



Skokie Community Foundation Evaluation Criteria for 2026 Grant Proposals

Partner Organizations:

Requested Award:

New Project: Y/N

New Partnership: Y/N

New Organization: Y/N

Required Nonprofit Status: At least one organization must be a 501(c)(3).

Funding Reliance: Preference will be given to proposals that rely on this grant for the majority of its funding, or where the programming that serves Skokie residents relies primarily on this SCF funding.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Need & Impact (Skokie Focus)** – Clearly articulates a significant, well-documented local need in Skokie. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the target population and the proposed project's potential impact.
2. **Project Design & Methodology** – Presents a clear, logical and innovative project design with a detailed and feasible methodology. Demonstrates a strong understanding of best practices.
3. **Roles & Responsibilities (Organizational Capacity)** – Clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all involved parties, including partners (if applicable). Demonstrates strong organizational capacity and the ability to carry out the project.
4. **Budget & Financial Management (Funding Reliance)** – Presents a detailed, realistic, and well-justified budget, demonstrating that this grant will provide the majority of the funding. Shows limited or no other sources of income. Demonstrates sound financial management practices. Aligns with grant maximum of \$10,000.
5. **Evaluation Plan** – Presents a comprehensive and measurable evaluation plan with clear outcomes and indicators. Demonstrates a commitment to accountability and learning.
6. **Scalability & Sustainability** – Demonstrates a clear plan for scalability and/or sustainability beyond the grant period. Shows potential for long-term impact, despite heavy reliance on this grant.
7. **501(c)(3) Status (If Applicable)** – Organization clearly demonstrates valid 501(c)(3) status.

Scoring:

- **Funding Priority:** Priority for funding will go to proposals with the highest score that demonstrate the strongest impact on Skokie residents, address the most pressing local need, AND rely heavily on this grant.