

Vernon County Community Grant Program

The Community Grant Program provides Vernon County communities the opportunity to apply and receive micro grants of *up to \$5000* to fund activities and projects that are centered on tourism, economic development, and/or community enhancement.

The Vernon County Community Grant Program is made possible by funds allotted within the Tourism, Promotion and Economic Development (TPED) Committee's annual budget and Ho Chunk Funds.



The purpose of this grant is to encourage community vitality, increase visitor spending and build strong relationships with communities in Vernon County. TPED's desire is that these grants will help launch a project/activity/event of the community's choice and help them gain capacity and confidence to continue driving their own local improvement. These are competitive grants and the committee will make efforts to disperse the funds geographically throughout the county.

Who can apply?

Established community groups: like "Friends of" or community economic development groups, non-profits, local business owners (with community support) and municipalities.

All organizations (as listed above) in Vernon County communities are eligible.

GRANT CRITERIA

Project Application should:

- Be centered on Tourism, Economic Development, and/or Community Enhancement.
- Provide a public benefit with measurable impact.
- Either be a new event/project OR an existing event/project with NEW element added. If it is an existing event, it must include a new/different element or initiative added to attract more visitors and/or have more of a community impact.
- Result in a product, which benefits the community or the larger region.
- Be feasible for completion within one full year of grant awarded.
- Involve the community in project identification, planning and execution.
- Put emphasis on the community's quality of life, be educational, community-building, have a public physical improvement that will result in economic development/tourism or be a project that adds to quality of life within the community.
- Have community support. Application must be signed by 3 supporting members within the community as well as one letter of support from local government is required.

To APPLY for Vernon County Community Grant Program

- To apply for Vernon County Community Grant Program, organizations must complete and submit the Grant Application - which includes 3 signatures from supporting community members, plus 1 letter of support from local government.
- Deadline for application submission is Friday March 15, 2019.
- Submission of an application does not in any way guarantee funding; these are competitive grants. Funding will be based on the projects meeting the grant criteria and the scoring by the TPED Committee.
* *SEE SCORING SHEET Community Grants*
- Projects/Activities/Events that have a large and long lasting impact are preferred. The scoring matrix will favor these projects.
- Your application will be scored higher if your project has substantial match – either in-kind donations of materials, volunteer hours or dollars.
- Your application also will be scored higher if you utilize local resources...i.e. materials or services from another Vernon County business, using local food products, etc...
- Multiple Projects/Activities/Events will be chosen for funding.
- Vernon County Community Grant will be awarded by May 1st, 2019.
- The TPED Committee, you may request an in person interview to learn more about your project. (Time/date TBD)
- If your project is awarded, the TPED committee requires a report after project/event is completed to measure the value of the Vernon County Community Grant Program.
 - Applications can downloaded from www.invernoncounty.com on the home page under the Vernon County Community Grant section.
 - You can also contact Christina Dollhausen @ 608-606-6552 or email christina.dollhausen@vernoncounty.org with any questions or to request further Vernon County Community Grant information.

**Complete applications are to be submitted on or before March 15, 2019 @ 4:30pm by emailing Christina Dollhausen – Economic Development Coordinator christina.dollhausen@vernoncounty.org or by mail or drop off: Vernon County - attn.: Christina Dollhausen, Economic Development Coordinator
400 Court House Square – 3rd Floor Viroqua, WI 54665**