



## **John M. Scott Health Care Trust Fiscal Year 2026 (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026) Grant Program Request for Proposal (RFP)**

On behalf of the Trustee, the John M. Scott Health Care Commission (“Commission”) is pleased to invite organizations that provide services to promote health and well-being among McLean County residents to submit a grant funding proposal from the John M. Scott Health Care Trust (“Trust”). This RFP will cover important information about the grant program, this funding opportunity, and the requirements of the Trust. The City of Bloomington (“City”) Grants Management Division provides operational support for the Trust and Commission.

### John M. Scott Health Care Trust Information

The City of Bloomington serves as the Trustee for the John M. Scott Health Care Trust. This Trust was established based on funds left from the estate of Judge John M. Scott. Judge Scott (1824-1898) was a noted community member from the Bloomington-Normal area that championed equality and care for marginalized people. After his passing, a portion of his estate was directed to building a hospital in the community. The last surviving annuitant of the estate passed away in 1976. Courts intervened because the original intent to construct a hospital was irrelevant by that time as the community had several hospitals. The Court made the City the Trustee, and the John M. Scott Health Resources Center was created. After the adoption and implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, service demand declined at the center due to the expansion of Medicaid. In 2018, the Trustee approved a transition to a grant-only model of service delivery so local organizations could meet gaps in health care needs for under resourced community members.

The Trust provides grant funding to organizations providing health care related services to McLean County residents at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. An eleven (11) member Commission serves as the advisory body to the Trustee. The Commission is supported by a City of Bloomington staff member within the Economic and Community Development Department’s Grants Management Division.

Three categories of funding are available through the Trust. ***This RFP is for Category I and II only.***

- Category I: General Operating Grants (Available every three years.)
- Category II: Community Health Needs Priority Grants (Program grants available annually.)
  - Capital Grants
  - Program Grants

- Category III: Emergent and Emergency Grants (Available off cycle from annual Category II grants.)

Summary of Grant Program Funding for FY2026

Category	Purpose	Minimum Request	Maximum Request	Term	Eligible Applicants
<b>Category I</b>	General Operating Grants	\$50,000 (per year)	\$150,000 (per year)	3 Year Commitment (May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2028)	501c3 Organization Health care Services Organization
<b>Category II-Program</b>	Health Priority Programs	\$10,000	\$75,000	1 Year Commitment (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026)	Local Unit of Government or 501c3 Organization
<b>Category II-Capital</b>	Health Priority Capital Investment	\$10,000	\$100,000	1 Year Commitment (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026)	501c3 Organization Owning Property

Who Can Apply

To be eligible, grant applicants must be one of the following organizations. Certain grant categories have additional restrictions at the Commission’s discretion.

1. Tax-exempt organization per Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or
2. A unit of local government, which we define as school district, municipality, township, or county.

In both cases, grantees must attest that they comply with the John M. Scott Health Commission’s non-discrimination policy that includes age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, citizenship, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disability, veteran or military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, criminal record, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law. Organizations must have a written procedure for handling complaints.

Organizations headquartered outside of McLean County may apply, but services and projects funded by the Trust must serve McLean County residents with annual household incomes at or below 185% of the [Federal Poverty Level](#). This is a firm legal requirement of the Trust and is not subject to the Commission’s discretion. Grantees do not need to exclusively serve community members at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level to receive Trust funds. However, any program or project must determine the annual income of their clients if the organization does not exclusively work with people at or below the income limit. Many grantees serve a wide range of community members and only use John M. Scott Health Care Trust funds to deliver the portion of their project or program that meets the income and residency requirements. Applications will

need to outline how their program or project will properly meet these Trust requirements. City staff is available to discuss acceptable methods of identifying client annual income.

Organizations can demonstrate that a client meets the annual household income limit in the following methods. Common methods to determine income that are acceptable are listed below.

