

Lincoln County Community and Economic Development Grant Program Overview – FY2025-26

General

A total of \$185,000 is currently available in this fund for the FY2025-26 grant cycle.

\$100,000 of the total monies will be awarded to two projects (called IMPACT grants) for larger projects (maximum of \$50,000 per IMPACT project).

The remainder of the fund (\$85,000) will be allocated to smaller projects, specifically those who illustrate project sustainability and leveraging of funds. These are called STANDARD grants.

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 24, 2025. The link to the application is: <https://tinyurl.com/2025LCComEcDevGrantApplication>

Applicants will indicate on the online application which type of project they are submitting (IMPACT or STANDARD).

Applications are accepted from local governments and nonprofit organizations recognized by the IRS in Lincoln County. A project can also be a public/private partnership with the nonprofit as the applicant and fiscal agent. An applicant's organization must be in good standing with the IRS and cannot owe past-due taxes to 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). For complete eligibility and other requirements, please refer to the *Eligibility and Requirements – 2025-26* document.

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 January 2026) and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding funding requests. The Board of Commissioners will make the final determination on awards.

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) will host and facilitate a virtual (via Zoom) grant review and Q&A program in November for the benefit of potential applicants. That workshop will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12th. To register for the workshop (there is no cost), please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/LC2025grantworkshop>. Attendees to the grant workshop will receive a score bonus on their application.

Applicants must certify, during the application process, that the chief executive of the organization supports the application submission. The chief executive will be contacted (via email or phone) during the application's verification process.

For IMPACT Projects

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.

While IMPACT grant applications are open to a wide variety of projects, special emphasis will be placed on the positive, tangible economic development impact the project work will have in Lincoln County.

IMPACT applications also require at least one letter of support (PDF format). Letters of support are optional for STANDARD level applications.

Applicant Information Requested (via the online application portal)

- Applicant Organization
- Mailing Address
- Contact Person
- Contact Phone
- Contact Email
- Name of Project
- Total Project Budget
- Grant Pool You Are Applying To
- Amount Requested (from this program)
- Project Description
- Other Funding
- Collaboration
- Viability
- Desired Start Date
- Desired Completion Date
- Name of Chief Executive
- Title
- Chief Executive Email
- Type of Organization
- Tax ID Number
- Project Budget Details (submitted as a PDF document)
- Letters of Support (only required for Impact applications, optional for Standard applications, all support letters submitted as a single PDF document)

Scoring Criteria

1. **Overall Local 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 groups. 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 Funding Partners
- 3 = Three or more Funding Partners

5. **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 'gestimated'? 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

6. Grant Workshop

Additional points are awarded for attendance at EDALC's virtual grant workshop, which will be held in November.

Scoring Scale:

- 0 = Did not attend
- 0.5 = Watched post-workshop video and passed quiz
- 1 = Attended live and passed quiz

7. Unincorporated Area Bonus

Additional points are awarded for projects that create positive results in unincorporated areas of Lincoln County.

Scoring Scale:

- 0 = Results limited to within municipal boundaries
- 1 = Results in both incorporated and unincorporated areas
- 2 = Results in unincorporated areas only

8. Grant Project Area Bonus - Childcare

Additional points are awarded for applications in the area of childcare. Projects should demonstrate a measurable impact by an increased number of childcare slots available for Lincoln County working parents.

Scoring Scale:

- 0 = No bonus
- 3 = Project focuses on Childcare