

2023 Community Grant Guidelines—Small Grants

(Updated April 2023)

Umpqua Bank, through the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation, continues to believe in the power of partnership by leading with a Social Impact Strategy and Community Grants program that reflects a deep commitment to improving economic prosperity for under-resourced individuals, families, and small businesses. We are dedicated to building healthier, more resilient, better connected, and inclusive communities throughout our footprint. Through grantmaking and the deployment of other charitable resources—both financial and human, we invest in nonprofit organizations, communities, and leaders with the intent of supporting direct-service programming that incorporates a diversity, equity, and inclusion focus.

Program Details for Small Grants

Grant range	\$5,000-\$10,000
Grants awarded	Around 175 annually
Applications received	Around 1,000 annually

Application Process

Applications must be submitted using the [Community Grant form](#) via the GrantsConnect platform to be eligible for potential funding. Paper or email applications are not accepted.

Deadlines

Due to high demand and budgetary considerations, requests received in one grant cycle may be pushed to a later grant cycle. If you don't hear from us by the end of the expected month, please email us at Community@UmpquaBank.com. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Grant Cycle	Application opens by:	Application closes at 5:00 p.m. Pacific on:	Decisions communicated via email by the end of:
Summer 2023	April 17	Friday, June 2	August/September
Fall 2023	June 12	Friday, September 1	November/December

Generally, nonprofit organizations may submit only one application per calendar year. An exception may be made in smaller communities where one organization serves as the fiscal sponsor for multiple programs. Please contact us if you believe your organization qualifies for this exception.

Review Process

After the application deadline closes, we begin a multi-stage review process of all received applications. If we need additional information during the review period, we will request a revision through the application portal or contact the applicant directly. The entire process—from application deadline, through review, to formal decisioning—may take up to 12 weeks or longer.

Nondiscrimination policy

Umpqua Bank and the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation respect and value diversity, equity, and inclusion. Nonprofit organizations seeking financial support from the bank or the foundation, are asked to verify that their programs and services are offered without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law, regulation, or ordinance. Your application submission validates your adherence to this policy.

Reporting

Besides a payment receipt email, the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation does not currently require formal reporting for Community Grant recipients. We encourage nonprofit organizations to include program successes in their applications so that we can see the long-term effectiveness of your program when you submit future grant applications.

Contact

If you have additional questions about our Community Grants program after reviewing this information, please contact us at Community@UmpquaBank.com or visit www.UmpquaBank.com/Community.

Priority Impact Areas

Economically Empowered Individuals

College, Career, Technical Readiness

Empowering students to develop a tangible path that takes them beyond high school graduation into post-secondary education and/or financially supportive and fulfilling careers

Financial Competency

Providing knowledge, skills, and experiential education to people of all ages so they can learn about money, budgeting, savings, and investing

Housing Stability and Home Ownership

Connecting individuals and families to long-term affordable housing, and facilitating ownership through down-payment assistance and/or homebuyer education

Vibrant Business Ecosystems

Entrepreneurship and Business Expansion

Supporting new ventures and maturation of micro and small businesses, while contributing to a healthy economy; increasing accessibility to resources and access to capital for under-resourced populations looking to start or grow their business venture

Small Business Support and Financial Guidance

Supporting business growth and funding that offers education, technical assistance, tools, and resources for increasing stability and financial acumen for existing business owners

Thriving Communities

Family Engagement and Resiliency

Building strong, positive support networks so families can cope with everyday stresses and occasional crisis

Vibrant and Equitable Neighborhoods

Making systemic improvements to an area's individual, community, and societal outcomes, while growing community wealth, stabilizing the economy, and retaining access and culture

Technical and Digital Connectivity

Expanding education and access to digital infrastructure for learners, businesses, and consumers

Eligibility

While we wish we could fund more organizations doing great work, this program supports direct-service programs that align closely with our Priority Impact Areas.

The Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation will:

- Accept applications only from qualified, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations—eligible applicants must be registered on the national IRS database at time of application
- Accept applications from nonprofits serving communities where Umpqua Bank maintains a physical location, including branches, commercial banking centers, lending offices, and administrative offices—the list of eligible states is provided within the grant application; there is space to tell us more about the geographical community(ies) your nonprofit serves in relation to the Umpqua Bank location(s) nearest you
- Only fund programs that serve a majority low-to-moderate (LMI) population
- Prioritize nonprofit organizations that engage current Umpqua Bank associates in a volunteer capacity
- Prioritize programs benefitting under-resourced communities

We are unlikely to:

- Grant to the same nonprofit organization more than three consecutive years
- Approve requests for more than 50% of the program/project budget
- Make grants directly or indirectly to government entities, including municipalities, school districts, and universities/colleges
- Support broad requests for ongoing, general operations (e.g., salaries, overhead, administration, indirect costs, etc.)

