



OUR VISION

Vibrant and resilient Reno County communities where every person has the opportunity to thrive

OUR MISSION

Inspire philanthropy, leadership, and collaboration to strengthen Reno County

OUR VALUES

We believe in uniting people and building trust among residents.

We believe in empowering local people to address our most pressing challenges and improve livelihoods, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

We believe in being exemplary stewards and community partners—the go-to source for philanthropy in Reno County.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2025 FUND FOR RENO COUNTY GRANTS

The Fund for Reno County, our “community savings account,” was established by the founding Board of Directors of Hutchinson Community Foundation as a permanent resource for the changing needs of Reno County. Fund for Reno County proposals allow Foundation representatives—board members, community volunteers, and staff—to hear directly from our communities about their challenges and opportunities.

Some of the grants are small but mighty, while others are large and far-reaching. Each represents an innovative approach or collaboration, a new efficiency for an established organization, a critical need that requires “just in time” funding, or an opportunity that needs a bit of local support to leverage great resources for our communities. Over \$5.6 million has been awarded from the Fund for Reno County to community-based organizations serving Reno County since 1990.

In 2025, Hutchinson Community Foundation will accept proposals for Fund for Reno County grants during two cycles that target specific areas of impact. Project proposals should align with the following Impact Cycle categories and purposes, their deadlines, and their maximum requests.

Impact Cycle 1 due February 28, 2025

- **Dynamic Culture** – Projects that enhance and celebrate local arts, theatre, history, and tourism. Maximum request of \$20,000.
- **Thriving Kids** – Projects that support high-quality early care and education, youth development, and families. Maximum request of \$20,000.
- **Community Catalyst** – Projects that improve community engagement, communication, confidence, and pride. Maximum request of \$2,500.
- **Strong Organizations** – Projects that strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and resilience of Reno County community-based organizations. Maximum request of \$7,500.

Impact Cycle 2 due August 15, 2025

- **Community & Economic Development** – Projects and plans that strengthen the community and local economy by building a diverse and resilient workforce, activating central business districts or Downtowns, supporting existing businesses, attracting new ones, and encouraging entrepreneurs; also, projects that strengthen the quality of place in Reno County through placemaking in public spaces and improving housing quality and accessibility. Maximum request of \$50,000.
- **Strong Organizations** – Projects that strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and resilience of Reno County community-based organizations. Maximum request of \$7,500.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS

Who can apply?

Proposals must come from organizations that are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) and serve Reno County, Kansas. Special purpose units of government may apply for support of innovative projects. Community groups who do not have a 501(c)(3) status may apply for grant awards if another tax-exempt organization acts as a fiscal sponsor. Grant proposals from individuals or non-qualifying organizations will not be considered. Applicants must conduct business without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, creed, or ethnicity.

How much funding can an organization apply for?

Proposals are reviewed and awarded by community volunteers on Hutch CF's Grants Committee. Each grant cycle has a maximum request amount (see page 1); generally, grant awards have typically ranged from \$2,500 to \$15,000 and averaged around \$7,000. The Grants Committee may choose to partially fund an applicant's requested budget. Organizations may submit applications in more than one grant category, if appropriate.

What kinds of proposals will NOT be funded?

Ineligible projects include religious indoctrination or other proselytization activities, deficit financing, lobbying, electioneering and activities of a political nature, sponsorships for special events, endowment building, direct fundraising, ongoing programmatic support, and reimbursement of pre-award costs.

What are the qualities of the most successful proposals?

Systems and Environment Change – Proposals that go beyond programming and into changing policies, systems, and environments that lead to improving the livelihoods of all people, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

Inclusion – Proposals that intentionally include the presence of the target population in the project co-creation, implementation, and evaluation.

Collaboration – Proposals that strengthen partnerships between organizations, sectors, or stakeholders, maximizing resources and aligning efforts to achieve shared objectives.

Innovation – Proposals that introduce original ideas, creative strategies, or bold solutions to address complex challenges, showing a willingness to experiment and adapt.

Effective Organizations – Proposals that evaluate, expand, or improve the effective services, operations, and leadership of established organizations.

Need – Proposals that provide a demonstrable and timely need for this project, and the organization is in a key position to meet that need.

Feasibility – Proposals that present a well thought-out strategy for achieving goals with a cost-effective budget.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

A Technical Assistance Workshop for potential applicants will be held via Zoom on January 22 at 3pm and at Hutchinson Community Foundation on January 23 at 10am. [Advance registration is required here.](#)

To best position your proposal for success, applicants are strongly encouraged to attend this workshop and/or speak with Hutch CF program staff ahead of submission to discuss their project and approach.

Proposals must be submitted online through the Foundant Grant Lifecycle Management (GLM) system, accessed through [HutchCF.org](#).

Notification of approvals and denials will be sent within 6 weeks of each deadline.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantees are required to complete and submit a report midway through the grant project to assist the Community Foundation in telling the story of the project's impact. A final report is due 30 days following the completion of the project and no later than one year after the grant award date. Reports will be requested via email for completion in the GLM online system. Failure to complete final reports on time may impact an organization's ability to receive future funding from the Community Foundation.

Contact program officer Sarah Blake at Sarah@HutchCF.org or 620.663.5293 with questions, or visit www.HutchCF.org.