

# Nebraska Blue Foundation: Spring Grant Cycle

## Overview

For more than 85 years, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) has been a champion for the health and well-being of our members and the communities we serve. Founded in 2024, the Nebraska Blue Foundation now allows us to concentrate our efforts.

The foundation has four priority areas:

- **Serving Seniors** – Addressing the needs of Nebraska’s aging population
- **Increasing Access to Preventive Health Care** – Proactive measures to prevent illness, detect health issues early and reduce the risk of chronic disease
- **Economic Vitality** – Investing in job creation and civic programs to promote a vibrant economy
- **Third Places** – Building and strengthening the social fabric of communities across the state

The Nebraska Blue Foundation is particularly interested in supporting innovation and pilot projects. As a new foundation, our approach is to be catalytic with our grants – primarily investing in new ideas or programs that could meet a specific need with a one-time investment.

We are now accepting letters of intent (LOI) for our spring grant cycle in two focus areas: **Serving Seniors** and **Increasing Access to Preventive Health Care**. LOIs for Economic Vitality and Third Places will be accepted this fall.

## Eligibility for the Spring Grant Cycle

	Serving Seniors	Increasing Access to Preventive Health Care
What types of programs will we fund?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellness</li> <li>• Nutrition and exercise</li> <li>• Safe, affordable and accessible housing</li> <li>• Social connectedness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual exams and health assessments</li> <li>• Dental and oral health</li> <li>• Immunizations</li> <li>• Cancer screenings (breast, colorectal, cervical and lung)</li> </ul> <p><b>*Priority will be given to programs serving rural populations</b></p>
Maximum request	\$10,000	\$25,000

- Organizations must be a registered 501(c)(3) entity to be eligible for a grant. Fiscally sponsored organizations are welcome to apply.
- Your organization must be a Nebraska-based nonprofit serving primarily Nebraskans.

## Preparing and Submitting Your LOI

The questions below are shared to help you prepare your LOI. **Answers to these questions and all other requested information must be submitted in [Submittable](#) by Friday, Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. CST for your organization to be considered for the spring grant cycle.** Responses are limited to 400 words.

### Contact information we will collect:

- Organization name
- Contact name
- Contact email
- Phone number
- Website
- Mailing address

### Questions to answer in your LOI:

- Let's get to know you! Tell us about your organization - including your mission and key programs.
- Our mission is to be a champion for the health and well-being of Nebraska residents and communities. One way we do this is by supporting programs and activities that impact social determinants of health and economic vitality in the state of Nebraska. How does your organization align with our mission?
- Select the focus area for this request: Serving Seniors or Preventive Health Care.
- What program are you seeking support for? Please share an overview of the program and the population that you're serving. Feel welcome to provide numbers and any data here to further illustrate your program's impact.
- If invited to submit a full grant application, how much will you request from the Nebraska Blue Foundation? (Dollar amount)
- Where do you need support? How would an investment from the Nebraska Blue Foundation further the mission of your organization and/or program?
- What else would you like to share? Please detail anything about your organization, program or request that we haven't asked above.

## Timeline

Deadline	Step in the Grant Cycle
Friday, Jan. 31 – 5 p.m. CST No late submissions accepted.	LOIs due via Submittable
Week of Feb. 3	LOI review by Nebraska Blue Foundation
Week of Feb. 10	Organizations will either receive an invitation to submit a full application or notification that they aren't advancing in the process.
<b><i>If invited to submit a full grant application....</i></b>	
Friday, March 7 – 5 p.m. CST No late submissions accepted.	Grant application due
Week of May 12	Notification of award or denial
Week of June 2 (or sooner)	Funds will be awarded

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What happens after I submit my LOI?**

Your LOI will be reviewed by foundation staff. We'll contact you after we've analyzed how our goals best align with your organization's needs. While we would love to be able to provide funding to each applicant, the need for funding exceeds available resources. You can anticipate hearing back the week of Feb. 10 on the status of your LOI.

### **Can I meet with someone about my organization and/or LOI?**

Due to the limited capacity of our team and the volume of meeting requests, we are unable to meet with organizations one on one. Please email any questions to [Foundation@NebraskaBlue.com](mailto:Foundation@NebraskaBlue.com), and we'll do our best to respond within three business days.

### **How often does the Nebraska Blue Foundation accept funding requests?**

The foundation will have two grant cycles in 2025. The spring cycle will focus on Serving Seniors and Preventive Health Care. LOIs for Economic Vitality and Third Places will be accepted in July. We do not take requests outside of the grant cycles. To stay up to date on funding opportunities, please sign up for our mailing list at [NebraskaBlue.com/Foundation](https://NebraskaBlue.com/Foundation).

### **Can an organization receive funding more than once per year?**

No, an organization can only receive funding once per year.

### **While one-time investments are prioritized, can organizations request funding yearly for the same project/program?**

Yes, organizations who receive funding can reapply for support. However, receiving a grant one year does not guarantee future funding.

### **Does the foundation provide grants to individuals?**

No, the foundation does not provide grants to individuals.

### **How does the Nebraska Blue Foundation define rural?**

Rural is defined as counties outside of Nebraska's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Nebraska's MSAs are Omaha (Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Saunders); Lincoln (Lancaster and Seward) and Grand Island (Howard, Merrick, Hall and Hamilton).

### **Who makes decisions about which programs are funded/not funded?**

The Nebraska Blue Foundation has a Grant Review Committee made up of employees from BCBSNE. This committee reviews all applications and makes recommendations to the Nebraska Blue Foundation Board, who makes the final funding decisions.

**Does the Nebraska Blue Foundation provide operating grants?**

The foundation does not provide organization level operating grants. We do provide program level grants – trusting organizations to apply funds in a way to support the program and goals as outlined in their application.

**If I am not selected to move forward to the grant application phase and/or do not receive funding, can I receive feedback on my application?**

At this time, the foundation will not be providing feedback on individual applications.

**If I am not selected to move forward to the grant application phase and/or do not receive funding, can I reapply?**

Yes, organizations are welcome to reapply during the next grant cycle for the appropriate priority area.

**I would like to apply for an Economic Vitality or Third Places grant. When can I apply?**

LOIs for Economic Vitality and Third Places will be accepted in July. We do not take requests outside of the grant cycles. To stay up to date on funding opportunities, please sign up for our mailing list at [NebraskaBlue.com/Foundation](https://NebraskaBlue.com/Foundation).

**I have a question that isn't answered here. Who can I reach out to?**

Please email us at [Foundation@NebraskaBlue.com](mailto:Foundation@NebraskaBlue.com). We'll do our best to respond within three business days.