



**SCHMEECKLE
FOUNDATION**
INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY GROWTH

Grant Program - Guidelines and Procedures

The Schmeeckle Private Foundation is a family foundation serving Martin County, Minnesota. The Foundation is carrying on the legacy of long-time Martin County resident Juanita Ellen (Teubner) Schmeeckle to provide grants for the betterment of Martin County. The Foundation has three principal interest areas of funding which include: early childhood care and education, serving the disabled and elderly, and the arts. Grants will be awarded to organizations with 501(c)(3) status who serve the communities located in Martin County. A match is required on all grants.

Community Challenge:

A major intent of this grant program is to receive and successfully implement new ideas, provide working relationships with other non-profit organizations, and spur new financial and other commitments from the community to show support for projects that will improve and benefit Martin County, Minnesota.

Innovation is what is important, but before innovation there must be new ideas and plans to apply those ideas. We want to help organizations try new things. Will there be failures? Of course, but that is how we learn. And by learning, we all move forward and show how other non-profits can facilitate their missions.

We realize that these criteria are probably different from what you may be used to in other grant applications. That is intentional. ***Are you up to the challenge?***

Questions to be Answered:

Preference is given to grant applicants that answer these questions: Does your project seem innovative to you; Will your project create new ways of doing business not only for your organization, but for other organizations; Is your project new for your organization or built on other ideas; Is your project collaborative with other non-profits; Does your project raise community involvement to a new level; What new investment funds are anticipated; Will your project help grow and improve the quality of life for all in Martin County; Will your project become self-sustaining; Will your project make day to day life easier and better for all in Martin County

The above are not the only things you can tell us about, but please try to address as many as you can with as much specificity as you can as to how you expect to achieve your dreams and your vision. Important factors are: inspiration for other organizations, solution for other similar problems, recognizing and taking advantage of opportunities, long term effects, and sustainability. Again, we realize that these criteria are probably different from what you may be used to in other grant applications. That is intentional. ***Are you up to the challenge?***

*"Enriching lives through innovation and creative collaboration."
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FOCUS AREAS:

Early Childhood Care and Education

The Schmeckle Foundation is focusing grant funds on affordable child care, affordable pre-kindergarten education, and educational programs for students that are available to carry on one's education. The goal of this focus area is to ensure Martin County is a place where young families can live and raise their children with available resources that enable the children of Martin County to be ready to learn and succeed, and to provide them with the educational programs and opportunities that will lead them on the path to success.

Disabled and Elderly

The Schmeckle Foundation is focusing grant funds to help ensure the disabled in need have the resources available to assist them, so they will have access to high quality programs that empower them to make their way productively and creatively in their communities. The Schmeckle Foundation is also focusing grant funds to help the elderly with resources and programs to support their well-being ensuring they have the care and housing needed to enjoy their retirement in Martin County.

Arts

The Schmeckle Foundation is focusing grant funds to enhance the Arts opportunities in Martin County ensuring future generations living in Martin County will have even greater places and resources to live and raise a family.

Funding

- Only one application per organization will be considered.
- All projects must be completed within a 12-month timeframe.
- All grants require a 100% match, at least 25% cash, (cash match must be in-hand before grant funds are released)

Eligibility

- Applicant organization or fiscal agent must have Internal Revenue Service 501(c)3 status.
- Located in (or serve) Martin County, Minnesota

Exclusions

- Individuals, businesses, or other for-profit organizations
- Government units/agencies or public schools/institutions
- Grants for commercial purposes, name recognition or exchange for product or services
- Organizations whose main purpose is dissemination of political, religious information or support political or religious causes.



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- Organizations who discriminate or support organizations on the grounds of race, creed, sexual orientation, religion, gender, disability or age
- Organizations directly involved in gambling, drugs, tobacco or alcohol (except for organizations dedicated to tackling abuse of those items)
- Existing deficits
- Programs or services mandated by law.
- Funds for re-granting or to establish loan pools.

Priority Consideration:

- Non-profits that take an innovative approach to their projects or initiatives and can clearly answer the questions listed above in “Questions to be Answered.”
- Measurable results—projects that can show quantitative results in The Schmeckle Foundation focus areas.
- Asset-based approaches—projects that maximize the strengths, talents, and resources of the local community.
- Collaboration/partnership—projects that work with other organizations in unique and effective ways.
- Sustainability of local or other funding streams—projects that have solid plans for continuation outside of The Schmeckle Foundation funding.
- Leveraged funding—projects that access all available resources and maximize The Schmeckle Foundation investment.
- Effectiveness—projects that effectively address an identified need and/or opportunity

Application Process:

- The Schmeckle Foundation awards grants on a competitive basis. Eligible applications that demonstrate evidence in the funding priorities noted above will be given a full review, which may include a site visit. **Note: Site visits are intended to gain additional information about the organization and the proposal. The most successful site visits include all collaborative partners.**
- All grants will be approved by the Trustees.
- The Trustees are partnering with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to help them in the intake and processing of grant applications, awards and reporting.
- Grant award payment(s) will be made once all grant contract requirements are completed. The Schmeckle Foundation requires all grantees to submit interim and final grant reports as outlined in the grant contract.

Proposal Components:

- Completed Online Application (available June 1, 2026)
- Project Budget Worksheet (available June 1, 2026)
- Audited financials or filed tax forms if unaudited

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- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (if nonprofit organization)
- Letters of support(s) from partner organization(s) other than the applicant's organization or fiscal agent

For grant award consideration, **submit a completed online application by July 15, 2026.**

Incomplete grant applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

If you would like to discuss your project prior to applying, please contact Sheila Hohensee, Trustee, at 507-236-1152 or Hockeymom305@gmail.com.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Jennifer Heien, Administrative Support, at 507-214-7040 or jenniferh@smifoundation.org.

Applicants will be notified of award decisions by December 1, 2026.