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Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri Launches 2026 Directors Fund Grant Opportunity

New Funding Initiative Will Support Innovative Projects Across Northwest Missouri's 18-County Region

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri is pleased to announce the launch of the **Directors Fund Grant Program**, a new funding opportunity designed to support impactful, project-based initiatives that strengthen communities throughout The Community Foundation's 18-county service area. Applications for the inaugural 2026 grant cycle will open on **October 1, 2026**.

The Directors Fund reflects The Community Foundation's ongoing commitment to invest in local nonprofit organizations and address community needs through innovative programs and projects. Established with input and guidance from Foundation leadership and board members, the fund is intended to provide meaningful support for initiatives that make a lasting difference across Northwest Missouri.

"The Directors Fund represents an exciting new opportunity to partner with nonprofit organizations that are working every day to improve the quality of life in our communities," said Rachel Kagay, Board Chair of The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. "We are eager to support projects that create measurable impact and strengthen the region we proudly serve."

For the 2026 award cycle, The Community Foundation will make available **up to \$10,000 in grant funding**, with a minimum of two organizations receiving awards of up to **\$5,000 each**. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive review process and announced following final approval in December 2026.

"The Directors Fund embodies what community philanthropy is all about, neighbors investing in neighbors to create meaningful and lasting change," said James Fisher, President and CEO of The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. "By providing flexible grant funding for innovative nonprofit projects, we're empowering organizations to address local challenges, pursue new opportunities, and improve the quality of life throughout Northwest Missouri. We are excited to see the creative ideas and collaborative solutions that will emerge through this new funding opportunity."

Eligibility and Funding Guidelines

Nonprofit organizations serving communities within The Community Foundation's 18-county region are encouraged to apply for funding that supports specific projects, programs, or initiatives. To ensure the Directors Fund achieves its intended purpose, grant requests must meet the following criteria:

- Funding must support **project-based expenses**.
- Funding may **not** be used for capital campaigns or emergency response efforts.
- Funding may **not** be used for ongoing operating expenses.
- Funding may **not** reimburse expenses that have already been incurred or costs covered by other funding sources.

Application Timeline

Organizations interested in applying should note the following key dates for the 2026 grant cycle:

- **Applications Open:** October 1, 2026
- **Applications Close:** November 10, 2026
- **Application Review Period:** November 12 through early December 2026
- **Grant Awards Announced:** mid-December 2026

Applications will undergo a multi-stage review process designed to ensure thoughtful evaluation while encouraging broad engagement from The Community Foundation's Board of Directors. Final grant awards will be approved through the process established by the Foundation's board.

The grant application is available through The Community Foundation's online grants portal. Interested applicants can learn more and begin the application process by visiting The Community Foundation website at [Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri](#) and accessing the [Grant Application Portal](#).

Support the Directors Fund

In addition to encouraging nonprofit organizations to apply, The Community Foundation invites individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who are passionate about strengthening Northwest Missouri to support the Directors Fund through charitable contributions. Gifts to the Directors Fund will expand future grantmaking and strengthen the Foundation's ability to support innovative projects addressing needs across the region. In communities with an established affiliate fund of the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri, donors may also consider that fund as a local giving option.

"Every contribution to the Directors Fund becomes an investment in the future of our region," added James Fisher. "Whether a donor gives \$25, \$500, or \$5,000, each gift helps create opportunities for nonprofits to address local challenges, launch new initiatives, and make a meaningful difference in the communities they serve."

Community members who believe in the power of local philanthropy are encouraged to make a tax-deductible gift to **The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri Directors Fund**. Through collective giving, donors can help create a lasting source of support for transformative nonprofit projects throughout Northwest Missouri.

Nonprofit leaders are encouraged to identify projects that align with the fund's objectives and submit their applications prior to the November 10 submission deadline date.

For additional information about the Directors Fund, application requirements, grant guidelines, or donor giving opportunities, please contact The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri at Info@CFNWMO.org or visit [Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri](https://www.CFNWMO.org).

About The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri

The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri works to strengthen the region through philanthropy, strategic grantmaking, and partnerships that improve the quality of life across Northwest Missouri communities. Serving an 18-county region, the Foundation connects donors, nonprofits, and community leaders to create lasting impact and address local needs.

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Donor Information

To support The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri Directors Fund and help increase future grantmaking opportunities across Northwest Missouri, visit [Make a Gift to CFNWMO](#) or contact the Foundation for donor assistance and giving options.