

ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION

Community Grants Program Guidelines

The Alliant Energy Foundation's Community Grants are directed to projects, programs and initiatives that benefit the residents and communities in the Midwestern states served by Alliant Energy's utility subsidiaries, Interstate Power and Light Co. and Wisconsin Power and Light Co. The Foundation contributes to a wide array of programs to further its mission of improving the quality of community life within one or more of its focus areas.

Areas of Focus

Grants are awarded in five major categories. Programs, projects or initiatives that promote our value-driven priorities of safety and diversity and that qualify in multiple categories are of particular interest and will receive special consideration.

• Civic:

We support community-based organizations that conduct programs and activities aimed at community improvement, economic development, affordable housing, job training, retention and placement, or initiatives that seek to improve the overall quality of community life.

• Culture and art:

We support organizations that conduct programs and activities which foster an enlightenment and appreciation of the fine arts and humanities, with an emphasis on broadening access to cultural and art activities.

• Education:

We believe an educated and skilled workforce is crucial to the vitality of our communities, and so priority is given to educational programs that foster innovation and develop future leaders.

• Environment:

We help protect the environment by supporting organizations that seek to educate, inform and advance environmental issues that have the potential to impact our communities.

• Human needs:

We help meet local community human services needs through annual grants to United Way campaigns and to other agencies that provide those needs in communities.

General Guidelines - Only eGrant applications are accepted.

The Alliant Energy Foundation awards grants as detailed:

GRANT CYCLE	REQUEST DEADLINE	DECISION DATE
CYCLE ONE	JANUARY 15	APRIL 1
CYCLE TWO	MAY 15	AUGUST 1
CYCLE THREE	SEPTEMBER 15	DECEMBER 1

The eGrant site opens 30 days prior to the grant cycle deadline and must be submitted by the request deadline stated above. As a general rule, requests for funding will not be considered outside of one of the three grantmaking cycles. Grants for a project on a particular date should be requested so that a decision can be made prior to the actual date of the program or event. The Foundation will accept proposals in any of its areas of focus during each cycle.

Priority is given to those projects that:

- Originate from organizations in areas where Alliant Energy has a presence and in communities where Alliant Energy employees live and work. (Non-profit organizations located outside of Alliant Energy's utility service territory but that serve populations in Alliant Energy's areas are also eligible for consideration.)
- Exhibit community partnerships and funding support from various sources;
- Meet identified needs and have a measurable impact in the community;
- Come from organizations that exhibit strong financial management and board commitment;
- Are sustainable and demonstrate innovative solutions to problems; and/or
- Have an internal "advocate" or "sponsor" within the Alliant Energy family of companies.

Restrictions and Limitations

The Foundation will not provide funding for:

- Organizations that are **not** either: (1) registered, non-profit organizations as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code; (2) fully accredited public or private schools or universities; or (3) instruments of federal, state or local governments as provided by Section 170(c)(1) of the Code.
- Contributions to individuals;
- Programs that provide assistance with energy costs or energy-related projects that conflict with the Internal Revenue Service's rules that govern self-dealing by private foundations. Ineligible projects include energy-efficiency building upgrades, new or improved lighting fixtures and equipment, holiday light displays and other projects that may provide a benefit to Alliant Energy or its utility subsidiaries;
- Ads in programs, door prizes, raffle tickets, dinner tables, golf outings or sponsorships of organized sports teams or activities;
- Athletes, teams, sporting events or tournaments;
- Contributions to intermediary ("third party") funding groups that raise money to distribute to other charities;
- Fiscal agents;
- Fraternal or social clubs;
- Religious institutions such as churches, synagogues, temples or other houses of worship, or any organization whose main purpose is to promote a specific faith, creed or religion and/or direct resources to advocate for a specific ideology;
- Endowments;
- Organizations that discriminate against people because of their age, race, creed, gender, handicap, sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin;

- Registration or participation fees for individuals, teams or schools for fundraising events, e.g., walk-a-thons, runs, travel funds for tours or tournaments; or
- Books, magazines or professional journal articles.

The Foundation does not provide funding for capital campaigns and projects (more commonly known as "bricks-and-mortar" projects). This includes new construction, structural renovations, repairs or similar projects.

Further, we don't provide grants for salaries, facilities costs or other operating expenses, which are not a priority of our grantmaking. Generally, we prefer to provide grants to support specific programs, projects or initiatives in lieu of general operating support.

