Crossroads Communities

Linn County Community Fund
Request For Proposals 2026

LCCF Request for Proposals 2026

- The purpose of this presentation today is to discuss specifics regarding the Request For Proposal (RFP) that opened as of Monday, April 27.
- This discussion will include application requirements, timelines, scoring criteria, and award specifics, including time for Q&A at the end.
- During the Q&A section, be advised that questions related to specific individual proposals/projects from applicants will not be addressed today.

LCCF Overview

- This is the first Community Grant CRC has offered and we are excited to share it with you today!
- Crossroads Communities was entrusted with a sum of funds from a philanthropist requesting anonymity. The purpose of these funds is to benefit the people of Linn County.
- CRC has the approval of the funder to proceed with this RFP and the guidelines set forth in today's presentation.
- There will be time at the end for a Question period. In one week, a Q&A list will appear on the CRC website with the questions and answers listed; answers provided today and their accompanying question will also appear on the Q&A.

LCCF Priorities

- Physical Health/Wellness
- Mental Health/Wellness
- Emotional Health/Wellness
- Social and Pro-Social Opportunities
- Community Economic Health/Viability
- Cultural/Artistic Contributions
- There are no “bonus points” for applying for multiple priority areas. Focus on what fits!

LCCF Funding Levels

- Crossroads Communities has received $12,500 to distribute to selected projects. CRC is still accepting other community funds to increase the amount.
- Applicants may submit requests as low as $100 or as high as $5,000.
- Average award amounts are anticipated to be between $1,000 and $2,500.
- Partial funding may be offered to projects that show both merit and the capacity to downscale based on proposed funding. There is also a possibility that an awardee may be offered funding at an amount higher than what is requested if the applicant is able to scale the proposal accordingly.

Use of Funds

- Use of grant funds will fall into four distinct categories, presented as follows:
- Project-Based
- Capacity-Building
- Fundraising/Marketing
- General Funds
- It is important to note that General Funds requests are limited to 501(c)(3) non-profits only.
- It is CRC's goal to keep the use of funds as unrestricted as possible, providing a wider capacity to aid recipients.

LCCF Project-Based Requests

- The proposed project should clearly align with one of the LCCF priority areas.
- The project must serve Linn County.
- Established projects are welcome to apply for operational dollars (it does not have to be new).
- Applicants should be able to clearly identify what the project will do. For sustained projects, including current operational statistics is highly advised.
- SMART goals should reflect expected outcomes
  - Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Timely

LCCF Capacity Building Requests

- The proposed capacity building purpose should clearly align with one of the LCCF priority areas.
- The project expansion must serve Linn County.
- If it is a multi-county expansion, all of the funds must be used to expand within Linn County.
- Applicants should be able to clearly identify how the project will benefit in its growth.
- SMART goals should reflect the increase in capacity
  - Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Timely

Fundraising/Marketing Requests

- The event/marketing must take place in Linn Co.
- If fundraising, a reasonable portion of the raised dollars must benefit operations in Linn County.
- SMART goals should reflect objectives of the activity, such as dollars raised or volunteers gained.
  - Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Timely
- For events that include sponsor levels and/or acknowledgments, Crossroads Communities should be listed as a sponsor at a level appropriate for the amount requested.

LCCF General Funds Requests

- Only nonprofits holding a 501(c)(3) designation and in good standing may qualify for General Funding Requests under this grant.
- Applicants should focus on providing as much information about their organization as possible including past successes and current programming.
- SMART goals should reflect the impact of what the funding will provide and future operating plans that can be undertaken due to this funding.
  - Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Timely

Prohibited Use of Funds

- Funding from this program may *not* be used:
- For illegal purposes.
- For any program that is religious in nature or requires religious activity/participation/conversion.
- For lobbying activities or to influence governmental elections in any way.
- For any activities, expenses, or operations outside of Linn County.
- To provide an award, subaward, or subgranted amount of funds to any entity outside of Linn County.

Prohibited Use of Funds (exceptions)

- Crossroads Communities will examine on a case-by-case basis applications who wish to, for example:
- Fund activities, expenses, or operations which will directly and obviously benefit Linn County even if the funding is leaving Linn County.
- Provide an amount of funds to an individual or family outside of Linn County for the explicit purpose of helping them relocate to Linn County (covering the cost of a moving vehicle, pay application fees for an apartment, et al).

LCCF Application

- The prepared, fillable application is available on the Crossroads Communities' LASAR website. This is the preferred method.
- Applications may be submitted in written format so long as all required information is present-- written proposals not utilizing the application should ideally be two pages single space in Times New Roman 12 point font; a maximum of three pages will be accepted. Excess pages will not be provided to reviewers.
- Applications that address multiple projects be allowed an extra page; this will be discussed later.

