

## 2026 Community Grant Applicants

| Community Performing Arts and Music  |                         |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Organization and/or Requestor</i> | <i>Amount Requested</i> | <i>Recommend Funding</i> | <i>Summary of project profile (as submitted by applicant)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mankato Area Community Band          | \$2,500                 | \$2,500                  | Mankato Area Community Band will perform 5 free concerts of concert band music in Sibley Park at the Leas Schwickert Pavilion and 1 free patriotic concert at Lincoln Park on the Tues. before July 4th.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra           | \$4,000                 | \$0                      | In partnership with the Twin Rivers Arts Council, the Mankato Symphony Orchestra will install QR-enabled musical signage along Mankato's CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour, allowing visitors to experience orchestral music, educational content, and optional fitness prompts while engaging with public art. The project expands access to low-barrier cultural experiences for residents and visitors of all ages, deepens community engagement, and advances the MSO's mission by integrating music, education, and physical activity into everyday public spaces. |
| Carnegie Art Center                  | \$5,000                 | \$3,000                  | The Carnegie Art Center will present "Live at the Carnegie," a monthly, Saturday listening series. The series will feature dynamic and diverse performing artists not otherwise programmed in Greater Mankato, and all events are free to attend with donations to the performing artists encouraged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Mankato Community Queer Choir        | \$2,500                 | \$0                      | Mankato Community Queer Choir respectfully requests funding to present a collaborative concert with the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus in Mankato on December 5, 2026. This partnership will create an inclusive, high-quality performance that strengthens community connections between Mankato and the Twin Cities while celebrating and uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community through the arts.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Mankato Figure Skating Club          | \$5,000                 | \$0                      | Toy Stories on Ice, the Mankato Figure Skating Club's (MFSC) 51st annual ice show, showcases the hard work of figure skaters of all ages while providing an accessible, family-friendly performing arts experience for the community. The project fosters youth development, celebrates the arts, and offers an inclusive public event that brings Mankato residents together.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Yukina Sato                          | \$2,500                 | \$0                      | I propose launching a dance festival that positions Mankato as a regional dance hub by presenting professional performances featuring Twin Cities artists and MNSU dance students, alongside a range of dance classes for the local community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Total:</b>                        | <b>\$21,500</b>         | <b>\$5,500</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Community Beautification and Public Art |                         |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Organization and/or Requestor</i>    | <i>Amount Requested</i> | <i>Recommend Funding</i> | <i>Summary of project profile (as submitted by applicant)</i>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Terri Michels                           | \$2,500                 | \$0                      | My proposal for the 2026 Community Grant project is to cover two utility boxes, further enhancing the beauty of Old Town. If there is limited boxes in Old Town to cover, I will work with the City to find a box in Downtown Mankato. |
| <b>Total:</b>                           | <b>\$2,500</b>          | <b>\$0</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## 2026 Community Grant Applicants



