

our priorities

We believe in the promise that Illinois communities can be great places to live and work!

We invest our resources to strengthen early education opportunities for young children, protect natural lands and waterways, and promote economic vitality through robust employment development.

We aim to support change in communities, regions and the state.

We focus on four key elements that create the right conditions for change: **high-functioning systems, strong public policies, engaged communities, and effective organizations.** Because progress is often hindered by inefficient and fragmented systems, we look for efforts that champion networks, bring in new partners, improve coordination, adapt to changing circumstances, and build toward solutions at an appropriate scale.

Our framework

	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
Our goal	Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school	Skilled adults secure good jobs and contribute to the economic success of Illinois	Land and water resources are conserved and managed to support human, wildlife, and habitat health
Desired impact	A coordinated system of high quality, affordable early childhood education that improves outcomes for young children	An integrated workforce system that helps job seekers succeed at work and contribute to Illinois' economy	An interconnected system of people protecting land and waterways at a scale that allows habitat, wildlife and humans to thrive
We support actions that create these conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger public policies that promote access to quality early childhood education • Resources and actions at local, regional, and state levels are well coordinated to provide quality early education • A system of preparing early childhood educators and staff results in better outcomes for diverse children and their families • Organizations are resilient and capable and meet the needs of diverse children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful connections between skilled job seekers and regional economic growth are established • Underprepared workers attain higher levels of education and marketable skills • Public policies strengthen connections among post-secondary, vocational, and social programs for job seekers • Resources and actions are aligned to support human potential and employment opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected land and waterways are ecologically high functioning • Improved public policies promote land and water conservation • Stewardship and conservation practices promote healthy and resilient landscapes • Organizations are well-positioned to influence change and coordinate work across sectors • Resources and actions are aligned to maximize land and water health

the basics

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be considered for funding, an organization must be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. We support organizations in Illinois whose work is a strong fit with our guidelines and strategies. We only fund organizations that demonstrate high quality and high impact; good governance and management; and fiscal health.

WHERE WE FUND

We fund exclusively in Illinois and will consider requests to support systems change work on either:

- a) A statewide scale; or
- b) A regional scale in the Chicago Metropolitan Region; or
- c) A place-based scale in suburban Cook, Lake, Kane, Will, DuPage, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and Kendall Counties.

HOW WE FUND

Organizations that meet the eligibility requirements and are engaged in activities consistent with the strategies described in these guidelines may apply for the following kinds of support:

- Project
- General operations
- Capacity building and technical assistance

Grants are not available for:

- Endowments
- Capital campaigns or capital projects
- Debt or deficit reduction
- Fundraising events
- Grants to individuals
- Religious purposes
- Political campaigns

GRANT DURATION

Grand Victoria Foundation will consider multi-year requests from organizations with which we have an existing or prior funding relationship. We are generally open to proposals for two-year grants. Whether an organization is a long-time or first-time grantee, requests for renewed funding may be submitted upon successful completion of a grant.

[Think there's a good fit?](#)

[Send a Letter of Inquiry.](#)

See next page for details on how to apply.

how to apply

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED
ONLINE NO LATER THAN
5:00P.M. ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
OF OCTOBER AND MAY.**

If applying online presents a barrier to you, please contact the Foundation at 312-609-0200 or email grantsmanager@grandvictoriafdn.org.

**GRANT REPORTING AND
REQUIREMENTS**

If you receive a grant, you will be required to submit annual and final progress reports. Deadlines will be included in your grant award letter. You can access and submit all reports and grant requirements via your online account approximately six weeks before they are due.

LETTER OF INQUIRY

If you've read the guidelines and think there is a good fit, please complete our online application which includes a letter of inquiry that summarizes what you plan to accomplish. This is an important first step. It is your opportunity to let us know that what you will undertake is well planned; that your organization has the experience to succeed; and that there is some support from other sources for the effort you plan to propose.

Once our team has reviewed your application, we will send a response to let you know whether we would like to invite a full proposal. Organizations that are invited to submit proposals receive an invitation via email with proposal application instructions. The Foundation only considers proposals that have been invited in response to an application.

**ACCESSING YOUR APPLICANT
ACCOUNT ONLINE**

Applications, which include a Letter of Inquiry can be submitted by logging into your applicant account online at https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5410?SA=SNA&FID=35003.

If you do not have an online applicant account, click New Applicant. You will be prompted to create an account by using your email address and generating a secure password.

Once an application has been started in the online system, it can be saved and returned to at a later date. To return to the in-progress application, log on to the Grand Victoria Foundation applicant portal using the link https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5410?SA=AM.

After an application is submitted, a copy will be emailed to the account holder. You can access your applicant account portal using the link and password contained in the confirmation email you received when you created your account.

The letter narrative must be in 12 point type on your organization's letterhead and signed by a member of your staff who has the authority to accept and manage a grant.

In two pages, describe your organization and the work you plan to propose. Please restate and respond to the following points:

- The amount you plan to request from Grand Victoria Foundation
- What you plan to accomplish with the grant and why
- How you plan to accomplish it
- Who, from your organization and/or partner organization, will implement the work
- How your effort matches Grand Victoria Foundation's priorities

In addition to your two-page summary, you will be asked to submit an itemized income and expense budget for the effort.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

If you plan to request general operating support, we will look at whether your mission and overall activities are a good fit with ours and the extent to which you are leading in your field. Therefore, your responses to the points above should focus on plans to strengthen your organization within the context of your mission. You will also be asked to submit an organizational budget and year-to-date income and expense report.

RENEWED FUNDING

If you are seeking renewed funding, we suggest you say less about your organization and instead include a brief update on the funded effort. Frame your responses to the points listed under "Preparing Your Letter of Inquiry" from the perspective of what you have already accomplished with your current Grand Victoria Foundation grant and discuss your plans for building on those accomplishments. In addition to an itemized income and expense budget for renewed support, you will be asked to include a year-to-date grant expense report and information about other funding you secured for the work you are doing with a current Grand Victoria Foundation grant.