



U.S. Bank Foundation

Community Possible Grant Guidelines

January 2025

Mission & Commitment to Our Communities

We believe all people deserve the opportunity to dream, believe and achieve.

The building blocks of vibrant communities – a stable job, a home to call your own and a community connected through culture, recreation, and play – continue to be at the heart of possibility for all of us. Through U.S. Bank’s Community Possible Platform, we are dedicated to supporting our communities through actions focused on addressing economic inequities and creating positive and transformative change in our communities.

Community Possible is designed to embrace the diversity of our communities. We consider grant requests without regard to race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, marital status, genetic information, veteran status, or other factors that are protected by law. While the U.S. Bank Foundation generously funds many nonprofit organizations in our communities, it is impossible to fund every request. To make the most meaningful impact in our local communities, we focus our grant giving to fund economic development tied to Work, Home and Play.

General Guidelines & Eligibility

Through the U.S. Bank Foundation, we support organizations and programs that advance the funding priorities described under the Community Possible grant focus areas. Organizations must be based in and serve designated U.S. Bank communities. Please see appendix A for the communities where we provide funding.

Organizations must have tax-exempt status under IRS section 501(c)(3) and certify that they maintain a non-discrimination policy that ensures the organization does not discriminate, including but not limited to, based on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, marital status, genetic information, veteran status or other factors that are protected by law.

Community Possible Grant Focus Areas

We support organizations and programs that advance the following funding priorities, focusing on organizations that have an intentional approach to addressing immediate needs and systemic economic barriers to success. As part of our commitment to a sustainable future, environmental stewardship is a consideration in each of our three focus areas:

- WORK – Workforce Education & Economic Prosperity
- HOME – Neighborhood Stability & Revitalization
- PLAY – Artistic & Cultural Enrichment, Learning Through Play & Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing Outdoor Places to Play

Please review details for each of our three focus areas, and the American Red Cross. For a list of the communities where we fund, please see appendix A.

Factors Considered by the U.S. Bank Foundation

Because the Foundation receives funding requests more than the annual grant program budget, we must decline support to worthy organizations and programs. We may decline support to organizations we have previously supported to expand community engagements. Support should not be expected to continue in perpetuity and declining a request does not reflect a negative appraisal of the organization or the value of its programs and services.

The following factors are among those the foundation will consider:

- Innovation and/or differentiation in our focus areas of Work, Home and Play
- Programming and services that advance positive community engagement efforts
- Demonstrated outcomes and impact
- Service delivery to low-and moderate-income and underserved communities
- The financial health of the organization

Funding Types

Within these general guidelines, we consider the following funding request types:

- [Operating Grants](#)
An Operating grant is given to cover an organization's day-to-day, ongoing expenses, such as salaries, utilities, office supplies, etc. We consider operating support requests from organizations where the entire mission of the organization fits within a Community Possible grant focus area.
- [Program / Project Grants](#)
A Program /Project grant is given to support a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, explicit objectives and a predetermined cost. We consider highly effective and innovative programs that meet our Community Possible grant focus areas.
- [Capital Grants](#)
A Capital grant that is part of an organized drive to collect and accumulate substantial funds to finance fixed assets. The U.S. Bank Foundation considers requests for capital support from organizations that meet all other funding criteria, whose entire mission statement fits a Community Possible grant focus area and with which the Foundation has a funding history. All organizations requesting capital funding must also have a U.S. Bank employee serving on the board of directors. U.S. Bank does not fund more than 1% of the non-endowment total capital campaign fundraising goal.

Funding Restrictions

The U.S. Bank Foundation Community Possible grant program will not provide funding for:

- Organizations that discriminate, including but not limited to, based on the basis race, ethnicity, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, marital status, genetic information, veteran status, or other factors that are protected by law
- Political action committees, candidates, causes, and lobbying
- Religious organizations, unless they are engaged in programs that are non-sectarian, and benefit a broad base of the community
- For profit organizations, fraternal organizations, merchant associations, memberships or 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations
- Athletic, or sports teams, programs, or leagues
- Section 509(a)(3) – Type III supporting organizations
- Private foundations
- Endowments
- Fundraising events or sponsorships
- Grants specifically for travel, study and related expenses including student trips or tours
- Individuals, including those seeking scholarships or fellowship assistance
- Deficit reduction

Application Process

U.S. Bank Foundation accepts applications by invitation only. However, we have an electronic Letter of Interest (LOI) to identify organizations with unique and innovative programs that fit within our pillars of Work, Home and Play. The LOI is accessed through the **Submit Letter of Interest** link at the bottom the [Community Possible Grant Program](#) page.

- We process all payments though ACH; to be funded you must enroll using a unique ID which you will receive in the invite email if you are asked to complete a full application.
- 509a3 Type 1 and Type II supporting organizations may require additional documentation.

WORK

Workforce Education & Economic Prosperity

At U.S. Bank, we know that a strong small business environment and an educated workforce ensure the prosperity of our communities. We support programs and organizations that help small businesses thrive, allow people to succeed in the workforce, provide pathways to higher education, gain greater financial literacy and support efforts to learn new skills to help people obtain jobs, including in renewable or clean energy.