We will not support Community Grant applications for:

- Individual schools
- Animal adoptions/care/training
- Sports/athletics/recreation
- Medical/dental/mental health
- Political advocacy/campaigns/lobbying
- Religious activities or organizations that include religion in programs
- Multi-year commitments
- Capital requests, including new or upgraded buildings
- Capital/fundraising campaigns
- Event sponsorships
- Higher education scholarships
- Association membership fees
- Endowment funds or re-granting programs
- Debt retirement or deficit funding
- Activities providing the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation, Umpqua Bank, or its associates with any tangible benefits in exchange for the grant

Application Fields

This section will help you understand what we're looking for in an application and is for informational purposes only; your formal application must be submitted online. Fields that are required are denoted by a red asterisk.

Organization Information

We are looking to fund nonprofit organizations that are closely aligned with Umpqua's Priority Impact Areas, are addressing an identified need in your community, and have a track record of success. We will ask you for the following information on your application:

- Website*
 - Please copy and paste your organization's primary web address
- Mission Statement* (word limit: 100)
 - While you may also have a vision, values, and other directional guidance, please provide only the organization's core mission statement.
 - Avoid formatting like bullets and line breaks.
- Organization Budget* (file upload)
 - If the request is on behalf of a local chapter of a national organization, just include the local chapter's budget.
- W-9* (file upload, PDF)
 - Use the most current version of the [IRS form](#) (dated 2018). If applying through a fiscal sponsor, provide the sponsor's W-9.

Organization Leader Contact

The name and email address of the person completing the application is automatically captured by the system when you log in. In this part of the form, we are looking for the contact information for the organization's leader:

- First and last name*
- Title*
- Email address*
- Phone number*

Request

We are looking for programs that are strongly aligned with Umpqua's Priority Impact Areas, have a demonstrated record of impact in their community, are thoughtful about what need they are fulfilling and have a plan for sustainability for future success.

If this is the first or second year of running the program, we recommend that you wait another year before submitting your application so that you can demonstrate the quality, success and sustainability of the program.

- Program Title*
 - Your application should be focused on a specific program that is already up and running at your organization.

- Program Description* (word limit: 300)
This is the most important part of the application. Be sure to answer the following:
 - What does your program do? Provide the reviewer a strong overview of the program in general and how it fits one of our Priority Impact Areas.
 - Why is your program needed in your community?
 - How do you accomplish it?
 - Is this a new or ongoing program? If ongoing, what year did it begin?
 - What will Umpqua funds pay for? Be specific with dollar breakdowns.
 - Who do you serve? There will be an opportunity later to elaborate on the income and diversity demographics of your clients.
 - Is the program designed from a “best or proven practice?” If so, list the source of the research that backs up this claim.
- Evaluation and Measurement* (word limit: 250)
 - How do you evaluate the program to know that it is successful?
 - Tell us the methods through which you collect program evidence, including any best/proven practices used, as well as the results of your most recent evaluation.
 - When possible, use measures of success via outcomes rather than simply the number of people participating.
 - Example: “We served 50 students in our program in fiscal year 2021-2022. Approximately 73% of those students increased their average test score by a minimum of 5 points.”
- Umpqua Priority Impact Area Level 1* (pick from list)
- Umpqua Priority Impact Area Level 2* (pick from list)
- Program Timeframe* (word limit: 100)
 - Is there a “season” for providing your services?
 - Example: “Our financial education courses for students coincide with the traditional academic year, beginning in September and ending in June.”
- Program Area*
 - Provide at least one and up to four physical addresses served by this program.
 - For example, if your main office is in Portland, OR, but the program benefits families in Beaverton, Gresham, and Milwaukie equally, provide a physical address in each city or area, and list the Percentage of Program at 34%, 33%, and 33%, respectively.
 - If your organization does not maintain a physical location in each city it serves, use a location from which you recruit clients or post flyers, like a school, partner organization, or city hall.
- Cover Letter (file upload)
 - Please limit cover letters to 300 words.
 - Cover letters can be addressed to:

Board of Directors
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation

Demographics

- Number of Program Participants/Clients*
 - Include units like families, homes, students, businesses, etc.
- LMI Percentage* (pick from list)
 - We only review applications from organizations where 51% or more of the clients served are low-to-moderate income (LMI).
 - Select the range that corresponds to the percentage of your clients that are low-to-moderate income.
- LMI Qualifier* (pick from list)
 - Choose which type of information you use to determine the status of the clients served by this program.
- Other LMI Details (word limit: 250)
 - Provide other information that will help the reviewer understand how you know that most of the clients who benefit from this program are LMI.
- Primary Under-Resourced Population* (pick from list)
 - If the clients served by your program also fall into an under-resourced population, either intentionally because of the organization’s mission or unintentionally, select the appropriate category. While we understand several populations may intersect, please choose the one your program serves intentionally or the most dominant population.
- Other Under-Resourced Population (multi-select list)
 - Optionally, you may select any additional under-resourced population(s) served by your program.
- Does your program address environmental, climate, and/or sustainability challenges? * (yes/no)
 - Your response does not impact the grant decisioning process.
- Other Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Details (word count: 250)
 - Provide information that will help us understand the diversity of your program and any efforts to be inclusive and equitable.
 - If your program has already identified areas of growth, you could provide it here.
- Organizational Leadership*
 - Is the organization’s executive leadership (President, CEO, Executive Director) a member of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community?
 - Is the composition of the nonprofit’s board of directors a majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)?
- Leadership Representation* (word count: 100)
 - We want to know how representative your organization’s leadership is—executive staff and board of directors—compared to the LMI and under-resourced communities you serve.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategy (optional)