LCCF Eligible Applicants

- The following entities may apply for funding:
- Nonprofits in good standing, holding a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS and registered with the Oregon Dept of Justice
- Faith-Based Organizations*
- Public Schools and Public School Districts*
- Linn Benton Lincoln Educational Service District*
- Linn-Benton Community College (and associated offices)*
- Linn County Agencies*
- Santiam Hospital & Clinics- Scio Service Integration Team*
- Other applicants (pre)approved by funder to apply

LCCF Eligible Applicants (cont)

- In the event of lager applicants, please keep in mind:
- One application per applicant, not division/office.
- Applicants may submit multiple requests in a single application but the total amount may not exceed $5,000.
- Different divisions within a large applicant, such as a county agency, school district, or LBCC will all count toward the combined total of $5,000 and must submit their collective requests jointly.
- Multiple project requests on a single application may attach a single page, 12 point Times New Roman, single spaced addition to the application if additional space is required.

LCCF Timeline

- RFP opens Monday, April 27.
- LCCF Teams Presentation Monday, May 4.
- Questions due by 5pm Monday May 11.
- Answers to questions will be posted on the LCCF grant page by 5pm Thursday May 14.
- Applications must be *received* by Crossroads Communities no later than Friday May 29
- Applicants will be notified of preliminary decisions on or before Monday June 15.
- Awardees will receive a Notice of Intent to Award on or before Monday June 22.
- Funding should be released on or before June 30.

LCCF Review, Suitability

- Although Crossroads Communities is administering this grant process, the committee reviewing the applications will be comprised of Linn County service providers, residents, and organizations.
- Crossroads Communities will be responsible for initial verification of qualifications & compatibility then notifying any and all non-qualifying applicants that they are not suitable.
- This decision may be contested by contacting michael.couch@crossroadsc.org

LCCF Review, Scoring

- Each committee member will score all applications subjectively using a score of 1-10 on eight specific categories, 1-10 on their personal opinion of the application, and based on the purpose of the grant request, for a total of 100 points.
- A copy of this scoring form in its current iteration is available on the Crossroads Communities' website LASAR page. We would encourage reviewing it so that you may plan your application accordingly; it is far easier to hit a target you can see.

LCCF Review, Decisioning

- Based on scoring, the Review Committee will forward the highest rated applicants back to Crossroads Communities for final approval.
- All applicants advancing to this stage will be notified that they are being considered for funding, but this does not guarantee that they will receive grant dollars, especially if the committee over-commits grant awards.
- Applicants who receive a turn-down at this stage may request information as to their final score and compiled notes from the review committee.

LCCF Review, Determination

- If the committee over-approves the grants beyond the amount provided for the grant program then CRC will provide a copy of the applications and committee notes for the finalists to the funder(s), who will then determine who will receive funding and, if necessary, whether it will be a full or partial award. Funder determinations are final if this step is required to be utilized.
- Once awardees are determined, Crossroads Communities will notify the recipients and send a Notice of Intent to Award.

LCCF Award & Operation Process

- The Linn County Community Fund will be an upfront award with full distribution of the grant proceeds to awardees upon the return of a signed of grant agreement to CRC.
- Distributions are anticipated to take place on or before the 30th of June
- The operational period of the grant is July 1 2026 through June 30, 2027, or until funds are spent.
- Extensions, if needed, may be provided for recipients after a request is made in writing.

LCCF Report Requirements

- Awardees are expected to furnish a close-out report to Crossroads Communities.
- Each recipient will have a simple report due at the end of the grant operating period based on their proposed goals and deliverables with specifics detailed in the grant agreement.
- The reporting will be designed to be kept simple and straightforward to align with CRC's intent to make the grant process as easy and equitable as possible for community partners.

LCCF Report Requirements (cont)

- Reporting components will include:
- A breakdown of deliverables and their status.
- Outcome measurements of stated goals.
- Pictures, stories, anecdotes, and the “human” element.
- Other information deemed important to the grant activity.
- Any documentation the grantee would like forwarded by CRC to the funder(s) of the LCFF Grant; although the primary philanthropist requested anonymity, CRC has permission to facilitate one-way communication on behalf of awardees.

Questions?

- Thank you for joining us today.
- We will now accept questions from attendees.
- Please use the Raise Hand option and wait to be called on, or write your question in chat and wait patiently for it to be addressed.
- We will attempt to answer as many questions as possible in real-time but, if any questions require review against expectations from the program funder, we may be required to respond at a later date once the Q&A is posted on the website.