Investing in the Workforce

We fund organizations that provide training for small business development, as well as programs that support individuals across all skill and experience levels, to ensure they have the capability to gain employment that supports individuals and their families. Examples of grant support include:

- Small business/small farm technical assistance programs
- Job-skills and career readiness training programs with comprehensive placement services for low- and moderate-income individuals entering or reentering the workforce

Providing Pathways for Success to Postsecondary Education

To address the growing requirements for postsecondary education in securing competitive jobs in the workplace, we support:

- Organizations and programs that help low- and moderate-income (LMI), at-risk, middle, and high school students prepare for postsecondary education at a community college, university, trade, or technical school, as well as career readiness
- Programs and initiatives at postsecondary institutions that support access opportunities for LMI students and those who have faced barriers to pursuing educational opportunities.

Teaching Financial Well-being for Work and Life

Financial well-being is critical for financial stability and significant in helping individuals be successful in the workplace. Examples of grant support include programs that positively impact:

- K-12 and college student financial literacy
- Adult and workforce financial literacy
- Senior financial fraud prevention
- Financial literacy for military service members and veterans

Supporting the Green Economy through Workforce Development

The green economy is fast becoming an area of opportunity for workforce development programs.

Funding support includes:

- Reskilling or retraining for jobs in renewable or clean energy
- Building and maintaining infrastructure to support renewable energy, including EV charging stations and bike/transportation programs

HOME

Neighborhood Stability & Revitalization

The case for a stable, healthy home environment is clear: children and families are better positioned to thrive and succeed in a home that is safe and permanent. In response, our giving supports efforts that connect individuals and families with sustainable housing opportunities, including efforts that improve climate resiliency in low- and moderate-income communities.

Providing Access to Safe, Affordable, Energy Efficient Housing

We provide financial support to assist people in developing stability in their lives through access to safe, sustainable, and accessible homes. Examples of grant support include:

- Organizations that preserve, rehabilitate, renovate, or construct affordable housing developments for low- and moderate-income families, individuals, seniors, veterans, and special-needs populations
- Organizations that provide transitional housing as a direct steppingstone to permanent housing
- Organizations that provide eviction prevention programs helping families stay in their homes
- Creation of long-term affordable homeownership units through community land trusts and community land banks
- Organizations that focus on Veteran's housing and homeownership
- Resident services for affordable housing communities
- Construction of green homes for low- and moderate-income communities
- Clean energy retrofit programs for low- and moderate-income housing developments
- Organizations that provide access to renewable energy
- Improving waste management systems to include recycling and composting programs

Providing Homeownership Education

Owning and maintaining a home requires significant financial knowledge, tools, and resources. We support programs that assist low- and moderate-income homebuyers and existing homeowners. Examples of grant support include:

- Homebuyer education
- Pre- and post-purchase counseling and coaching
- Homeownership-retention programs designed to provide foreclosure counseling

PLAY

Artistic and Cultural Enrichment, Learning Through Play & Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing Outdoor Places to Play

Play brings joy. It is beneficial for problem solving, creativity and relationships. Play is just as necessary for adults as it is for children, but in low-income areas there are often limited spaces for play and fewer people attending arts and cultural activities. That is why we invest in programming in low- and moderate-income communities that supports ways for children and adults to play and create.

Access to Artistic and Cultural Programming & Arts Education

Our investments ensure economic vitality and accessibility to the arts in local communities and support for arts education. Examples of grant support include:

- Programs that provide access to cultural activities, the visual and performing arts, museums, zoos and aquariums and botanic gardens for individuals and families living in low- and moderate-income communities
- Funding for local arts organizations that enhance the economic vitality of the community
- Programs that provide funding for arts-focused nonprofit organizations that bring visual and performing arts programming to low- and moderate-income K-12 schools and youth centers

Learning Through Play

Many communities across the country do not have the resources and/or access to enjoy the benefits of active play. Supporting active play-based programs and projects for K-12 students in low- and moderate-income communities fosters innovation, creativity and collaboration and impacts the overall vitality of the communities we serve. Funding support includes:

- Support for organizations that build or expand access to active play spaces and places that help K-12 students learn through play improving the wellbeing, safety, and unification in low- and moderate-income communities
- Programs that focus on using active play to help young people develop cognitive, social, and emotional learning skills to become vibrant and productive citizens in low- and moderate-income communities

Outdoor Places to Play

Environmental stewardship enhances and improves the livability of our communities. Supporting efforts to preserve, protect and enhance outdoor spaces is now a part of our PLAY pillar of giving. Funding support includes:

- Clean-up efforts in community spaces including (but not limited to) beaches, rivers, and streams
- Protecting green spaces within the community including planting trees, mangroves, and seagrass
- Programs that support community, native and/or pollinator gardens, including community composting

American Red Cross

U.S. Bank is a committed member of the Disaster Responder Program, contributing national funds annually to ensure the American Red Cross can immediately implement disaster relief efforts. We accept program grant requests from local American Red Cross chapters for the Disaster Services Funding Program, Home Fire Campaign and Service to Armed Forces Program.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you still have questions after reviewing our website (<https://www.usbank.com/community>) and these guidelines, please email usbanksupport@cybergrants.com or call 866-366-7072.

Appendix A

U.S. Bank provides funding in the following locations:

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming