To purchase benefit tickets, respond to telephone solicitation or national fundraising efforts.

Tips for a Successful Grant Application

- Before submitting a grant application to the Dunham Foundation, you are encouraged to contact the Program Director to establish eligibility and to discuss your proposed project before completing an application. It can be most helpful to both organizations if your request is previewed before completing the online application.
- Have your organization's Tax ID number available to gain access to the application.
- The application can be revised and saved as many times as needed until the applicant is satisfied with the application and submits the final version for consideration by the Dunham Foundation Board of Directors. It is highly recommended to keep a draft of your application in Word to avoid losing information in the grant portal.
- Carefully review additional information provided in the application to help you answer each of the questions more effectively. You will note that some questions limit the answers to a specific word count.
- The online Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by **February 1st** or **June 1st** for the first and second grant cycles, respectively. If the deadline falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the LOI is due the following Monday by 5:00 p.m. [See information on page 5.](#)
- Regardless of the outcome for all grants that exceed \$50,000, all applicants will receive notification regarding the status of their request by **June 30th** (Cycle 1) or **October 30th**(Cycle 2).
- Applicants with a request of \$50,000 or less may submit an application at any time throughout the year between January 1st and October 1st.

About the Online Grant Application

LOGIN

Once you have accessed the online application at www.dunhamfoundation.org you will be asked to click on “New Applicant?” and then prompted to enter your email address and establish a password (at least five characters, including letters and numbers). You will also be asked to enter your organization’s Tax ID number.

Once you have logged in as a new applicant on the Dunham Foundation grant portal and have answered the preliminary eligibility questions, you will be sent an email indicating that your application account has been created and that you may log in at anytime using your email and password.

Automated emails related to grant applications will come from the Dunham Foundation: mail@givingdata.com. It is recommended that you add mail@givingdata.com to the safe senders list in your mailbox to ensure that you receive all system communications. Do not reply to this email – if you have any questions please reach out to the Dunham Foundation at info@dunhamfoundation.org.

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

This introductory section includes helpful information about grant deadlines and the online application.

SECTION TWO: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

You will be asked to enter the following information:

General Information

- Legal name of your organization
- Organization name
- Tax ID
- Tax status (select one)
- Address, city, state, zip code
- Phone and fax numbers
- Web Address (if applicable)

Background Information

- Mission and Vision
- Brief history of the organizations activities
 - Please include:
 - Year the organization was founded
 - Number of employees
 - Primary age group(s) served
 - Describe past programs or projects which have allowed you to fulfill your mission, being particularly specific about successful projects and outcomes.

SECTION THREE: CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contact

You will be prompted to enter information regarding the primary contact for the grant request. If the grant request contact is the same as the organization contact, you will NOT need to re-enter the following information. If it is not the same, you must enter the information for the request contact. If a question is displayed asking for your personal address, please include the organization's address.

- Prefix, first, middle and last name of primary grant request contact at the organization
- Title
- Office phone, extension, and mobile phone number
- Email address

SECTION FOUR: PROGRAM OR CAPITAL PROJECT INFORMATION

You will be asked to select one of the options: **Program, Capital Project, or Other** (*Select one*).

- Enter a **Program, Project or Other Title**
- Enter a **Program, Project, or Other Description** (*Response limited to 150 words for the LOI and 500 words for the shortened application.*)

Tip to help respond to this question: *Briefly describe the proposed new or enhanced Educational or Community program or project, including objective, implementation and significance in solving a documented community need.*

- Enter the **Amount Requested, the Project Start and Project End Dates**

Tip to help respond to this question: *The Dunham Foundation prefers to make one year grants, currently limited to \$1 million. There is a calendar provided to select the start and end dates.*

- **Statement of Need**

Identify and document community need in the Dunham Foundation Service Area. You cannot eventually prove a program's success without quantifying the overall need. This question also offers the opportunity to upload any Supporting Documents related to your Statement of Need.

- **Measurement/Evaluation**

Please list specific measurable outcomes expected, and describe how you will evaluate performance on these outcomes, including measuring, monitoring and reporting.

Example: *"The project offers after school reading tutoring to X number of children who are currently reading below grade level. The tutoring consists of twenty one-hour sessions over ten weeks."*

- **Mission Alignment**

Indicate how the proposed program or project objectives align with the applicant organization's mission. [See pages 3-4.](#)

PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION

You will be asked to select from a number of options related to your program or project:

1. **Geographical Area Served** by your program or project
2. **Program Area** addressed by the project

You will select one or more of the following categories that best describe your organization's PROGRAM or PROJECT:

- Under **Education**, you may select one or more of the following options:
Early Education, K-12, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Technology, University/College, Workforce Development.
- Under **Economic Growth or Community**, you may select one or more of the following options: Arts, Children's Museum, Environment, Food, Healthcare, Housing, Museum (Other); Public Safety, Public Spaces, Recreation, Shelter, Technology, Workforce Development.

Tip to help respond to this question:

See Dunham Foundation Service Area [map here](#). At least 25% of the clients served in the proposed program or project must reside or receive services in the Dunham Foundation Service Area.

SECTION FIVE: ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to include the following attachments with your online application. Attachments must be in PDF or jpeg format:

- Organization Budget (*Submission is highly recommended.*)
- Program or Project Budget (*Submission is highly recommended.*)
- IRS Letter of Determination (*This attachment is required.*)
- Annual Report
- Names and titles of organization leadership including trustees, directors, board and staff officers

Thank You

for exploring the Dunham Foundation as a potential supporter of your organization's work. We champion the efforts of nonprofit organizations that work tirelessly to help all individuals meet their full potential. We look forward to learning more about your organization and your work to impact our community.



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