- Income determination by source documentation.
  - Organizations request income information for the household to determine if the annual income is below the 185% FPL limit. Documentation can be the client’s Federal 1040 Income Tax Return or specific income documentation such as paystubs.
- Self-certification on intake forms.
  - The client states their income on a self-certification form or on intake documentation that the client completes for a program or the organization.
- Percent of Service
  - If a program (or organization) serves clients that do meet Trust requirements and clients that do not, the program (or organization) can determine the percentage of clients served that do and do not meet Trust requirements. The program (or organization) can request Trust funds that are less than or equal to the percentage of clients served that meet Trust income requirements. For example, if forty percent of the program participants meet Trust requirements, the applicant can request up to forty percent of the program costs in a Trust application.

Please see the table below for the current Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size. City of Bloomington staff can provide technical assistance during the application window.

<b>2024 Federal Poverty Line (FPL) Limits (As of 07/31/2024)</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>FPL 185% Annual Income Limits</b>
<b>1</b>	\$27,861.00
<b>2</b>	\$37,814.00
<b>3</b>	\$47,767.00
<b>4</b>	\$57,720.00
<b>5</b>	\$67,673.00
<b>6</b>	\$77,626.00
<b>7</b>	\$87,579.00
<b>8</b>	\$97,532.00
<b>9</b>	\$107,485.00
<b>10</b>	\$117,391.00
<b>11</b>	\$127,391.00
<b>12</b>	\$137,344.00
<b>13</b>	\$147,297.00
<b>14</b>	\$157,250.00

Additional Grant Information

Category I – General Operating Grants. Organizations that provide health care services to traditionally underserved populations can apply under this category. Organizations can request funding for up to three years to support their general operating costs, including overhead. Multi-

year grants will be distributed in installments on an annual basis (based on the John M. Scott Commission's fiscal year, May 1-April 30. Continued funding of a multi-year grant will be based on the grantee's compliance with reporting and other requirements in the previous year, success with outcomes, and availability of funds.

Category II-Program proposals may include expenses listed below. Please note that additional expenses may qualify at the Commission's discretion.

- Program Overhead Costs
- Personnel Costs
  - Personnel costs include salary and employee benefit costs for the organization to employ an individual.
- Medication and Medical Supplies (Including durable medical equipment.)
- Program Costs for Prevention, Education, and Intervention Programs
- Costs for Services Targeting [Social Determinants of Health](#) (As defined by the Centers for Disease Control).

The Commission has a strong preference that costs be for the program or project funded instead of general organizational administrative, overhead, or operating costs. General operating costs include but are not limited to: personnel costs for administration employees not completing program functions (i.e. Executive Director), general office supplies, rent or mortgage payments for the facility, utility costs, accounting services, and hardware and software for basic operations (Microsoft suite costs, etc.). Applications should also clearly describe how the program or project has direct health care services or addresses [Social Determinants of Health](#) that directly impact health outcomes.

Category II-Capital proposals must be for facilities the applicant already owns. The Commission does not mandate a specific definition of what constitutes a capital request, but the Commission will not approve capital requests from an applicant that is leasing the space for which they are requesting capital improvements. Additionally, applicants should generally exclude new construction from their proposals since Trust grants are relatively small compared to the cost of building new facilities. An appropriate scale for capital requests might include durable medical or other equipment, facility/infrastructure improvements/renovation, and/or technology equipment and upgrades.

All applicants must demonstrate that their work aligns with the funding goals of the John M Scott Health Commission based on legal requirements, have sound financial management policies in place, and demonstrate strong financial stewardship. Proposals should document to what extent the applicant(s) lost funding from other sources in recent years, to what extent a grant from the John M. Scott Health Care Trust will supplant or backfill that funding (i.e., funding reductions from local, state, federal, or private funding organizations), and whether Trust funds will help draw down federal or state matching dollars.

### Funding Priorities

For FY2026, the Commission is excited to welcome innovative proposals for programs and capital improvements. Applicants are encouraged to review the current [McLean County](#)

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Currently, the top three health priorities are:

- Access to Care
- Behavioral Health (including mental health and substance abuse)
- Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL)

The Commission has identified the following detailed priorities for John M. Scott Health Care Trust funding. The order of the list does not indicate priority ranking.

