



# U.S. Bank Foundation Community Possible Grant Guidelines

## Mission and Commitment to Our Communities

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

The building blocks that made our country great – 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 invest our time, resources, and passion in economic development by supporting efforts to create stable jobs, better homes, and vibrant communities.

Community Possible is designed to embrace the diversity in our communities. We consider grant requests without regard to race, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, or sexual orientation. While the U.S. Bank Foundation generously funds many nonprofit organizations in our communities, it's impossible to fund every request. In order 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 and 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 areas we serve.

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 based on 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.

Financial stability, leadership, impact measurement, and collaboration with key stakeholders in the community are closely examined in our grant evaluation process. Applicants are required to provide:

- Most recent audited financial statements (If audited financial statements are not available, please provide the organization's most recent financial statements)
- Explanation for any budget deficits
- Full operating budget for the organization
- Program budget (This is required for program support grant requests)
- List of other funders
- List of board of directors and their affiliations
- Statement on the organization's response to a community need
- Anticipated outcomes, evaluation methods, and impact

## Funding Types

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

- 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.
- Operating Grants  
An Operating grant 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 a Community Possible grant focus area.
- Capital Grants  
A Capital grant that is part of an organized drive to collect and accumulate substantial funds to finance major



needs of an organization such as a building or major repair project. The U.S. Bank Foundation considers a small number of 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 on the board of directors. *U.S. Bank does not fund more than 1% of the total capital campaign fundraising goal.* All capital grant requests are reviewed and approved by the national U.S. Bank Foundation Board or by the U.S. Bank Foundation President.

## Funding Restrictions

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

- Fraternal organizations, merchant associations, chamber memberships or programs, or 501(c)(4) or (6) organizations
- Section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations
- Private foundations
- Endowments or memorial campaigns
- Fundraising events or sponsorships
- Organizations that discriminate based on 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
- Programs operated by religious organizations for religious purposes
- Political organizations or organizations designed primarily to lobby
- Individuals, including those seeking scholarships or fellowship assistance
- Travel and related expenses, including student trips and tours
- Deficit reduction

## Community Possible Grant Focus Areas

We support organizations and programs that advance the following funding priorities:

- WORK – Workforce Education & Economic Prosperity
- HOME – Neighborhood Stability & Revitalization
- PLAY – Artistic & Cultural Enrichment and Learning Through Play

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

## Grant Cycles

In 2017, the U.S. Bank Foundation will require applications for grants according to the Community Possible focus area that most closely aligns to Work, Home, Play, or our national partnerships.

2017	Play United Way and Red Cross	Work	Home
Application Cycle	February 1 – March 15	April 1 – May 31	July 1 – August 31

## **PLAY: Application open February 1 – March 15**

### **Artistic and Cultural Enrichment & Learning Through Play**

Play brings joy. It is beneficial for problem solving, creativity, and relationships. Play is just as necessary for adults as it is for kids, but in low-income areas there are often limited spaces for play and fewer people attending arts and cultural activities. That's why we invest in community programming 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, as well as 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 underserved 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 young people 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:

- General operating support for organizations that build or expand access to active play spaces and places that help K-12 students learn through play improving the education, 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

### **U.S. Bank Places to Play – Currently Available in Minnesota**

U.S. Bank Places to Play Program is a collaboration between U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings that provides grant funding to nonprofit, neighborhood-based organizations and schools located in or serving low- and moderate-income communities in Minnesota to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local play spaces. This grant making initiative focuses on creating or improving parks, playgrounds, and indoor/outdoor athletic facilities and repairing existing trails. Please visit [www.usbank.com/placestoplay](http://www.usbank.com/placestoplay) to learn more and apply.

## **WORK: Application open April 1 – May 31**

### **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. Through our grant making program, we make that possible. We support programs and organizations that help small businesses thrive, allow people to succeed in the workforce, provide pathways to higher education, and gain greater financial literacy.

#### 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 technical assistance programs
- Job-skills and career readiness training programs with comprehensive placement services for low- and moderate-income individuals entering or reentering the labor force

#### 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 and at-risk 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 low- and moderate-income and diverse students

### Teaching Financial Well-being for Work and Life

Financial well-being is not only critical for financial stability, it is 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
- Military service members and veterans financial literacy

## **HOME: Application open July 1 – August 31**

### 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.

#### Providing Access to Safe, Affordable 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 stepping stone to permanent housing
- Organizations that focus on Veterans housing and homeownership
- Construction of green homes for low- and moderate-income communities
- Energy retrofit programs for low- and moderate-income housing developments

#### 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 home owners. Examples of grant support include:

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

## **NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS: Application open February 1 – March 15**

### United Way

U.S. Bank supports United Way through an annual employee giving campaign. We accept grant applications from the local United Way chapter where employees make their contributions. We accept general operating requests, as well as program grant requests that correspond with our Community Possible grant focus areas.

### 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 [USBankGrants@usbank.com](mailto:USBankGrants@usbank.com) or call 866-366-7072.

## APPENDIX A

### Our Community Possible funding is focused on the following states:

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

These locations by invitation only:

- Connecticut
- DC/Virginia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Massachusetts
- New York
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Texas