| Community Social Services         |                  |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Organization and/or Requestor     | Amount Requested | Recommend Funding | Summary of project profile (as submitted by applicant)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Key City Bike                     | \$2,500          | \$2,500           | Key City Bike is seeking funding to support our Kids' Bike Program which aims to reduce barriers to cycling for families. Subject to availability, kids accompanied by a parent or guardian may receive a bicycle appropriate to their size, if requested, once per year. Donations are encouraged to support the program, however a donation is not required to receive a bike. The purpose of the program is: to introduce children to bicycling (a potential lifetime activity), lower cost barriers for families, as well as keep bikes in the use stream longer. The kids' bike program is open to any family, regardless of their income, but it is especially impactful for lower income families. Costs can often become a barrier because as children grow, the size of bike they need changes as well. |
| Centenary United Methodist Church | \$5,000          | \$1,000           | Centrally located in downtown Mankato, Centenary tries to mitigate the impacts of food insecurity, minimally sheltered and unsheltered status, and isolation through our Holy Grounds Ministry which serves a free breakfast six days of the week (29,400 meals in 2025), and our project is to support the ongoing program despite rising cost. Although not exclusively, our guests tend to be vulnerable people on the margins of the community; we provide clothing and shower facilities, and we regularly provide space for social service providers to work with our guests.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Living Earth Center               | \$4,000          | \$700             | Through our Community Food Connection Program, Living Earth Center (LEC) directly connects people to the land, healthy organic produce, and to each other. We confront the issues of food insecurity and sovereignty in our community collaboratively through a multi-faceted approach. From youth educational programming to navigating ways for emerging growers to enter the local food economy, LEC works with our Community Partners to create pathways to food and land access and agency over food choices. We are requesting funding from the City of Mankato for our Community Garden Program, which is located at 170 Good Counsel Dr.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mankato Area Zero Waste           | \$2,060          | \$1,600           | Four events to reduce waste and encourage recycling:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give and take event – Saturday, April 11th from 10:00-1:00 with drop-off on April 10 from 4:00-7:00, VINE Adult Community Center</li> <li>2. Compost Give Away – Saturday, May 9th from 9:00-12:00, Blue Earth County Community Farm</li> <li>3. Zero Waste Day in the Park-September 19th from 10-1:00, Sibley Park Pavilion</li> <li>4. Pumpkin Bashing Event-Sunday, November 1st from 1:00-3:00, Sibley Park near sliding hill.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| South Sudanese Community          | \$2,500          | \$0               | Funding will directly strengthen vulnerable lives within immigrant, refugee, youth, and homeless populations in Minnesota. Our organization exists because too many people are left behind during resettlement, transition, and crisis. We were created to stand in that gap with practical help, cultural understanding, and long-term support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| End of Life Doula Collaborative   | \$5,000          | \$0               | The End-of-Life Doula Collaborative will use Community Grant funding to expand education, outreach and compassionate nonmedical end-of-life support for individuals and families in Mankato, strengthening community connection, dignity, and shared responsibility during death, dying, grief, and loss.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## 2026 Community Grant Applicants

|                                    |                 |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Junior Achievement North           | \$5,000         | \$0             | Junior Achievement North requests funds to support student programming in Mankato schools for Financial Literacy, Career Readiness, and Entrepreneurship. As experts in experiential learning, JA supports students as they build critical skills and competencies so that they are prepared to lead choice-filled lives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Mankato Youth Place (MY Place)     | \$5,000         | \$4,000         | Mankato Youth Place (MY Place) serves school age youth in kindergarten through early high school grades in the out of school hours. During the school year we are open from after school until 6:00 pm and are open full day's most non-school days. Summer is by far the costliest time of year for MY Place, in that we have kids here from 7:45 am to 6:00 pm, serving three meals a day and two snacks. In addition to our regular programming summer includes activities such as taking field trips and providing intensive reading help to our kids. With ISD77 construction projects increasing the length of the summer break in 2026, our costs will increase significantly. |
| Minnesota Makers and Artists Guild | \$4,800         | \$0             | Mankato Makerspace provides high quality arts education opportunities to children aged 6-12 in the region. The proposal seeks to increase access to these classes for underserved and low/moderate income youth through growing our partnership with the Blue Earth County Library.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| MRCI                               | \$5,000         | \$0             | This project will deliver CPR and First Aid training to 90 Direct Care Staff who support individuals with disabilities and disadvantages, strengthening their ability to respond effectively to emergencies. Funding will support the purchase of manikins and AED training equipment for 20 participants per session, as well as the \$30 American Red Cross certification fee for each trainee, ensuring high-quality, hands-on instruction and nationally recognized credentials.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The Salvation Army                 | \$5,000         | \$500           | The Salvation Army requests \$5,000 to provide direct assistance to guests of the Day Shelter, who are experiencing homelessness and other barriers. Funds will be used to provide direct financial assistance to shelter guests, such as transportation, housing application fees, and security deposits or first month's rent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Total:</b>                      | <b>\$45,860</b> | <b>\$10,300</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|               | <b>Requested</b> | <b>Recommended</b> |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$69,860</b>  | <b>\$15,800</b>    |

### Historical Funding Levels

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2025 | \$16,500              |
| 2024 | \$17,500              |
| 2023 | \$16,500              |
| 2022 | \$15,000              |
| 2021 | \$15,000              |
| 2020 | No funding (COVID-19) |
| 2019 | \$ 12,500             |
| 2018 | \$ 8,700              |