

## 2026 Grant Application Guidelines & FAQ

Welcome to the Old National Bank Foundation! Please review these guidelines to help with the application process and to ensure alignment with our mutual goals.

### Mission

The Old National Bank Foundation believes that social responsibility is essential to fostering vibrant, sustainable communities. We realize this belief through strategic partnerships with charitable organizations addressing defined community needs.

### 2026 Grant Cycles and Application Deadlines

#### Cycle Dates:

#### Board Decision Dates:

January 5 <sup>th</sup> – February 13 <sup>th</sup>	April 15 <sup>th</sup> (grant applicants notified soon after)
June 1 <sup>st</sup> – July 10 <sup>th</sup>	September 16 <sup>th</sup> (grant applicants notified soon after)

### Funding Priorities

Our funding targets innovative programs that enhance the quality of life within our communities in support of the following four strategic initiatives: Affordable Housing, Workforce Development, Economic Development, and Financial Empowerment. We prioritize programs that serve underrepresented communities and low- to moderate-income people.

#### Affordable Housing

- **Increase Homeownership Opportunities:** We seek initiatives that enable individuals and families to purchase homes through accessible financing, down payment assistance, and homeowner education.
- **Support Critical Home Repairs and Revitalization:** We fund programs that ensure safe, habitable housing by assisting with essential repairs for homes.
- **Promote Multi-Family Housing Developments:** We prioritize programs that develop or sustain affordable rental units.

#### Economic Development

- **Small Business Development and Growth:** We aim to support programs that help small businesses scale, access resources, and build sustainable growth plans.
- **Capacity Building for Technical Support:** We encourage projects that enhance the capability of organizations offering technical support to small businesses and nonprofits.
- **Entrepreneurship and Business Coaching:** We support programs that offer entrepreneurship education, business coaching, and professional development for new or aspiring business owners.

#### Workforce Development

- **Access to Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning:** We support workforce readiness through initiatives offering hands-on training, particularly in trades and high-demand fields.
- **Job Creation, Employment Entry, and Retention:** We support projects that connect individuals to stable employment and increasing levels of income. This can include higher education with dual credentialing, leadership and professional development.

#### Financial Empowerment

- **Financial Wellness:** We fund long-term initiatives that reduce barriers to banking and credit access, especially for underbanked groups. This can include culturally relevant and multilingual outreach, foreclosure prevention, and credit counseling with the goal of financial independence.
- **Community Lending Access:** We support organizations that provide access to affordable microloans, emergency loans, and community cooperative lending as safe and sustainable alternatives to predatory loans.

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### Financial Education

Old National Bank's Real-Life Finance e-learning curriculum provides robust financial education training for community partners. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Key Facts to Know Before You Apply

The Old National Bank Foundation awards over \$3 million annually to eligible organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin **where Old National has a banking presence**.

- Eligibility: We welcome grant applications from nonprofit organizations serving communities located **within our banking footprint**. Nonprofits must have obtained recognition of tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) as a public charity under Code 509(a) 1, 2, or 3 and in good standing. If an organization is exempt under Section 509(a)(3), it must be Type I or Type II.
- Timing Eligibility: Organizations can apply for funding every two years provided final reporting from any previous grants is complete. For example, if awarded a grant in 2026 the organization may reapply in 2028.
- What We Look For: We seek programs/initiatives with close alignment to our funding priorities that have clear, measurable goals and outcomes, and plans for long-term sustainability. We prioritize organizations whose primary focus is to address disparities and inequities in underrepresented communities.
- Diversity and Inclusion: We value diversity and seek partners who demonstrate a commitment to inclusion through a diverse board, leadership team, policies, practices, actions, and impact. Our Equal Opportunity Inclusion Statement is available [here](#).
- Competitive Funding Landscape: We are proud to offer open grant cycles. Because of this, we receive far more applications than we can fund. In 2025, we funded approximately 35% of applications. This transparency is intended to set expectations and assist with your planning.
- Grant Size and Term: Our average grant is \$15,000, with the great majority awarded for a one-year term.
- General Operating Funds: Requests for general operating funds are welcomed, especially if the organization's core mission aligns with our funding priorities.
- Capital Campaigns and Multi-Year Grants: These are very rare for our foundation and are initiated by ONB's Executive Leadership Team.
- IRS Guidelines on Business Relationships: While Old National values our business relationships and take tremendous pride in serving clients, the Internal Revenue Service stipulates that the ONB Foundation may not consider business relationships when making grant award decisions to avoid self-dealing and conflicts of interest.

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### Restrictions

The ONB Foundation does not provide funding for the items or organizations below. This is not an exhaustive listing. Additional restrictions may apply.

Summer camps/programs, field trips, athletic facilities or equipment, and playgrounds/equipment	Feasibility studies, project research or development phases, including the costs of hiring consultants or planners
School clubs/organizations, including, but not limited to bands, athletic or academic teams, booster clubs, PTO/PTA	Sponsorships, fundraisers, races, telethons, marathons, benefits, banquets, galas, golf tournaments, festivals, or other <b>events</b>
Meals, tickets, dues, memberships, fees, travel, tuition, subscriptions, and other tangible benefits	Organizations that discriminate based on race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, or religion
Meetings, conferences, workshops including continuing education	Political, labor, international or fraternal organizations
Individuals	Programs administered by religious organizations for religious purposes
A 509(a)(3) Type III supporting organization charity or private foundations	Childcare fees/subsidies or K-12 tuition
Previous grantees who have not submitted required reporting	Contests, competitions, athletics, pageants, or talent contests
Scholarly or medical research	Programs conducted outside of our banking footprint

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### How do I apply for a grant?

Applications are accepted through our [online portal](#) only.

#### My organization has a banking relationship with Old National Bank. Does this affect our application?

No. To ensure fairness and avoid conflicts of interest, IRS guidelines prevent consideration of business relationships in grant decisions.

#### Can my organization apply for both a grant and sponsorship in the same year?

Yes, although total commitments to an organization may impact the final decision.

#### Is there a limit on how often my organization can apply?

Yes, only one grant per organization can be funded every two years.

#### If my application is declined, can I reapply and how soon?

Yes, after a decline, an organization may reapply as soon as the next open grant cycle.

#### What is the difference between a grant and a sponsorship?

Foundation grants are donations supporting charitable initiatives, while sponsorships are monetary contributions for events or activities that provide direct benefits to Old National Bank. Sponsorships are evaluated at the local market level.

#### What happens after my application is submitted?

Applicants will be notified of the ONB Foundation board's decision via email shortly after the board meeting dates listed above. Please ensure that [noreply@smartsimple.com](mailto:noreply@smartsimple.com) and [grantsandsponsorships@oldnational.com](mailto:grantsandsponsorships@oldnational.com) are added to your contacts.

#### If awarded, what will my organization be required to do?

All grantees sign a Grant Agreement, submit ACH payment information, and provide a brief final report within 30 days of the grant period's end.

For additional questions, please email [grantsandsponsorships@oldnational.com](mailto:grantsandsponsorships@oldnational.com).