

Americana Letter of Intent and Application - November 2025 Board Meeting

The Americana Foundation

Overview of Application Process

Americana's grant application process has two stages. In the first stage, applicants prepare and submit a letter of intent (LOI). The LOI requests information about your organization and its mission, a brief description of the need that the project or program addresses, how the project or program will meet the specified need, and the amount requested. The purpose of the LOI is to help us understand whether and how your project or program aligns with Americana's program interests and priorities.

Americana staff tries to review LOIs within a week or so after submittal. Submitters receive an email response that advises whether or not a full grant application will be invited. We often invite submitters to meet with us to discuss their project or program before making a decision on whether to invite an application. We do the best we can to respond promptly to LOIs, but please be advised that the LOI process can take several weeks.

If you are invited to submit a full grant application, you will receive an email with instructions for accessing the application form. Americana's Board of Trustees meets four times per year to review and evaluate full grant applications, usually in February, May, August, and November. Application due dates can be reviewed on the [Guidelines page of our website](#).

LOIs and grant applications submitted through this process will be reviewed at the Americana Board of Trustees meeting on November 6, 2025. The application due date is October 1, 2025. If you would like your LOI and (if applicable) application reviewed at a subsequent Americana board meeting, please choose a different open grant application process.

For more information on the Americana Foundation and grant application guidelines, please visit www.americanafoundation.org.

Instructions

Saving Your Work

As you work on this LOI, a draft will automatically save so you can come back to finish your work at any time. The system will automatically save after every 100 characters typed as well as anytime you click away from a question. You can also manually save by clicking "Save" at the bottom right-hand side of the form.

When you return, you will see your draft LOI on your dashboard. Click "Edit LOI" to return to your draft.

Collaborating with Colleagues

You can collaborate with colleagues on your application using the blue Collaborate button in the upper right-hand corner. For more information on this feature see the [Collaborator Tutorial](#).

Copying Answers from a Previous Application

If you have applied for a grant with us before, you may use the Copy Request button in the top right corner to copy in answers from a previous application. Be sure to review and update any copied answers. For more information on this feature see the [Copy Tutorial](#).

Character Limits

We have suggested character limits for text responses and we ask applicants to please do their best to fit answers into the provided space. Applicants are not required to fill the entire space.

Questions and Support

Contact us at grants@americanafoundation.org if you have questions or experience issues while applying. Foundant GLM also offers support resources at [GLM Applicant Tutorial](#).

Organization Type

Eligibility Criteria

Americana awards grants only to

- Nonprofit organizations that are recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and are not private foundations.
- Nonprofit organizations under the fiscal sponsorship of an organization recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.
- Municipal government entities, such as cities, townships, and villages.

Additional information about our grant guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found on the [Guidelines page](#).

We do not buy tickets or tables, contribute to capital projects or campaigns, advertise fund-raising events, or fund research or sabbaticals. We do not provide scholarships or other financial support directly to individuals. Grants may not be used for political purposes.

Organization Type*

Please choose your organization type from the list below.

Please note that if you choose "Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)," you may be asked to provide information about your fiscal sponsor later in the application process.

Choices

501(c)(3)

Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)

Government or Tribal entity

None of the above

Organization Type - Please provide more information

Additional Information about Organization Type*

You chose 'None of the above' as your Organization Type. Based on this information, your organization may not be eligible for a grant. Please describe below why you may be eligible for a grant notwithstanding this selection. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact us at info@americanafoundation.org.

Character Limit: 1500

Fiscal Sponsor

Please identify your fiscal sponsor (if currently known).

Character Limit: 100

Organization Mission

Organization Mission Statement*

Character Limit: 2000

Program Area

Americana supports projects and programs that align well with our mission, values, and program interests. Before submitting a LOI, please review our program areas and current priorities carefully. For your convenience, we have summarized our current program area priorities below. More information can be found on the [Program Areas page of our website](#).

Agriculture and Food Systems - Current Priority

Our current priority in the Agriculture and Food Systems program area is to support projects and programs that work to transform food systems in Michigan so that they focus on growers, processors, and distributors and provide healthy and culturally appropriate food through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. The goal is for all Michiganders - rural and urban - to be connected to a sustainable local food economy. The program area seeks to benefit those who traditionally have lacked power over and resources to access healthy locally or regionally produced food.

Geographic Focus

Nonprofit organizations doing work that impacts Michigan are eligible to apply for a grant in our Agriculture and Food Systems program area.

American Heritage - Current Priority

Our current priority in the American Heritage program area is to support projects and programs across the US that seek to broaden the inclusivity of early American art and the early American historical narrative to “tell the full story of” the American experience. We look to support organizations and projects that elevate those whose perspectives have been traditionally underrepresented, especially people of color, Indigenous people, and women. Furniture acquisitions and building restorations are not currently a priority.

Geographic Focus

Nonprofit organizations from anywhere in the US are eligible to apply for a grant in our American Heritage program area.

Natural Resources - Current Priority

Our current priority in the Natural Resources program area is to focus on projects and programs in Michigan that help ensure that the Great Lakes remain healthy or address significant threats to Great Lakes water quality. We prioritize projects and programs that receive relatively few resources and attention and communities that are most likely to experience disproportionate harm.

Geographic Focus

Nonprofit organizations doing work that impacts Michigan are eligible to apply for a grant in our Natural Resources program area.

Program Area*

Please select the appropriate program area for your project. You will have the opportunity to refine your selection in the following question.

Choices

Agriculture and Food Systems

American Heritage

Natural Resources

Other

Other Program Area

Program Area: Other*

You have chosen "Other" as the program area for your proposed project or program. Please describe why your request nevertheless aligns with Americana's mission, values, program interests, and priorities as described on [our website](#).

Character Limit: 1500

Additional Program Area Information - Agriculture and Food Systems

Agriculture & Food Systems Subcategory*

Please select a program area subcategory from the list below.

Choices

Farmland Conservation
Food System Education and Awareness
Strengthening Local Food Economies
Other

Additional Program Area Information - American Heritage

American Heritage Subcategory*

Please select a program area subcategory from the list below.

Choices

Collections and Acquisitions
Exhibitions and Interpretation
Fellowships, Internships and Trades
Other

Additional Program Area Information - Natural Resources

Natural Resources Subcategory*

Please select a program area subcategory from the list below.

Choices

Community Engagement
Great Lakes Protection or Restoration

Land Conservation and Stewardship
Watershed Protection
Other

General Project Information

Amount Requested*

Character Limit: 20

Project Title*

Character Limit: 75

Expected Project Start Date*

Character Limit: 10

Expected Project End Date*

Character Limit: 10

Project Summary

Project Summary*

Describe why the project or program you propose is needed, how the project or program would meet the specified need, and how you would apply the grant funds if awarded.

Character Limit: 10000

Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

Please Review Your Answers

Once you submit the LOI, you cannot edit the form.

Next Steps

After you submit the LOI, we will send confirmation of receipt to the email address you provided. We review submissions continuously and aim to respond within 2 weeks. If necessary, we may contact you to learn more about your organization or project.

Thank you again for your interest in the Americana Foundation. We look forward to learning about your work.

More information required?

Request More Information?

Choices

Yes

No

Invitation to Apply

Invitation to Apply?

Choices

Yes

No

Staff Notes

Character Limit: 10000

More Information Requested

Requested information

Character Limit: 10000