Please note: Support of political activity either directly or indirectly is prohibited by law.

Request Process

Step 1 - Eligibility Questionnaire*

To apply for a Community Grant, you must first complete a brief [Eligibility Questionnaire](#) which can be found on the Foundation's 'Apply for a Community Grant' page or visit alliantenergy.com/foundation (click on the Apply for a Community Grant link). You will be asked a series of yes or no questions that will help determine if your organization and request fit within our guidelines.

- If your responses to the Eligibility Questionnaire do not fall within our guidelines, you will receive a message indicating why and will be given information regarding other Alliant Energy Foundation programs.

Step 2 - Bookmark the link

Your responses to the Eligibility Questionnaire have indicated that you/your organization is qualified to apply for a Community Grant; you will be directed to our eGrant system.

- Once you access this page, we highly recommend you add this page to your favorites so you are able to bypass the Eligibility Questionnaire in the future.

Step 3 - Register

If you have not already done so, the eGrant system will ask you to register by creating a login and password. Once you register or create an account, the information will remain in our system for you to review and update each year.

- You are registering on behalf of your organization, not as an individual. Please make note of your login and password and share with others within your organization that will need access to your application in Alliant Energy Foundation's eGrant system.

Step 4 - Application Questions

Similar to previous print versions of our request form, the eGrant system will prompt you to answer a series of grant questions. Another benefit of this eGrant system is that you will be able to save the work done on the Community Grant application as you go, and submit it at a later date. Please adhere to grant making cycle and application deadlines.

Step 5 - Submit My Data

Upon completion of the application questions you must hit "Submit My Data" to complete the process.

The eGrant system will send an electronic confirmation that your request has been received, and will also communicate when a decision has been made or when other updates on grant requests are available.

*Registered/returning applicants who have already taken the Eligibility Questionnaire may bypass it and simply login to the eGrant system to submit new requests. First-time applicants must complete the Eligibility Questionnaire and register in the system.

Each Community Grant Request is reviewed with regard to:

- The compatibility of the organization's goals (and those of the specific project, program or initiative) with the Foundation's priorities and available resources;
- The financial needs of the organization;
- Past practices and the experience of the Foundation and the Alliant Energy family of companies with respect to that organization;
- Capability and reputation of the organization;
- Funds available to the organization from other sources, including specific interest from other corporate or charitable foundations;
- The extent to which the project, program or initiative duplicates others or the work of other organizations;
- The public scope and impact of the proposal;
- The amount of operating support provided to the organization from the United Way. The Alliant Energy Foundation contributes more than \$600,000 annually to United Way organizations across the company's utility service area, and therefore seeks to limit support for United Way member agencies.

Upon review by the Foundation staff and with input from local employees in Alliant Energy's service areas, projects, programs or initiatives that are of interest to the Foundation will be considered for funding.

If necessary, the Foundation staff may request additional information about the organization, its proposal, general objectives of the project and/or an on-site visit by Foundation or Alliant Energy representatives.

Other Information

The Foundation receives many more funding requests than it can grant. If it is necessary to deny funding for a worthwhile organization or project, it is not a reflection on the value of the group or its services, but rather on the need to be selective because of limited resources during each grantmaking cycle. Our grants typically range from \$500 to \$5,000 with an average grant of \$2,500. As a general rule, if the Foundation cannot provide at least 20 percent of the organization's requested amount, the request will not be funded.

Grants are approved for a one-year period and the Foundation does not make multi-year commitments. Typically, only one grant will be committed to an organization in a calendar year. Some exceptions may be made when an organization hosts multiple divisions or departments, or when the projects target different areas of focus.

The Foundation is governed by a board of directors, comprised of officers of Alliant Energy Corporation or its subsidiaries, which reviews the Community Grants program guidelines on an annual basis. The Foundation Executive Director manages the day-to-day operations of the Foundation and its programs, and the staff administers the Community Grants program with substantial input and feedback from local Alliant Energy employees.

Organizations that ultimately receive funding from the Foundation must sign a Grant Agreement and, depending on the amount of the grant award, will be asked to provide a written report documenting program achievements, lessons learned and a detailed list of grant expenditures.

Please review these guidelines and instructions carefully and become familiar with our approach and areas of focus. We also encourage you to read the "Frequently Asked Questions" available at the Foundation's Web site at www.alliantenergy.com/foundation. If you require further information, please contact our office at (608) 458-4483 or by e-mail at foundation@alliantenergy.com.

