

## **RURAL OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY GRANTS**

### *2023 Grant Guidelines*

#### **DEADLINES & IMPORTANT DATES**

**Grant Information Meeting (Zoom):** Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 3:00 pm ([Register Here](#))

**Grant application opens:** Monday, December 19, 2022

**Deadline to request application access:** Friday, February 10, 2023, 5:00 pm

**Grant application deadline:** Friday, February 17, 2023, 5:00 pm

**GRANT RANGE:** Up to \$40,000

#### **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Charitable organizations and state or local government entities delivering programs/projects in communities with populations under 6,000 in the rural Oklahoma counties of **ADAIR, ATOKA, BRYAN, CADDO, CHEROKEE, CHOCTAW, COAL, HASKELL, JOHNSTON, KIOWA, LATIMER, MCCURTAIN, MCINTOSH, OKFUSKEE** and **PUSHMATAHA**.

#### ***Preference will be given to projects/programs that:***

- Feature community partnerships, collaboration and buy-in
- Encourage community participation and engagement
- Benefit a broad range of individuals in the community

#### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

We seek to support projects and programs in the following focus areas:

- 1) Arts/Culture/History
- 2) Libraries/Literacy
- 3) Health and Safety
- 4) Economic Development

Examples of the types of projects/programs we seek to support are provided under each focus area below.

## **Arts/Culture/History**

- Projects that enhance or preserve a community's culture, history and heritage. Examples include public exhibitions, educational programming and historic preservation planning.
- Public art projects that enhance public spaces for community use and interaction.
- Educational programming that increases public access to arts/culture/history.

## **Libraries/Literacy**

- Projects that seek to strengthen the role of rural libraries as a community resource and public knowledge center.
- Programming designed to increase public access to libraries and other literary services for citizens. This can include increasing access for specific target groups such as citizens with disabilities or ESL students.
- Projects designed to improve literacy skills including basic reading, writing, math, GED preparation, and workplace literacy.
- Programs that promote early literacy and reading activities to families, parents and childcare providers.

## **Health and Safety**

- Programs that provide direct services to underserved and/or uninsured citizens in their local communities. Preference will be given to programs delivering services that are not covered by general health insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid.
- Programs that improve the safety and security of community members.

## **Economic Development**

- Projects that contribute to a community's economic growth and stability.
- Projects that provide access to resources that can stimulate employment opportunities.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that serve the eligible Oklahoma counties listed above.
- Nonexempt organizations that qualify for the use of charitable dollars such as schools, local government agencies, or state/city-connected agencies may apply as long as the funding request is for public programs that take place in eligible Oklahoma counties.
- Grants will not be made to individuals or private foundations.

## **ALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

- Applicants may submit funding requests for one-time projects/activities or for ongoing programs that continue beyond the funding timeframe.
- Grants will **NOT** be awarded for capital campaigns, fundraising events/activities, vehicle purchases, or facility construction.
- Investment in equipment may be allowed but should not be the primary expense.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### ***Step 1 – Request Access to the Official Application***

To gain access to the online application, all potential applicants must email [info@ruraloklahoma.org](mailto:info@ruraloklahoma.org) **no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 10, 2023**, with the information below. Please use the subject line "Community Grants".

- 1) Your organization's name, contact information and physical address

- 2) The main goal of the project/program
- 3) A brief project description that includes the main project activities, project target group(s) and approximate number of participants/direct beneficiaries

***Step 2 – Complete and Submit an Official Application***

If your request is approved, you will receive an access code and link to the online application. The deadline to submit your application is **Friday, February 17, 2023, at 5:00 pm**. Grantees will be notified of a decision by late March/ early April of 2023.

**QUESTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

For more information, go to [occf.org/ruraloklahoma/](http://occf.org/ruraloklahoma/) and visit the Community Grants page or contact Leslie Woodward at (405) 606-2911 / [L.woodward@occf.org](mailto:L.woodward@occf.org).

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*The Carolyn Watson Rural Oklahoma Community Foundation was established in 1995 by the late Carolyn Watson, CEO and chairman of Shamrock Bank, N.A., to improve the quality of life in rural Oklahoma.*