

2026 Special Event Support Grants

Special Event Support Grant Requests			
Organization and/or Requestor	Amount Requested	Recommend Funding	Event description (as submitted by applicant)
Travis James Gustavson Foundation – 5 th Annual Fentanyl Poisoning and Overdose Awareness and Prevention Day	\$700	\$700	This is a community event. Every person in Mankato and Blue Earth County is affected in some way by opioids/fentanyl, an all substances that are destroying lives and killing our young and old. Awareness leads to prevention. By making our community aware of the dangers, and what they can do to protect their children, we will save lives. We also provide Narcan which is lifesaving.
Greater Mankato Diversity Council - Juneteenth	\$2,000	\$2,000	Juneteenth honors June 19, 1865, the day the last enslaved people in Texas learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a celebration of liberation, resilience, and the enduring struggle for justice and dignity. As a community, we celebrate this historic event.
Mahkato Okawitaya (December 24-27 Dakota Riders Arrival and Reconciliation Ceremony)	\$2,000	\$2,000	Sacred ceremony and meals recognizing the arrival of riders, runners, and supporters memorializing the Dakota 38+2 and celebrating healing and reconciliation between Dakota people and Minnesota communities, especially the City of Mankato.
Mankato Pepper Classic	\$2,000	\$2,000	The Mankato Peppers Classic is a premier fastpitch softball tournament showcasing top youth teams from across the nation and Canada. Hosted by the Mankato Peppers organization, the event emphasizes competitive play, sportsmanship, and community spirit. Teams enjoy the elite facilities and a welcoming atmosphere that celebrates the game and its athletes. 90% of the attendance is from outside Mankato area. Note, funds not to be used for operational and/or fundraising purposes.

	Requested	Recommended*
Total: Budgeted Amt. = \$7,500	\$6,700	\$6,700

*Excess funding becomes available for Community Grant Program (performing arts, neighborhood beautification, social services)