



Fund for Reno County Grant Writing Technical Assistance

2025

**CHANGE
MAKERS**
— *at work* —

Agenda

- Hutchinson Community Foundation programs
- Grant opportunities and Impact Cycles
- Online grant application
- Grant writing tips
- Questions

➤ VISION ◀

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

➤ MISSION ◀

Inspire philanthropy, leadership, and collaboration to strengthen Reno County.

WE BELIEVE IN ...

Uniting people and building trust among residents.

Empowering local people to address our most pressing challenges and improve livelihoods, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

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

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES (10+ YEARS)

A strong, diverse, and inclusive local economy.

Healthy, connected people and neighborhoods.

A place with a culture of shared ownership, pride, and belonging.

Our Programs

- Love Where You Live (LWYL)
- Nonprofit Strength Initiative
- Leadership Development
- Youth Philanthropy
- Rooting Local Wealth



Purpose

To provide Reno County communities (and the county as a whole) with data and a process that will empower residents to make positive change and boost community pride.

1,021

Total Survey Responders
(1.7% of County Residents)

1 out of 4

responders expressed and interest in
serving and provided their contact
information (270)

Town Name	Response Count
Hutchinson	722
Buhler	93
Fairfield	66
Nickerson	51
Haven	43
Pretty Prairie	27
South Hutchinson	19
Grand Total	1021

445 names



Community Workshops

Attendance at Community Workshops	2024	Goal
Hutchinson	79	100
South Hutchinson	7	25
Nickerson	26	25
Buhler	38	25
Haven/Yoder	16	25
Pretty Prairie	16	25
Fairfield	23	25
Total	205	250

Reno County Survey Priorities & Indicators

Economic & Community Development Priorities (Survey)

1. Business attraction, retention, and expansion
2. Remove/renovate blight
3. Need access/affordable child care
4. Improve public infrastructure
5. Need access/affordable/quality housing

Progress Indicators (Survey)

1. Household income/above average wages
2. Number of new businesses launched
3. Local tax base
4. Childhood poverty
5. Community confidence & enthusiasm

Community Priorities (Workshop)

1. More high-quality jobs/businesses with higher wages
2. Remove/renovate blight
3. Housing quality, accessibility, and development
4. Infrastructure planning
5. Community engagement, communication, confidence, & pride

2024-25 LWYL Timeline

Community Survey

June - Aug

Online/paper survey of residents to understand local perceptions and priorities

Community Workshops

Oct - Nov

Gatherings within communities to build relationships through reviewing data, ideating, and prioritizing initiatives

Identify Priorities & Projects

Nov – Feb 2025

Residents and organizations collaborate on ideas to make progress on community priorities and spark community pride

Apply for Grants

Feb & Aug 2025

Submit project proposals to Fund for Reno County;
Feb – mini catalyst grants (up to \$2,500)
Aug – community & economic development (up to \$50,000)

Community Catalyst Grants

- Purpose: Projects that improve community engagement, communication, confidence, and pride
- Impact Cycle 1 – due 2/28/2025
- Maximum request of \$2,500

Community & Economic Development Grants

- Purpose:
 - Projects and plans that strengthen the community and local economy by building a diverse & resilient workforce, activating central business districts or Downtowns, supporting existing businesses, attracting new ones, and encouraging entrepreneurs
 - Projects that strengthen the quality of place in Reno County through placemaking in public spaces and improving housing quality and accessibility
- Impact Cycle 2 – due 8/15/2025
- Maximum request of \$50,000

Dynamic Culture Grants

- Purpose: Projects that enhance and celebrate local arts, theatre, history, and tourism
- Impact Cycle 1 – due 2/28/2025
- Maximum request of \$20,000

Thriving Kids Grants

- Purpose: Projects that support high-quality early care and education, youth development, and families
- Impact Cycle 1 – due 2/28/2025
- Maximum request of \$20,000



