2026 Community GRANTS PROGRAM

Tips for Completing a Community Grant Application

THE ENDOWMENT

NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT

TIPS FOR COMPLETING A COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

Question #2: Pillar Alignment - Ensure Your Project Aligns with The Endowment's Pillars

Applicants should ensure that their proposed project relates to one or more of The Endowment's pillars:

- Social and health equity
- Education
- Community development
- Community safety

Question # 5: Project Summary - Identify the Community Need Your Project Will Address

Clearly explain the issue or need your project intends to address in New Hanover County. Your description should include:

- Local context or observations about the need
- Why the need exists
- How your project responds to this need

Projects addressing time-sensitive needs or operating during the summer may be prioritized by reviewers.

Question #5: Project Summary - Describe Your Project and Intended Outcomes

Provide a clear summary of your proposed project and how Community Grant funding will be used. Be sure to address:

- What specific activities, services, or programs the grant will support
- The intended outcomes or benefits of the project
- How grant funding will expand or improve your organization's impact

Question #5: Project Summary - Define the Population Your Project Will Serve

Provide clear information about the individuals or groups your project is designed to benefit within New Hanover County. Include:

- A description of the specific population
- Relevant information about the urgency of the need for this population
- The anticipated impact of the project on this group
- Any available data illustrating the population's need or the expected number of individuals served.

Question #6-8: Budget and Budget Narrative - Provide a Clear and Aligned Budget

Your budget should:

- Reflect the project activities described in your application
- Include complete and accurate cost information
- Align with the project's scope, timeline, and intended outcomes
- Indicate if your project costs exceed the grant request and describe additional funding sources.

Include a detailed budget narrative explaining how funds will be used and how remaining costs (if any) will be covered.

Submit Complete and Consistent Information

Before submitting, check that:

- All required questions are answered
- The project description and budget match
- All required documents are uploaded

Incomplete or inconsistent information may negatively impact your application.

Submit Only One Application

Each organization may submit one application per cycle.
If more than one application is submitted, none will be considered.

Exceptions apply to fiscal sponsors, which may submit one application on behalf of their own organization and may also serve as a fiscal agent for multiple sponsored organizations.

Clarification for Arts & Culture Organizations

Arts or culture organizations proposing educational or community-serving activities may apply and should describe how the project aligns with The Endowment's pillars.

Projects whose primary focus is arts or culture activities (such as performances, exhibitions, festivals, arts facilities, or staffing for such activities) fall outside the scope of this program. Applicants proposing projects that are primarily arts- or culture-specific are encouraged to apply to the Arts & Culture Grants Program administered by The Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County, which is designed to support those initiatives.
www.artswilmington.org/theendowment

9. Use Clear and Direct Language

Use clear and direct language in your applications that present information in a straightforward, organized manner.
 Consider outlining:

- What the project will do
- Who it will serve

- How funds will be used
- What outcomes you expect

10. Submit Applications Early
Early submission allows applicants time to resolve any technical issues in Fluxx or to provide any missing documents before the deadline.

11. Contact Us with Questions
Applicants may contact staff or attend [Zoom office hours](#) for questions related to:
- Eligibility
- Project alignment
- Application support
- Technical questions in Fluxx