

FAQ: FY26 Johnson County Economic Development & Quality of Life (EDQL) Grants

General Questions

GQ1: Can an organization apply for both grants if they qualify?

A: Yes, but it's unlikely that the same organization will be funded for both. Equitable allocation of funds among eligible organizations in Johnson County will be a consideration for final funding decisions.

GQ2: Is an organization that currently receives other Johnson County grant funds eligible?

A: While other awards from Johnson County won't necessarily disqualify an organization from receiving EDQL funds, equitable allocation of funds among eligible organizations in Johnson County will be a consideration for final funding decisions.

GQ3: Can an organization that is applying for the Economic Development grant be a fiscal sponsor for a Quality of Life proposal from another organization?

A: Yes. Be prepared to explain the capacity of the fiscal sponsor to fulfill sponsorship responsibilities in your proposal narrative.

GQ4: Is the budget requested in the grant portal only for my proposed project or for my entire organization?

A. Please enter only your proposed project budget in the grant portal budget page. Organization financials should be uploaded in the attachments section.

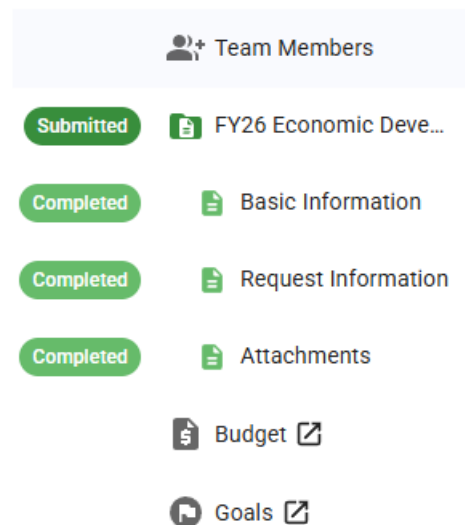
GQ5: Which budget category should I use for salaries/rentals/contracts/etc.?

A. Please use the budget category that most closely aligns with your line item, using your best judgement. For personnel, use Salaries & Wages (not eligible for Quality of Life). For venue rentals, use the Rentals category. For contracts, use the associated services category (i.e. Professional & Technical Services). For any line items that don't easily fit into a provided budget category, please use the "Other" category. All line items should be associated with a detailed description in the budget narrative field at the bottom of the budget page. If you have questions about a specific line item or budget category, please email grants@johnsoncountyiowa.gov and we will help you decide.

GQ6: I submitted my application, but the status still says “In Progress.” Did I submit successfully?

To check the status of your application, click into your application to reach the editing and submission screen. On the left sidebar, next to the title of the program, there will be a dark green bubble that says “Submitted.” This indicates a successfully submitted application, even if the status still says “In Progress” on your application dashboard.

Sample Project Application



Economic Development Questions

ED1: Does the Economic Development program have specific eligible and ineligible expenses? What are the specific criteria for the Economic Development Grant?

A: Johnson County’s intention is to fund a wide array of organizations supporting economic development in our community. As such, the criteria and allowable expenses for this program are much broader than some other programs. Applicants should ensure their proposals support the general economic development goals identified in the [2022 Inclusive Economic Development Plan in Johnson County](#); the [2022 Johnson County Economic Development Plan: Opportunities for the Unincorporated Area, Villages and Smaller Towns](#); and the [2018 Johnson County Comprehensive Plan](#). As a best practice, applicants should also ensure that proposed costs should not include [unallowable expenses for federal awards as defined in 2CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles](#).

ED2. What are the requirements for the Economic Development priority areas?

Johnson County intends to fund creative and innovative proposals that can be reasonably interpreted as supporting the listed priority areas.

Quality of Life Questions

QL1: Does my event have to be entirely free to be eligible for a Quality of Life Grant?

A: Proposed projects should include a free access option to facilitate equitable community engagement for all community members. In your proposal narrative, please explain any costs to participants.

QL2: What does collaboration look like for Quality of Life proposals?

A. Collaboration should involve two or more organizations or groups primarily serving Johnson County residents. The degree to which groups collaborate can range from incidental consultation to equal partners sharing a primary interest and investment in the success of a project or program including formal agreements such as MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding).

QL3: How should I fill out the application if my organization is applying with a fiscal sponsor?

A. The applicant should be the primary project leader for their proposal. The fiscal sponsor can receive funds on the applicant's behalf and provide additional collaboration. Please include the fiscal sponsor contact information, including head of organization, their contact information, and organization's EIN, in the provided field on the Basic Information page and upload a signed agreement and the sponsor's signed Form W-9 in the attachments section. Applicants should enter their own information in the rest of the application unless otherwise directed.

QL4: Can my project serve both adults and youth?

A: Yes; there is no age requirement for event attendees and participants, unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law.

QL5: My organization is a nonprofit/local service provider/volunteer group, but we don't have a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) designation from the IRS. Are we eligible?

A: Organizations or groups seeking funding should either hold a 501(c)(3)/501(c)(6) status or apply with an eligible fiscal sponsor.