



Entrepreneurship Partner Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNER GRANT?

Entrepreneurship Partner Grants are awarded on a competitive basis, with applications selected and evaluated twice a year (typically once in the summer and once in the winter). The opening and closing dates for the application periods differ each year, so make sure to stay informed about the announcements of these dates. You may find these announcements on the Entrepreneurship Partner Grant Program page on wedc.org.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNER GRANT?

To start the application process, you must first email a WEDC Division of Entrepreneurship and Innovation team member:

Ed Javier, ed.javier@wedc.org

Nichole Crust, nichole.crust@wedc.org

Cat Johnson, catherine.johnson@wedc.org

Your contact will set up some time to discuss the program and learn about your project. After the meeting, you'll be sent an application through our grant portal, Network Wisconsin.

AS A PRIVATE BUSINESS (SUCH AS AN LLC OR A SOLE PROPRIETOR), CAN I APPLY FOR AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNER GRANT?

No. The applicant must be a nonprofit organization, municipality, or other government entity. Applicants' projects can include a private business partner, but the applicant must have a 501(c)3 status.

HOW IS MY APPLICATION EVALUATED? WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

Your application is reviewed by a scoring committee that considers the following evaluation criteria:

- **Project alignment and feasibility:**
 - The extent to which the work plan is feasible, including project range, duration, and impact
 - The extent to which the applicant and project collaborators may have relevant experience and historical performance in project administration, including previous WEDC awards if applicable
- **Financial viability:**
 - The extent to which matching resources are available and utilized within the project budget
 - The project budget's balance of support for entrepreneurs and funding for operating costs, considered in the context of the project's overall intensity, duration, and rigor
- **Outcome and impact:**
 - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates and plans to track impact within measurable, feasible, and impactful project outcomes
 - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a unique position to meet community need for the target population or location
- **Innovation and sustainability:**
 - The extent to which the project model can be replicated and/or sustained in other areas of Wisconsin

LOOK FORWARD ➤

- **Additional considerations:**
 - Presence of partnering and collaborating organizations and extent of community support
 - Use of novel and innovative approaches to supporting individuals and/or companies
 - Alignment with WEDC priorities for industry sectors, local economic factors, geography, and target populations

WHAT IS THE START DATE/END DATE? HOW LONG SHOULD THE PROJECT RUN?

The project start date and project end date may vary dependent on your project and which grant round you are applying for. An eligible project should ideally have a duration of about 12 months.

ARE THERE ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IF I AM AWARDED AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNER GRANT?

Yes. Organizations are expected to submit annual performance reports. You will receive more information regarding the reporting schedule if your organization receives a grant award.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO FIND OUT IF MY APPLICATION WAS SUCCESSFUL?

Notifications to awarded organizations are typically sent out two to three months after the application period ends.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS ELIGIBLE MATCHING FUNDING FOR MY PROJECT?

Both cash and in-kind donations can count toward match funding. To estimate the value of your in-kind match amount, use standard industry hourly rates for volunteers and their roles. An organization can use its operating budget as a match funding source. While you can use private or public funds for match funding, you will not be able to count other WEDC funds toward your match funding requirement.

For more information, visit the EPG website at <https://wedc.org/programs/entrepreneurship-partner-grant/>