Nonprofit Strength Initiative

Nonprofit Strength Initiative

- Nonprofits Connect accounts
 - Scuttlebutts and Metropolitan Coffee
- Nonprofits Connect Meetups
 - 4th Fridays from 9-10am (except May, Nov, Dec)
 - Scuttlebutts Community Room 1
- Magnify Workshop
 - April 23-24, limited to 12 organizations
 - Presented by NonprofitGO of Wichita
- Learning Community Series
 - June-August

Strong Organizations Grants

- Purpose: Projects that strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and resilience of Reno County community-based organizations
- Impact Cycle 1 – due 2/28/2025
- Impact Cycle 2 – due 8/15/25
- Maximum request of \$7,500

The Gift to Dream

- Purpose: Support the capacity to innovate, to experiment, and to dream
- Due September 2025
- Award of \$2,500



Leadership Development

Leadership Development

- Leadership Reno County
- Peer Consultation Days
- KLC Leadership Transformation Grant
 - 2025 Cohort Purpose: Make progress on an adaptive challenge through leadership development and collaboration across sectors and factions
 - Application due Feb. 24
- Facilitator Community of Practice
 - 2025 Cohort Purpose: Cultivate a capable and connected network of facilitators in Reno County, Kansas, who will foster meaningful change and resilience in our communities
 - Application due Feb. 24

Leadership Coaching Grants

- Hutch CF's Leadership Coaching Program offers individuals and groups the opportunity to make progress on adaptive challenges alongside the assistance of a coach
- 1 hour exploratory coaching session
- Grant up to \$1,800 that covers the cost of up to 6 sessions over 6 months
- Applications in GLM



Grantee Requirements

Who can apply?

- Proposals must come from organizations that are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) and serve Reno County. 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, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or national origin.

Fiscal Sponsor Agreement

- An organization that is not a 501(c)(3), municipal entity, or religious institution may partner with a fiscal sponsor that does have IRS status, as long as the project is consistent with the fiscal sponsor's mission.
- The fiscal sponsor must complete and sign the Fiscal Sponsor Agreement for inclusion with the grant application.
- The fiscal sponsor, if awarded the grant, retains complete control and discretion over the applicant/sub-grantee's funds and is responsible for ensuring reporting requirements are met.

Grantee Requirements

- Communication Guidelines will be issued upon awarding of the grant
- Mid-Year Report to Foundation or site visit will be conducted 6 months after award
- Final Report due one year after award at the end of the award month
- Foundation expects primary grant activity to be completed one year after award is made



Grant Application & Grant Writing

Accessing Grant Lifecycle Management (GLM)

- **Hutchcf.org**
 - **Nonprofits & Grants tab**
 - **GLM Applicant Tutorial – first-time users or for review**
 - **Blue “Apply Here” button below tutorial**
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- **Contact Sarah if your organization already has an account and you need to be added as a user/contact**

Hutch CF Qualities of Successful Proposals

Systems & Environment Change

Inclusion

Collaboration

Innovation

Effective Organizations

Need

Feasibility

Hutch CF Qualities of Unsuccessful Proposals

- Mission creep
- Duplication of services
- Undemonstrated collaboration
- Funding needed to “save” organization
- Capital campaign
- No plan for sustainability
- Ongoing funding
- Proselytization
- Does not predominantly serve Reno County
- Unknown organization

Grantwriting Do's and Don'ts

DO	DON'T
Follow the grant guidelines.	Don't leave anything out.
Know your audience.	Don't write the same thing for every grant.
Be succinct and specific.	Don't use rhetoric and hyperbole.
Write it out in common language that anyone can understand.	Don't use jargon or acronyms. Don't assume the funder knows much about your subject area.
Proofread for punctuation, grammar, and syntax.	Don't underestimate first impressions.
Describe a problem that is about the same size as your solution.	Don't describe the problem as the absence of your project.
Answer "so what?"	Don't assume the data or examples will speak for themselves.
Describe the situation in both factual and human interest terms, if possible. Stories get stored in brains.	Don't rely on statistics.

Ask yourself...

Can my mother understand
my proposal?

Questions?

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