



2026 Redbird Impact Philanthropy Leaders – Civic Engagement-Focused Grants

Redbird Impact Philanthropy Leaders (RIPL) is an initiative cocreated by the Center for Civic Engagement and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. The program is designed to support undergraduate students at Illinois State University in their exploration of the nonprofit sector through the grantmaking process.

Student participants will gain an understanding of philanthropy through hands-on experience, including promoting \$10,000 in available grants, reviewing applications, and selecting civic engagement-focused programs to fund.

RIPL utilizes Illinois State University's definition of civic engagement:

"Civic engagement involves developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes."

RIPL Grant Cycle

The application period for the 2026 Redbird Impact Philanthropy Leaders (RIPL) grants will open February 1, 2026, and close on February 27, 2026, at 5 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 funding is for the period of **June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027**; programs seeking funding must occur during that timeframe.

Applications will only be accepted through the online portal.

Requirements

- Applicants must represent a 501(c)(3) organization; an organization with a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) organization; a unit of municipal, county, state, or federal government (including public schools); a nonprofit institute of higher learning; or a tax-exempt religious organization or place of worship (programs may not proselytize for a particular religion or cause).
- Project must be civic engagement-focused
- 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
- If awarded funding, there must be a follow-up report completed regarding the success of the project within 60 days of the project's completion
- If your organization receives funding from RIPL and wishes to change the use of funding at any time, you must first submit a written request to IPCF
- If your organization receives funding from RIPL and does not use all of the funds provided by RIPL, you must notify IPCF. The foundation will then notify you on how to proceed with the funds
- **Completed grant applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. (Central) February 27, 2026.**

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 spring grant cycle. Click on the Redbird Impact Philanthropy Leaders 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.

Answers are required for all questions with asterisks before the application may be submitted. The application will not submit if you are missing information in a required field. You will receive a confirmation email once you have successfully submitted your application.

Most applicants find it easiest to write their application in a Word document and then copy and paste into the appropriate areas of the application. The online application system will automatically save throughout the process, but you can always save your work as you go along. Please save a copy of your application before submitting it.

If you have questions about the application or would like mentorship in completing it, please contact Michele Evans, Vice President (Programs) at IPCF, as soon as possible at 309-662-4477 or mevans@ilpcf.org.