

PLEASE NOTE: This PDF is for reference only. All grant applications must be submitted online. This document is intended to help you prepare your responses in advance. You will not be able to save your progress in the online form, so we recommend completing your answers here first and then copying them into the online application in one session.

The Blaze Credit Union Foundation is accepting applications for our Community Impact Grant from charitable organizations that share our mission and passion for providing resources to the communities we serve and help empower people to be strong, financially stable, and healthy.

Applications will be accepted via this application form only, from June 27, 2025 - July 27, 2025 (11:59 PM-CT).

Our Community Impact Grant is limited to charitable organizations whose work closely aligns with at least one of our three priority funding focus areas for this grant:

- Community and Economic Development
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Informal Education - Supporting life skills & financial well-being for all.

Applications from organizations that do not meet the above focus areas will not be considered for this grant. Please note that requests for recurring operational expenses are not funded. Community Impact Grants will range between \$500 - \$10,000. Grants will be awarded based on potential community impact and the applicant organization's eligibility and needs. Grants will be awarded until all available grant funds have been expended. Awarded applicants must sign a grant agreement that clarifies the legal parameters for the use of the grant funds. They must also agree to submit bi-annual grant reports to show the project/program results and that all the funds have been spent as intended.

All grant applicants will be notified of their approval or denial status by August 31, 2025.

Eligibility:

All applicant organizations must:

- Be a current tax-exempt status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, listed on the IRS Master File, classified as a public charity under Section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) (Types I or II); and
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements; and
- Engage in charitable activities that meet the Community Impact Grant priority funding focus areas listed above; and
- Operate and conduct their charitable activities in at least one (1) or more of the communities served by Blaze Credit Union, including the Minnesota and Wisconsin counties of Aitkin, Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Burnett, Carlton, Carver, Chisago, Crow Wing, Dakota, Douglas, Hennepin, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, LeSueur, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pierce, Pine, Polk, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, St. Croix, St. Louis, Stearns, Waseca, Washington, or Wright; and
- Not deny service, participation, membership, or other involvement in their charitable activities based on race, religion or religious beliefs, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran, or disability status.

If selected, your organization must provide bi-annual updates to the Foundation for two years, or until the project is complete. If the updates are not received this may impact your eligibility in future grant rounds.

Contact:

Questions regarding Community Impact Grants should be directed to Tina Jones, AVP Financial Empowerment, at tina.jones@blazecu.com or 651-789-3061.

Prerequisite Questions

Is your organization a tax-exempt 501c3 organization currently registered with the IRS?
Check all Minnesota counties that your organization serves.

Please provide the following information about your nonprofit organization

Organization and Contact Information

- Organization Name
- Phone
- Web Address
- Mailing Address Street
- Mailing Address City
- Mailing Address State
- Mailing Address Zip
- Requested By
- Organization Contact
- Mission Statement
- Tax ID/EIN

Please tell us about the program/project that you are requesting a Community Impact Grant to support. Note that grants are intended for specific projects, not general operating support and/or recurring operating expenses.

Grants are available in amounts of \$500 - \$10,000.

Grant Information

- Grant Type
- Donation Title (*Please title Blaze Foundation 2025 Community Impact Grant*)
- Amount
- Which of the Community Impact Grant's funding focus areas does your project align with?
 - Community & Economic Development
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Informal Education (supporting life skills and financial wellbeing for all)
- Number of people benefited (approx.)

- *250 Word Limit* - Describe the project/program's impact on a previously unmet community need and the key attributes of the community (e.g., demographic data)
- *250 Word Limit* - Will this project/program have a broad (help many) or deep (help fewer in major way) impact on people in Minnesota?
- *100 Word Limit* - Describe how this project/program supports the mission of the Blaze Foundation
- *250 Word Limit* - Describe the project/program this grant will support, including the community need/opportunity you have identified.
- *250 Word Limit* - Describe the desired/projected outcome(s) of this project/program and how you will measure these outcomes. Include who and how many people will be served

Are other organizations involved with this project/program?

- Yes
- No

100 Word Limit - If yes, please explain your partner organization's involvement

Program/Project Start Date & Program/Project End Date

Please provide as many of the following documents as you have available, and provide reasons for those you do not have in the text box directly after upload.

- List of key organization staff (critical roles essential to the operation and success of the organization)
- List of current board members
- Project timeline outlining major tasks and milestones for your project
- IRS Determination Letter
- IRS Form 990
- Most recent fiscal year-end financial statements, audited if available
- Current year operating budget
- Fiscal year-to-date balance sheet
- Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Conflict of Interest Policy
- Non-discrimination policy