

## Region Grants Program

### OUR MISSION

Land O'Lakes, Inc. and the Land O'Lakes Foundation are dedicated to serving the rural and urban communities where our cooperative has members owners, employees, and facilities. Support is focused on organizations dedicated to Hunger Relief, Advancing Education, and Community Vitality.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Region Grants Program is specifically for Land O'Lakes dairy communities in the East and West Regions of our member footprint. The purpose is to improve the vibrancy of the regions where our member-owners are located.

Funds are awarded through two grant rounds: **Hunger Relief** and **Community Vitality**.

### PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- \$125,000 total is awarded to both the East and West regions per grant round.
- Total annual program investment is \$500,000.
- Organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000.
  - Generally, between 10-20 grantees are funded per grant round.
  - Average grant award is between \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Funds are for local programs or projects supporting Land O'Lakes member-owner rural communities and their populations.

### ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

- Nonprofits that primarily serve rural\* communities in the eligible counties listed below within our East and West Region footprint, where we have a strong member presence, are eligible to apply.
  - **East Region States and Counties:**
    - Delaware: New Castle and Sussex
    - Maryland: Cecil, Kent, and Washington
    - New York: Ontario, Steuben, and Yates
    - Pennsylvania: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Union, and York
  - **West Region State and Counties:**
    - California: Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Riverside and Tulare
- Referrals from a Land O'Lakes member-owner are prioritized (not required).
- Current 501c3 Public Charity tax exempt nonprofit status through the Internal Revenue Service required.

### DEFINITION OF RURAL

\*Rural is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as geographic areas that are not defined as urban. The OMB defines urban as an area with a central municipality with populations of 50,000 or more, including nearby counties that have strong social and economic links to the central city and surrounding suburbs. Rural is therefore defined as any area that does not fit this definition.

This grant is intended to support the vibrancy of rural communities. Applicants from organizations headquartered in rural towns with less than 50,000 residents are welcome to apply. Applicants located in a town or small city with 50,000-200,000 residents that are 1) not a suburb that's part of a larger urban area and 2) are located in a primarily rural county are also eligible to apply.

*Land O'Lakes Foundation reserves the right to change or withdraw this program without notice. The interpretations and administration of the provisions of the program are determined by the Foundation.*



## DONATION EXAMPLES

While organizations meeting all eligibility criteria listed above are welcome to apply, examples of nonprofits we may support include (but are not limited to) the following:

**Hunger Relief**—Organizations committed to fighting food insecurity and increasing food accessibility

- Food banks
- Food shelves/pantries
- Prepared meals and meal delivery services
- School meal programs
- Community gardens and local food systems

**Community Vitality**- Organizations committed to strengthening community resources and opportunities, especially in rural areas

- 4-H, FFA, and ag education programs
- Schools and educational institutions
- City improvement projects
- Fire/Ambulance departments
- Local United Way chapters
- Economic development programs

## ORGANIZATIONS WE DO NOT FUND

Organizations engaged in lobbying, political, religious, or fraternal activities, labor organizations, and as well as any organization that advocates, supports, or participates in activities inconsistent with Land O'Lakes Inc.'s policies are not eligible.

Grants will not be awarded for the following purposes:

- Direct funding to individuals - including fundraisers and scholarships for individuals
- Trade/Business Associations
- Political, lobbying, or fraternal groups (such as Lions Clubs)
- Programs/projects that do not demonstrate an application of the principles in the Land O'Lakes Foundation Mission

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligible non-profit organizations may apply during the appropriate open grant round window. The Grant Selection Committee will review applications and determine proposal funding at the end of each grant round—not all requests will receive support. All applicants will be notified of their status once final decisions have been made. For questions, contact [Landolakesfoundation@landolakes.com](mailto:Landolakesfoundation@landolakes.com).

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