Thank you for your interest in the Spur Community Foundation. Please read the grant guidelines below carefully.

The Spur Community Foundation annually grants to dozens of organizations serving Blaine County through its discretionary funds. We seek to award $500,000+ per year.

To be eligible for consideration, your organization should meet the following criteria.

- Be a charitable organization determined to be tax-exempt status by the IRS
- Actively and broadly serve the Blaine County/Wood River Valley community
- Address an important local community need or opportunity
- Raise a substantial portion of your annual revenue through charitable contributions in the Wood River Valley

Successful grant applications typically have the following attributes:

- Address important community needs effectively
- Have specific goals that are tracked and evaluated
- Are not the first point of contact between the applicant and Spur
- Include partnerships and collaboration with other organizations, if applicable

We encourage any organizations that meet these criteria to review the grant opportunities described below.

**Current Grant Opportunities:**

**Program Grants:** Program grants support a specific program and are tied to program-based outcomes. Priority consideration is given to proposals that address unmet needs, seek outcomes beyond the status quo, or include partnerships or collaborations with other organizations.

**Capacity Building Grants:** Capacity building grants support projects or initiatives that strategically enhance the ability of a nonprofit to fulfill its mission and should be tied to specific outcomes. Examples of capacity building are improving volunteer recruitment or training, exploring partnerships or mergers, updating technology, providing professional
development for board and staff, adding new positions, and improving how outcomes are measured and tracked. **Capacity Building grants are only open to organizations that have completed a Spur assessment in the last three years.**

If you have a capital campaign request in mind, we ask that you reach out to a staff member before applying. Spur generally prefers that organizations approach us once the campaign is well underway and significant commitments have been secured.

**General Operating Support:** General Operating grants provide unrestricted support and should be tied to organizational outcomes. **General Operating Support grants are only open to past grant recipients in good standing who have completed a Spur assessment in the last three years.**

**Application Process:**

Spur reviews and approves applications a minimum of twice per year. Application deadlines for 2023 are as follows:

- March 15 deadline for April committee meeting
- October 15 deadline for November committee meeting

Completed applications submitted by the deadline are guaranteed to be considered at that next meeting. Exceptions to be considered between scheduled meetings may be requested by contacting Spur's Executive Director.

Awards are distributed within three weeks of approval.

**How to Apply:**

To apply, please visit our grant portal at: [https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=spurcf](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=spurcf)

Log in or create an account.

Once logged in, click on “Apply” in the top right menu bar (to the right of the Spur logo).

Look for the opportunity: Standard Grant Application 2023 titled, “The Spur Community Foundation - Grant Application.”

In the upper right-hand corner of the opportunity, click on the blue “Apply” button.
FAQs:

Can I apply for a grant if I currently have an active grant and/or can I apply for more than one grant in a year? Yes, if you have a compelling reason. We understand unexpected needs and opportunities may arise and we try to be flexible. However, with limited funds to award if you have an active grant or received an award in the last grant cycle, Spur would need to have reason to view your proposal as a priority over other requests.

Can I apply for a grant between grant cycles? Possibly. If you have an urgent request, please reach out to a Spur staff member to discuss options.

How much money should my organization request? There is a wide range in the dollar amounts awarded, and you should determine the amount you request based on the need. However, it's helpful to keep in mind the average grant award is $15,000, and Spur values having relationships with the organizations we support. If we are not that familiar with your organization or your organization has never received a grant from Spur, awards are typically less than $10,000. The best way to build a relationship with Spur is to complete an assessment and stay in touch with Spur staff.

Can I speak to someone at Spur before applying? Yes. We encourage you to reach out to Spur staff to discuss your proposal before applying. Please email npservices@spurfoundation.org.

What is an Assessment? Spur offers a comprehensive assessment process through which nonprofits get feedback on their organization's health from the perspective of investment-minded donors. More than 36 nonprofits in the Wood River Valley have participated to date and found the experience enlightening and valuable to their strategic development. We use the information as a baseline for building a trust-based relationship with grantees. What we learn informs our grant-making, enables us to properly introduce your work to potential donors, identify opportunities for collaboration, and gain a landscape perspective of issues facing the nonprofit sector that may need special support. You can complete the assessment through the grant portal but we highly recommend speaking to Spur staff before starting the process. To learn more or schedule a time to speak to staff, please email npservices@spurfoundation.org.

Can I apply for more than $10,000 if I have not completed an assessment? Yes. There is no limit on the amount you can request. However, the relationships we build with an organization’s leadership and the knowledge we gain about an organization through the assessment process, help us better determine if the request is aligned with the organization's priorities and capacity. Therefore, grants over $10,000 aren’t typically awarded to organizations that have not completed the assessment process.
Can I apply for a grant from a Donor Advised Fund? No. Grants from donor-advised funds are made to nonprofit organizations based on the donor’s wishes and areas of interest. However, if Spur staff are aware of a need or project that aligns with a donor’s interest, we may share funding opportunities with Donor Advised Fund holders. As circumstances warrant, Spur will pass along ideas even if Spur has not awarded a grant to your organization. The best way to inform Spur staff of your needs is to complete an assessment, apply for grants, and stay in touch.