

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Call for Projects for Lake Area Foundation, Inc. Grant Funding

The Lake Area Foundation, Inc. (LAF) is accepting applications for grant funding from the Russell County Development Fund (RCDF).

ABOUT THE RCDF

Using income derived from discretionary endowments, the RCDF supports projects that address community needs, pursue promising opportunities, and promote community or economic development in Russell County, Kentucky.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Applications Open:** October 1st, 2026
- **Courtesy Review Deadline:** October 28th, 2026
- **Final Application Deadline:** October 30th, 2026 by 4:00 PM Central.
- **Anticipated Award Date:** Appx. 2-3 weeks after final deadline.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The LAF Grant Application is available at: www.lakeareafoundation.com.

To complete the application digitally, download the Fillable PDF and open it in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Browser PDF viewers may cause form errors.

To complete the application by hand, download and print the Manual PDF. Complete handwritten applications in neat, legible print using blue or black ink. Do not use cursive.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the **Application Instructions**, which provide additional guidance and answers to common questions. Applicants may also use the **LAF Grant Request and Match Calculator** to calculate an allowable grant request and required cash match.

Both resources are available at: www.lakeareafoundation.com.

GRANT AWARDS

Applicants may request up to \$5,000.

Awards are made for a specific project or clearly defined project phase. Requests for ongoing or multiyear funding will not be considered.

The LAF may offer a partial award at its discretion. Applicants must indicate in the application whether they can accept a partial award and describe any applicable conditions or minimum award amount required for project viability.

An applicant may receive no more than one LCADF or RCDF grant during the same funding cycle.

COMMITTED CASH MATCH REQUIREMENT

Applicants must demonstrate that the project has secured Committed cash funding equal to at least 20% of the requested LAF grant to be eligible for an award.

Committed cash may include applicant funds available and set aside for the project, collected revenue, formally awarded grants or loans, and third-party contributions supported by acceptable written documentation.

Pending grants, anticipated fundraising, projected fees or sales, verbal pledges, donated labor, donated materials, and other in-kind contributions do not satisfy the match requirement.

The match requirement is based on the LAF grant request, **not** the total project or phase cost. For example, a \$5,000 request requires at least \$1,000 in Committed cash funding.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Geographic Eligibility. Projects must provide a direct and substantive community or economic benefit within Russell County. Russell County receives a direct benefit when the project intentionally provides services, improvements, access, or other meaningful benefits there.

Benefitting counties are determined by project activities, not the applicant's location or service area. RCDF funds **cannot** be used for activities benefitting counties other than Russell County.

Projects benefitting Russell County and another eligible county **must** apply for LCADF.

Eligible Applicants. Eligible applicants may include:

- Local governments and public agencies
- Public schools and educational institutions
- Private schools and homeschool associations serving multiple unrelated households
- Organizations with current IRS 501(c)(3) status
- Private businesses proposing eligible community projects
- Other qualifying entities serving the community

Applicants must have a Tax ID or EIN to receive an award. If an organization operates under a parent organization's Tax ID or EIN, the parent organization must apply on its behalf.

Eligible Projects. Projects must address a community need or opportunity and provide a meaningful community or economic benefit. Applicants may request funding for an entire project or a clearly defined project phase that produces a meaningful result on its own.

Private Business Applicants. Projects must principally benefit the broader community rather than the business, its owners, or paying customers. Ordinary operating expenses are ineligible. Applicants must also demonstrate the need for LAF assistance and why other business resources or financing are not reasonably available.

Multiple Applications. Applicants may submit applications for unrelated projects but may receive only one LCADF or RCDF grant per cycle. Applicants submitting more than one application must rank all projects in the Project Priorities table.

COURTESY REVIEWS

Applications received by the Courtesy Review Deadline will be checked for completeness and technical correctness. Applicants will be given the opportunity to correct any identified issues and resubmit before the Final Application Deadline.

Courtesy Reviews do not extend the Final Application Deadline or evaluate merit, confirm eligibility, or guarantee an award. Applicants remain responsible for submitting complete and accurate applications.

Applications and resubmissions received after the Courtesy Review Deadline will be accepted as submitted and reviewed only after the Final Application Deadline. Applications with serious deficiencies may be rejected.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Applications must be submitted in hard copy by mail, carrier service, or hand delivery.

Mailing Address: Lake Area Foundation, P.O. Box 1570, Russell Springs, KY 42642

Physical Address: LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Drive, Russell Springs, KY 42642

Applications must be received by LAF by 4:00 P.M. Central on the Final Application Deadline. Late applications will be rejected, even if postmarked by the deadline. Applicants are responsible for allowing sufficient delivery time.

Faxed or emailed applications are not permitted. Illegible applications may be rejected. Incomplete applications may be rejected or negatively affect project scoring.

REVIEW AND SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed based on community need and benefit, feasibility, readiness, results, budget strength, prior LAF funding, and financial need when applicable.

If application volume is unusually high, the Review Committee may preliminarily review all eligible applications and advance only the strongest to full scoring. Applications not advanced will neither receive a numerical score nor be considered for an award.

The Review Committee will recommend awards for LAF Board approval. Applicants will be notified after the Board's decision. Funds are typically released within two to four weeks of award notification, pending execution of the grant agreement.

Applying does not guarantee funding. LAF may decline any or all applications if the Review Committee finds submission quality unsatisfactory.

QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicants should direct questions about eligibility, requirements, or submission procedures to:

Email: LAF@lcadd.org

Phone: (270) 866-4200

LAF staff may explain requirements and procedures but cannot prepare applications, design projects, or advise applicants on matters affecting an application's competitiveness.