Non-Capital:

- Access to and affordability of healthy foods
- Chronic disease prevention
- Client service wraparound program models
- Community and social supports that reduce social isolation
- Decreasing risk factors associated with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Exercise and recreation opportunities
- Housing access
- Increasing protective factors associated with ACEs
- Medical transportation program costs (excludes vehicle purchase)
- Neighborhood/community safety efforts to disrupt/mitigate entry into criminal justice system
- Oral health care access
- Trauma responsive care
- School-based and community-based services (versus clinical settings)
- Supportive and transitional housing
- Behavioral health

Capital:

- Built environment improvements that broadly support wellness, exercise, or recreation
- Housing quality or remediation
- HVAC and other major facilities/building code upgrades
- Oral health care infrastructure and capital expenses
- Technology, including telemedicine infrastructure

How to Apply

Proposals for Category II-Program and Category II-Capital funding will be available online, via Neighborly, between 09/04/2024 and 10/16/2024. The application portal will close at 11:59PM CDT on 10/16/2024. If this application period changes due to unforeseen circumstances, the RFP information and outreach materials will be modified to reflect any changes. Late applications

will *not* be considered. If technical issues arise, applicants are instructed to email the Commission's staff administrator from the City that an issue has occurred during submission. The Commission may request additional information in addition to the application and supporting documentation provided from any applicant during the funding deliberation process. Paper applications will not be considered.

To access the online application from 09/04/2024-10/16/2024 please visit:

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/bloomingtonil/Participant>

NOTE: Several applications associated with the City's Grants Management Division will be available under the City's Neighborly participant portal. Open applications for the John M. Scott Health Care Trust grant cycle will be labeled *JMS Category I*, *JMS Category II-Capital*, and *JMS Category II-Program*.

#### Documentation Required with Submission and Organization Reserves

In addition to the application, applicants are required to submit their current Board of Directors (or equivalent body) roster and documentation of the organization's tax-exempt status. Optional documents to submit include the organization's strategic plan, business plan, supporting images and videos, a job description for positions supported with Trust funds, and construction plans and estimates for capital funding requests. Organizations will also need to answer a question on the amount of their financial reserves.

#### Application Evaluation

Please see the FY2026 Application Scoring Criteria for grant applications per category. Applications will be scored by commissioners and community members with experience and knowledge relevant to the applications. The scoring serves as a guideline for the Commission, but the Commission reserves the right to consider other factors outside of the application scores while making funding decisions. A copy of the scoring criteria is available on the City's website for review.

#### Estimated Funding Timeline

- 08/30/2024: RFP Launched
- 09/04/2024-10/16/2024: Online Application Window Open
- 10/2024-12/2024: Application Scoring and Evaluation.
- 12/2024: Commission Approval of Selected Applicants
- 01/2025: Trustee Approval of Applicants and Grant Recipients Notified

- 01/2025-02/2025: Grant Agreements Executed
- 05/2025: FY2026 Funding Released
- 11/30/2025: Mid-Term Report Due
- 05/30/2026: Final/Year-End Report Due

*\*Please note this timeline is an estimate and certain events/activities may be changed at the discretion of the Commission or Trustee.*

### Community Meeting

Please join City staff and Commission leadership for a Q&A Zoom session on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 12PM CDT. Attendance is not required for funding, but if you have questions about the application process or the funding available you are welcome to attend.

Zoom Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82043534553?pwd=SNKEUdRQWTdr223TYRbjMqlqaePugK.1>

### Additional Resources

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review excerpts from the Judge John M. Scott Will and amended declaration of the Trust that moved to a grant driven model of service before applying.

That information can be found here: [John M. Scott | City of Bloomington, Illinois](https://www.cityofbloomington.gov/John-M-Scott)  
([bloomingtonil.gov](https://www.cityofbloomington.gov/))

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