As Umpqua Bank continues to enhance our own DEI efforts, we are interested to hear about our potential nonprofit partner’s approach and progress. The information provided in these fields will help to inform and enrich our potential partnership.

- DEI Support
 - Is your organization open to help in creating, improving, or operationalizing your DEI strategy from Umpqua Bank or other partners?
- DEI Statement (file upload)
 - If your organization has a DEI Statement, Strategy, Plan, or other similar policy that was approved by the board of directors, please provide it here.

Finances

- Request Amount*
 - You may request between \$5,000-\$10,000. We encourage applicants to request an amount that is appropriate given the program budget. It is possible that we would approve a grant application at a different amount than requested.
- Program Budget*
 - What is the total annual budget for this program?
- Other Funding Sources*
 - Please include the date and source of any secured and pending funding.
- Program Budget* (file upload)

Volunteer Engagement

At Umpqua Bank, we love to see associate participation in the programs we fund and have made that a priority in our review process. We encourage organizations to post volunteer opportunities in the [NPOconnect Nonprofit Platform](#) and reach out to local Umpqua locations to build volunteer relationships prior to submitting their first application.

- Only Current Umpqua Bank and/or Financial Pacific Leasing associate volunteers*
 - It is the responsibility of the applying nonprofit to verify that any listed associate volunteers are currently employed, at the time of grant application, with Umpqua Bank and/or Financial Pacific Leasing.
 - Do NOT include any details about your banking relationship with Umpqua Bank (or Columbia Bank in the past) or individual donors who are Umpqua associates.
- Are you interested in future volunteer support from Umpqua Bank? If so, what kind? *
 - In the application we have provided a list of our primary volunteer activities.
- Other Volunteer Support Details (word count: 100)
 - Provide any other details regarding volunteer support that will help us understand opportunities to engage with your program.
 - If your program is unlikely to benefit from volunteers, or if you have already attempted to recruit Umpqua associates without success, please explain that here.

Final Details

- Payment Mailing Address*
 - If awarded a grant, a check will be mailed to the address provided here.
- Application Contact Phone*
 - This should be the phone number for the person filling out the request form.

- Attestation*

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My nonprofit organization's last application was declined. When am I eligible to submit another grant application?

A: Generally, the next calendar year. However, please be sure to update and strengthen the request before submitting a new application.

Q: What can I do to submit a more competitive application?

A: The Community Grants program is highly competitive; typically, about 20% of applications are approved every year. Please ensure that your organization's mission is strongly aligned with one of our Priority Impact Areas. We also prioritize programs that have an Umpqua associate involved, especially in a leadership capacity. Before you submit another application, we expect that you have made progress on at least one of the following:

- Recruited Umpqua Bank associates to volunteer, at least episodically. If you have not been successful, please explain your efforts to engage Umpqua associates.
- If it made sense, sought Umpqua Bank associates to fill open community leadership positions (board or committee) at your organization.
- Posted volunteer opportunities through the [YourCause Nonprofit Platform](#).
- Having active conversations with us to explore ways to engage volunteer associates.

Q: Does Umpqua offer sponsorships?

A: Community Grants are the primary open, broad-based funding opportunities through the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation. Event sponsorships may be initiated by some business lines throughout Umpqua Bank, but there is no public channel to request sponsorships.

Q: We had a grant writer who is no longer with the organization. How can we access the grant application history without their account?

A: We can add or replace applicants on both drafted and submitted applications. Please reach out to us at Community@UmpquaBank.com for help.

Q: I'm having issues with the GrantsConnect platform. How do I get help?

A: At the lower right corner of the GrantsConnect screen you will see an icon that says, "Need Assistance?" There you will get technical assistance from the GrantsConnect vendor, YourCause.

Q: I already have a GrantsConnect account that I use for another funder. Can I use the same login to complete this application?

A: Yes, a single account can be used for all grantmaking foundations or companies using GrantsConnect.

Q: I missed the application deadline. Can my application to be reviewed during the current cycle?

A: With the automation of our system, late applications cannot be accepted. However, your application progress is not lost. Please reach out to us at Community@UmpquaBank.com for help routing a draft application to the next available cycle.