Lincoln County Community and Economic Development Grant Program Overview - 2021

General

A total of $130,000 is currently available in this fund for the 2021-22 grant cycle.

$60,000 of the total monies will be awarded to a single project aimed at Broadband, Childcare, and/or Housing.

The remainder of the fund ($70,000) will be allocated to smaller projects, specifically those who illustrate project sustainability and leveraging of funds.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants will indicate on the online application which type of project they are submitting (large single project or smaller traditional project).

Applications are accepted from local governments and nonprofit organizations recognized by the IRS as nonprofit organizations in Lincoln County. An applicant can submit only one application each year. An applicant can only be awarded a grant every other year (to maximize applicant and project diversity).

The Board of Commissioners continues to focus on economic development and the County seeks to allocate the funds to economic development projects, with a focus on job creation and/or retention, and to community development. The Board of Directors of the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County will review (in December 2021) and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding funding requests. The Board of Commissioners will make the final determination on awards (at 12/22/21 BoC meeting).

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) will host and facilitate a virtual (via Zoom) grant review and Q&A program in October for the benefit of potential applicants.

For the Large Single Project Applications

Emphasis will be placed on projects that have the highest potential for short-term local impact during and immediately following the grant period. The emphasis will be focused on one-time spending to move the ball forward in the indicated project area. Specific deliverables must be outlined in the application as well as the key performance indicators that will demonstrate the measurable impacts achieved because of the project.

Broadband: Projects in this category will demonstrate a measurable impact in the access or affordability of broadband in Lincoln County, specifically as it applies to utilizing broadband to create or retain local jobs. They will demonstrate an awareness of the work of the regional

Broadband Action Team and align projects with that work, with a focus on Lincoln County. Successful projects will allow more Lincoln County residents to utilize broadband internet access (note: the FCC defines broadband as a download speed of 25 megabits per second and an upload speed of 3 Mb/s). Since priority is given to longer term impacts as a result of this one-time grant, increased access should not be created by a short term subsidy of access costs, but rather infrastructure or equipment improvement (network or individual access devices).

Childcare: Projects in this category will demonstrate a measurable impact by an increased number of childcare slots available for Lincoln County working parents. This could be the creation of additional childcare facilities (both location-based and home-based) or improved pathways into childcare careers (thereby increasing the number of childcare facilities or home childcare providers).

Housing: Projects in this category will demonstrate a measurable positive impact on housing for working Lincoln County families or individuals by creating a measurable increase in housing units within Lincoln County. These units could be stand alone, multi-family, mixed use or re-activating and improving unused upper floor units. All units must comply with local zoning ordinances and must receive valid occupancy permits within the timeline of the project.

Larger project applications will be reviewed and scored by the Board of Directors of EDALC as well as being reviewed by an external Subject Matter Expert (SME). Those additional SME scores will be compiled into the larger scoring rubric.

Scoring Criteria

1. **Community/Economic Development Impact**

These grants are provided to support both community and economic development projects.
Scoring Scale:

0 = None
1 = Slight Impact
2 = Medium Impact
3 = High Impact
4 = Extremely High Impact

2. **Economic Development Bonus**

This rating adds bonus points for projects that add financial value to the economy of the county. These would include projects that generate revenue once completed or help reduce costs to employees or businesses in the county or help bring in additional financial value to the county through activities such as trade, tourism or skill development. Special consideration is given for projects that will bring jobs to the county.
Scoring Scale:

0 = None
1 = Minimum Impact – the project has economic development potential
2 = Medium Impact – the project has a specific economic development goal
3 = High Impact – the project can bring significant economic and some job growth

4 = Extremely High Impact – this can bring a major change in economic growth

3. **Collaboration**

High quality projects usually involve collaboration between multiple gro24ups. Applications that show they are working with multiple groups should receive points in this category.

Scoring Scale:

0 = None
1 = One Other Partner Engaged
2 = Two or more Partners Involved

4. **Funding Sources**

More successful projects usually involve multiple funding sources. Credit will be given for groups that are actively soliciting funds from multiple sources.

0 = The grant is the Sole Funding Source
1 = One Funding Partner
2 = Two or more Funding Partners
3 = Three or more Funding Partners

5. **Economic Impact of the Grant to the Project**

Score for the impact of the grant on the budget of the project. A large project where the amount of the grant would do little to assure the project's completion would generally receive a low score unless the grant provided some special leverage to receive additional funding. A small project would generally get a higher score unless the project was underfunded, or the budget was unrealistic.

Scoring Scale:

0 = No Impact
1 = Little Impact
2 = Moderate Impact
3 = Significant Impact

6. **Budget**

Each applicant has been asked to provide a budget. If provided, score this category on the viability and completeness of the budget. Are the figures realistic? Have they been researched or 'guestimated'? Have all budget items been included?

Scoring Scale:

0 = No Budget mentioned
1 = Some indication of a budget
2 = Basic Budget
3 = Strong and Fairly Detailed Budget
4 = Very Clear and Well Researched Budget

7. **Strength of the Project**

What is the overall quality of the project in terms of impact to Lincoln County?

Scoring Scale:

0 = Not a Quality Project
1 = The Project has Some Value
2 = The Project is Worthwhile to the County
3 = The Project has Strong Value to the County
4 = This is an Outstanding Project

8. **Workshop**

Two additional points are awarded for attendance at EDLAC's virtual grant workshop, which will be held in October.

Scoring Scale:

0 = Has not Attended
2 = Has Attended

Additional scoring for the large grant applications (SME external reviewer):

9. **External Reviewer One-time Impact of This Project**

Can this project deliver a strong, immediate (within the grant period) impact with the awarded dollars?

Scoring Scale:

0 = No Impact
1 = Little Impact
2 = Moderate Impact
3 = Significant Impact

10. **External Reviewer Strength of Project**

What is the overall quality of the project in terms of impact to Lincoln County?

Scoring Scale:

0 = Not a Quality Project
1 = The Project has Some Value
2 = The Project is Worthwhile to the County
3 = The Project has Strong Value to the County
4 = This is an Outstanding Project

11. **External Reviewer Commentary**

How supportive is the external reviewer of the overall viability and design of this project, based on submitted commentary after application review?

Scoring Scale:

0 = No Support
1 = Little Support
2 = Moderate Support
3 = Significant Support