Grant Guidelines

Liberty Bank Foundation

Established in 1997, Liberty Bank Foundation extends Liberty Bank's long-standing commitment to strengthening the communities we've proudly served for over 200 years.

Grants

We support 501(c)(3) organizations whose work aligns with our funding priorities and creates meaningful local impact. We encourage applicants to review our Grant Guidelines to learn more about eligibility, focus areas, and the application process.

Our Focus Areas and Intended Impact

Our grantmaking is rooted in Liberty Bank's mission to improve the lives of our customers, teammates, and communities for generations to come. Through the Foundation, we invest in nonprofit partners working to strengthen local communities and expand opportunities for the people and places we serve.

Our funding priorities focus on areas where community investment can create lasting, measurable impact:

- **Education, Workforce Readiness, and Support for Small Business:** Supporting programs that help students and adults build the skills, confidence, and pathways needed for future success.
- **Affordable Housing:** Supporting efforts that increase housing stability and help individuals and families access safe, affordable places to live.
- **Food Security:** We offer a limited number of grants to support the primary food pantry or soup kitchen in communities where we operate. Our primary means for addressing food security is through our Liberty Bank Rotary Club Thanksgiving Drive. Contact your local Rotary Club to learn more.

Across these focus areas, we look for clear community need, strong nonprofit partners, practical plans, and outcomes that help individuals and families become stronger, more stable, and better positioned for the future.

How We Review Requests

Requests are reviewed for alignment with Foundation priorities, demonstrated community need, strength of the proposed plan, geographic relevance, and measurable impact. We also consider the organization's capacity to carry out the work, the number of people served, the budget, and the potential to create lasting change by addressing root causes.

Eligible Organizations

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations classified as public charities
- Municipal agencies when the project is solely for public purposes

Funding is generally awarded for specific programs aligned with Foundation priorities.

What We Do Not Fund

- Fundraising activities, including annual campaigns, benefit events, event sponsorships, tables, tickets, golf tournaments, and road races
- Advocacy, lobbying, partisan political activity, campaigns, or support for political candidates
- Community, cultural, or recreational festivals
- Animal welfare or animal-related causes
- Childcare or daycare services, unless clearly tied to an eligible education or workforce readiness program
- Grants to individuals, including emergency financial assistance
- Private scholarships or tuition assistance programs
- Civic organizations, including fraternal organizations and service clubs
- Consultants, professional fees, or contracted services not tied to a specific eligible program
- Debt reduction or deficit financing
- Endowments or reserve funds
- Organizations or programs serving a limited number of individuals, unless the request demonstrates significant community need and impact
- Pilot programs, start-ups, or untested new initiatives without a clear plan, evidence of need, or capacity to implement
- Religious organizations, unless the request supports nonsectarian, broad-based community programs
- Research, feasibility studies, or planning efforts not directly tied to an eligible funded program
- Regranting or pass-through organizations whose primary purpose is to distribute funds to other organizations
- Third-party fundraising on behalf of another organization
- Trips, tours, conferences, or travel
- Substance abuse prevention programs
- Capital campaigns, capital projects, or equipment purchases, except in rare cases and only after consultation with Foundation staff before applying
- National organizations without meaningful local presence or impact in communities served by Liberty Bank

Sponsorship requests should be directed to Liberty Bank. Contact the Foundation with eligibility questions before applying.

2027 Grant Opportunities

Review the options below to determine the best fit before applying.

Local Impact Grants

Supports short-term projects that can move quickly and create clear local impact.

Key details

Cycle	Application Deadline	Funding Decision Timing
Spring 2027	February 1, 2027	Approximately four weeks after the application deadline
Fall 2027	September 1, 2027	Approximately four weeks after the application deadline

Typical awards range from $2,500 to $5,000.

The short online application will ask for:

- Basic organizational information
- IRS determination letter
- A brief project description
- A project/program budget

Best fit: short-term, clearly defined projects or programs with a practical plan and clear community benefit. Projects should generally be completed within 6–9 months.

Strategic Impact Grants

Begins with a Letter of Interest (LOI) summarizing the organization, proposed project, community need, expected outcomes, alignment with Foundation priorities, and amount requested.

Key details

Cycle	Deadline to Submit LOI	LOI Review Outcomes	Full Application Deadline	Funding Decision Timing
Spring 2027	February 1, 2027	Approximately two weeks after the LOI deadline	March 15, 2027	Approximately six weeks after the full application deadline
Fall 2027	September 1, 2027	Approximately two weeks after the LOI deadline	October 15, 2027	Approximately six weeks after the full application deadline

Awards typically range from $10,000 to $25,000. If you plan to request more than $25,000, contact the Foundation before submitting an LOI to discuss your request.

Aligned organizations may be invited to submit a full application. Full application requirements will be shared with invited applicants.

Important Information for All Applicants

Organizations should carefully choose the grant opportunity that best fits their request. **The Foundation will consider only one funding request per organization per calendar year. This annual limit applies across all Foundation grant opportunities.**

Receiving funding in one year does not guarantee funding in future years. Organizations that receive funding for three consecutive years must take one year off before reapplying.

For Strategic Impact Grants, submitting an LOI counts as the organization's funding request for the calendar year. Organizations not invited to submit a full application after LOI review may reapply the following calendar year.

Requests greater than $5,000 but less than $10,000 should be submitted through the Local Impact Grants application; awards generally will not exceed $5,000. Applicants requesting more than $5,000 should understand that the Foundation may award partial funding.

We are not accepting requests for capital campaigns currently.

Applicants should review the Grant Guidelines before applying to confirm eligibility, funding priorities, and application requirements. Applications must be submitted through our Online Grants Portal to be considered.

Liberty Bank Foundation does not consider a grant application to constitute confidential information. We may discuss organizations or grant inquiries with other funders, individuals identified within the application, outside experts, and other appropriate people in the community. Information you consider to be confidential or proprietary should not be included in your application.

Contact

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