



2026 IPCF Environment & Nature Information

DESCRIPTION

IPCF Environment & Nature Grants are open to programs and projects that focus on the environment and nature issues. The Go Green Frautschi/Bedell Grant has been integrated into the Environment & Nature Grants and focuses on enhancing and beautifying our surroundings in McLean County (see more about those at <https://ilprairiecf.org/go-green-frautschi-bedell-grant>).

Applications may be submitted from September 1 to September 30, 2025.

Applications will only be accepted through the online grant portal; no paper applications accepted. If you apply for an IPCF Environment & Nature Grant, you may not apply for the identical program to either the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy or Women to Women Giving Circle grants, which run on the same timetable as the IPCF Environment & Nature Grants. You may, however, apply to multiple grant categories if the applications are for distinctly different programs and fit the criteria listed for the particular grant category.

- \$30,000 total is available to award; multiple grants are awarded and ranged from \$1,000-\$7,385 in 2025
- IPCF Environment & Nature Grants are open to programs and projects that focus on the environment and nature issues. Some examples of project areas include, but are not limited to: pollution or toxics reduction, clean and renewable energy, biodiversity and habitat improvement, resource conservation and environmental justice.
- Must impact at least one of the four counties in the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation service area (McLean, DeWitt, Livingston or Logan)
- Applicants are required to use a budget document developed by the IPCF Grants Committees; form can be downloaded through the online grant application; Word and Excel files are available
- **Submission deadline is September 30, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (Central)**; the online grant system automatically closes all applications at the 5 p.m. deadline, whether they are in progress or not
- Grant applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant request by early January
- Grant funding is for the period of **February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027**; programs seeking funding must occur during that timeframe
- Those organizations awarded grants will be sent a link to a Grant Agreement on the grant portal; the Executive Director, CEO or President of the Board must approve the document which outlines conditions and requirements for accepting the grant award.

Grant awards will be distributed beginning in January 2026 after receipt of the completed grant agreement.

We regret that not all projects can be funded. A denial should not be viewed as a negative reflection on an organization or program, but rather a result of the number of applications received and the amount of funding available.

REQUIREMENTS

Grant Eligibility

- Program must deal specifically with environment and/or nature; funding may support a new or existing program
- Applicants must have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, operate under a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) organization, be a local unit of local, county, state or federal government or be a tax-exempt religious organization as recognized by the IRS
- Program must be available to residents of McLean, DeWitt, Livingston or Logan Counties; however, programs do not have to serve all four counties
- Program must be operated and organized in such a manner that no applicable anti-discrimination laws are violated; program must not proselytize for a particular religion or cause
- Organizations that have received past grants from Illinois Prairie Community Foundation must be current on all grant Final Reports
- Executive Director, CEO or President of the Board of an organization applying must approve the application

Criteria Given Greatest Consideration

- Has potential to be on-going and self-sufficient beyond the time of funding
- Offers creative and innovative solutions to address the identified need by building on proven practical methods
- Utilizes clear methods of measuring and reporting results with emphasis on objective, quantifiable measurements
- Is cost effective as reflected by the number of participants served vs program budget

What Is Not Funded

- Annual fundraising events and expenses
- Capital improvements or expenditures
- Conference or continuing education expenses
- Scholarships
- Non program-related expenses (grant committees prefer not to fund personnel expenses)
- Endowment campaigns

To begin the online grant application, go to

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ipcf>. After logging in or creating a new account, you will be directed to an Apply page showing all open grant applications for the fall grant cycle. Click on the Environment & Nature Grant application to begin.

Log in to the online grant portal to start an application, finish a previously started and saved application, check the status of a previous application or complete follow-up reports assigned for successful grantees.

Questions? Contact Michele Evans, Vice President (Programs), Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, 309-662-4477 or mevans@ilpcf.org.