



MID-MINNESOTA
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

MMDC

MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission Community Enhancement Funding Opportunity

Overview:

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) works to strengthen communities by improving quality of life and opportunity for prosperity for the residents of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties. To further improve quality of life and to promote health and safety the MMDC is giving back a portion of our revenue, earned through contract work, to our stakeholders via **MMDC Community Enhancement Fund** grants.

Permitted Uses:

Applicants may apply for MMDC Community Enhancement Funds to:

- Provide health, safety, or other wellness-focused training to community members and/or specific professional or volunteer groups. These groups may include but are not limited to first responders (i.e., law enforcement, fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, etc.), teachers, social workers/case managers, farmers, production workers, and medical professionals. Training may include first aid/CPR/AED training, mental health first aid training, or any other training that will improve physical or mental health, community safety, or emergency response.
- Purchase supplies and/or equipment needed for improved emergency response (e.g., Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs), search and rescue drones, thermal imaging cameras, overdose emergency kits).
- Purchase items to enhance law enforcement organization ability to develop positive relationships with youth, People of Color, and other groups.
- To add public amenities (e.g., pickle-ball courts, disc golf courses, basketball hoops, dog parks, walking paths, playgrounds, pocket-parks) which will promote physical and/or mental well-being, and/or increase opportunities for positive community interaction.
- To support workforce training opportunities, including entrepreneurship training, for youth, women, People of Color, people with disabilities and/or low-income individuals.

Prohibited Uses:

MMDC Community Enhancement Program funding cannot be used to fund:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Political organizations or campaigns
- Annual fundraising drives
- Endowments

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- Debt retirement or deficit financing
- Projects that have already been completed
- Individual scholarships or medical research
- Grants or travel for conferences
- Multi-year requests for capital projects
- Weapons or tactical equipment

Funds Available:

The amount of funding available each year will vary based the MMDC revenue and expenses. For the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), the MMDC will make \$30,000 available.

Funding Amount Range and Matching Requirements:

- Applicants seeking funds for training or community outreach-focused projects may apply for and receive up to \$2,000. **For every four dollars awarded, a local financial or in-kind match of one dollar is required (20% match)**
- Applicants seeking funds for improved emergency preparedness and/or response during times of emergency may apply for and receive up to \$3,000. **No local match is required for this category, provided a need is sufficiently-demonstrated.**
- Applicants seeking funds for projects may apply for up and receive up to \$3,000. **For every dollar awarded, a local financial or in-kind match of one dollar is required (50% match)**

Note: All funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Awardees will need to show receipts and proof of any required in-kind or financial match.

Eligible Organizations:

1. 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, school districts, and local units of government (i.e., cities, counties, townships) located within the MMDC region (Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties).

Timeline:

Eligible organizations may submit an application for MMDC Community Enhancement Funds during the period of July 1 to February 15. However, applicants are encouraged to submit early, as funds are limited.

Once an application is submitted, it will be reviewed by MMDC staff to determine eligibility. MMDC's executive director will then bring qualifying applications and funding recommendations to the next Full MMDC Board of Commissioners meeting for a final award decision (this body typically meets in January, March, June, September, November, and December – subject to change). **Applicants must be available, by phone or in-person, to answer any Commissioner questions that arise during the proposal consideration**

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meeting. Applicants will be notified once the MMDC Board of Commissioners has arrived at their decision.

Other Important Information:

All funded applicants must agree to be featured in an MMDC press release and make themselves available for a photo opportunity.

All funded applicants must agree to display a temporary sign that reads “Proudly Supported by Mid-Minnesota Development Commission” in an appropriate location for a period of not less than 30 days.

All funded applicants must agree to allow the MMDC the opportunity to add MMDC’s logo to any durable and publicly-visible item, at MMDC expense.

All funded applicants must submit proof of expenditures, as needed for reimbursement within one year of award notification.

Important Note: As funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis, the following documentation **will be required:**

1. Receipts for products or services rendered
2. Proof of financial or in-kind match (if required – see page 2)
3. A brief report (one page or less) on the outcome of your project or purchase, informing on:
 - o How funds were used,
 - o How this project or purchase has benefited, is benefiting, or will benefit your community,
 - o Problems encountered, if any,
 - o Anything additional that would be valuable for the MMDC to know about the outcome of this project.

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