



RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Rural Leadership program provides training, mentorship and funding to rural communities and regions initiating leadership programs. This program is a result of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative's 2018 Recommendations. If Iowa wants rural communities to survive and thrive, it will take strong local leadership. Many rural communities have created effective leadership programs, as have various Iowa industries. Leveraging these efforts as examples and partners, this program targets rural communities who want to start a local leadership program and work to engage participants in community leadership roles. Grantees will participate in a two-day bootcamp resulting in a work plan and a one-year mentorship.

The program is administered by the **Center for Rural Revitalization**, a division of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, in consultation with the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative Task Forces.

TIMELINE

July 16 | Application Window Opens

Application available through IowaGrants.gov

August 31 | Application Deadline

Deadline to submit an application for funding is 11:59 p.m. August 31.

September 24 | Funding Decision Notification

Applicants notified of funding decisions by September 24.

October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 | Funding Period

All project activities and incurred expenses must occur within the eligible contracted funding period of October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. Funding is awarded on a reimbursement basis after expenses have been incurred for approved project activities.

October 26-27 | Leadership Exchange and Bootcamp

To be held in Newton, Iowa. Agenda to be released closer to the event.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Grantees are required to send three citizens to participate in a two-day training, October 26-27 in Newton, Iowa. Day 1 will include participation in the Leadership Exchange event with existing leadership programs across the state. Registration costs for the Exchange are waived for Rural Innovation Leadership Grantees. Day 2 will be a comprehensive bootcamp training for grantees, resulting in a work plan for implementation. Bootcamp attendees should include a diverse representation of community stakeholders and partners.

Grant funds and match dollars must be used for the development and implementation of a community leadership program. Eligible uses include, but are not limited to, travel costs associated with participating in the Exchange and Bootcamp; marketing materials; staff time on leadership program; room rentals; speaker fees; or purchase of equipment/materials. Food and beverage costs are not eligible expenses.

Additional program details include:

- Grant Award: \$1,000
- Minimum \$500 cash match requirement
- Funding based on annual availability
- Disbursements will be made on a reimbursement basis
- City or county government and private 501(c)3 or 501(c)6 nonprofit agencies and foundations are eligible to apply
- Applicants that are not a local government must include a letter of support from the Mayor or resolution from the City Council
- Programs must exist in and benefit a community in Iowa with a population of 20,000 or fewer and not contiguous to a city with a population of 40,000 or greater OR if a county-wide program, must be one of the 88 least populous counties in Iowa

SELECTION CONSIDERATION

Applications are submitted via IowaGrants.gov during an annual, competitive application round. All applications will be reviewed by a panel, including the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative Task Force members; Iowa Economic Development Authority staff; and expert professionals. The following categories are evaluated when selecting awardees:

- Participation and Timing
- Program Description and Background
- Core Team Diversity and Partnerships
- Participation Goals and Implementation Plan
- Budget and Local Support
- Geography and Population



REVIEW CRITERIA

A review panel will assess each application based on the following yes-or-no questions. Applications that satisfy all the questions will be presented to the executive director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority for final approval.

1. Applicant indicated capacity and interest in launching a leadership program.
2. Applicant identified why the timing is ideal for a leadership program in their community.
3. Applicant developed a basic structure and intent for their leadership program.
4. If a program has been attempted in the past, the applicant has learned from the challenges of those activities.
5. Applicant identified diverse and committed partners.
6. Applicant identified diverse representatives to attend and participate in the Leadership Bootcamp and Exchange.
7. Applicant included specific goals and outcomes to achieve at the Leadership Bootcamp.
8. Applicant demonstrated secured cash match.
9. Applicant indicated plans for program sustainability beyond grant year.
10. Application included at least one letter of support from a partner with a vested interest in the success of the leadership program.

CONTACT

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