



2026 MIRZA/ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

IPCF's Mirza/Arts & Culture Grants are open to programs and projects that focus on art, music, and theatre education and enrichment, and the performing and visual arts. The David and Kay Williams Music Education Grant focuses on providing creative music education experiences for all ages and abilities and uses the Mirza/Arts & Culture Grant application (see "Selection Criteria" at <https://ilprairiecf.org/david-kay-williams-music-education-endowment>).

Applications may be submitted from **February 1 to February 27, 2026**; applications must be completed using the online portal; no paper applications will be accepted.

If you apply for a Mirza/Arts & Culture Grant, you may not apply for the identical program to the General or Shulman Jewish Education & Life Grants, which run concurrently with the Mirza/Arts & Culture Grants. You may, however, apply in multiple grant categories if the applications are for distinctly different programs and fit the criteria listed for the particular grant category.

Other Info:

- **Submission deadline is February 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)**; the online grant application system automatically closes all applications at the 5 p.m. deadline
- Grant funding is for the period of June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027; programs must take place during that timeframe
- Funding requests should be for a minimum of \$500; the range of grant awards in 2025 was \$730 to \$3,600 (average grant award was \$2,215. To see programs that were funded previously, visit <https://ilprairiecf.org/past-mirza-arts-culture-grant-recipient/>)
- Applicants are required to use a budget document developed by the IPCF's grants committees; budget document can be downloaded from the online grant application; Word and Excel files are available
- Grant applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant request by end of April 2026
- 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 May 2026

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

REQUIREMENTS

Grant Eligibility

- Program must deal specifically with one of the following: education, health and wellness, or youth; 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

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

ONLINE GRANT PORTAL INFO

To begin the online grant application, go to

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

Logging in to the online grant portal allows you 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.