



2026 GRANT CYCLE – FAQs

Eligibility	1
Important Change to the Grant Cycle	2
Application Details	2
Application Checklist	4
Review Process	10
Award Decisions	10
Grant Terms	10

Eligibility

For an overview of eligibility criteria, please visit <https://catawbanationfoundation.org/what-we-fund/>.

My organization received a grant in 2025. Are we eligible to apply in 2026?

Yes. If you applied in prior years, please note that the timeline has changed. Review the 2026 grant calendar carefully to ensure you apply during the correct window.

If you received a multi-year grant, you would need to complete full application for additional funding requests.

My organization did NOT receive a grant in 2025. Are we eligible to apply in 2026?

Yes, make sure you meet the following criteria:

Organization Type

- 501(c)(3) or other tax-exempt organization
- Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) or other tax-exempt organization
- Tribal Government or other tax-exempt organization dedicated to Native American communities.

Qualified grant recipients include:

- Catawba Nation
- Cleveland County Region – Cleveland, McDowell, Burke, Gaston, Rutherford, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Lincoln Counties
- North Carolina Tribes and Native Organizations

Projects should fall into any of these categories:

- Educational Advancement
- Cultural Preservation
- Environmental Conservation
- Economic Development

How many times can an organization apply in 2026?

Eligible organizations may apply once in 2026, during the cycle that applies to them.

Are 501(c)(6) organizations eligible to apply?

Yes

Important Change to the Grant Cycle

What is changing in 2026?

In 2026, the Catawba Nation Foundation is moving from a single combined annual grant cycle to three separate grant cycles.

Why is the Foundation making this change?

The staggered approach allows for:

- Clearer timelines for applicants
- More focused support for each group
- A more manageable and equitable review process

What if I'm not sure which cycle applies to me?

Contact Catawba Nation Foundation staff before applying - we are happy to help.

Grant-related inquiries for Catawba Nation can be answered by

Michele.Atkinson@catawba.com and Morgan.Webster@catawba.com.

Application Details

Can I meet with a Foundation staff person before I start the application process?

Organizations are encouraged to attend the virtual information session to learn about the grant timeline, application, and FAQs. For nonprofits in the **Cleveland County region**, that will be offered on February 18 at 12:00 PM; for **North Carolina Tribes & Native Organizations**, the info sessions will be offered on August 12 and 19. You can register for this webinar on our website, and the recording will be made available following the event.

In addition, one-on-one sessions “Tuesdays with Tina” will be offered to focus on financial and budgeting questions. Appointment links will be available on our website.

If you have specific questions about your application during the application window, please contact Tanya Varanelli at tanya@catawbanationfoundation.org.

What are the application deadlines?

Dependent on Area of Focus:

- Cleveland County Region: March 1-31, 2026
- NC Tribes/Native Organizations: September 1-30, 2026
- Catawba Nation: Fall 2026

How do I apply?

Cleveland County Region: & NC Tribes/Native Organizations: To apply for a grant, please visit this link <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=catawba>.

Detailed instructions can be found at this video link: <https://support.foundant.com/hc/en-us/articles/4479853059991-GLM-Applicant-Tutorial>.

How do I create a Foundant account? What if I forgot my password?

Please visit this link <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=catawba> for instructions to register. If you have already created an account but have forgotten your password, click Forgot Your Password to reset it.

To add additional team members as collaborators to complete your application request, please watch the tutorial here: [Applicant Tutorial - Collaborator](#).

Can I reuse responses from last year's app?

Instructions to copy information from a previous application can be found here:

<https://support.foundant.com/hc/en-us/articles/4523861991575-Applicant-Tutorial-Copy-Request>.

What name should I use as the Applicant Name?

Please enter the name of the individual who is authorized to sign a grant agreement on behalf of your organization, should funding be awarded. This is typically an executive director, CEO, board chair, or another person with legal signing authority.

What type of budget information should be included in the application?

To help us better understand your organization's revenue, expenses, and request for funds, we ask for a written budget description and a completed budget template. A well-structured budget is more than just numbers - it reflects your mission, your strategy, and your commitment to strengthen your community. We ask all grant applicants to provide an organization's operational budget to help our grant reviewers assess these important qualifications.

- **Organizational Budget Description**

Provide a detailed budget including anticipated expenses and revenue sources. You may add additional or clarifying details in the narrative responses in the application.

- **Budget Template File**

You must use the Excel template available via download on our website to share required and optional financial information. Detailed instructions are provided on the first tab of the excel workbook. Save the file to your computer to edit, save your edits.

Create a pdf of the final budget (operational budget and, if applicable, the program/project budget or the capital budget) and upload the pdf version with your application.

Are indirect costs (IDC) allowed?

Yes. We offer a tiered indirect cost rate based on organization type:

- Tribal governments and grassroots or Native-led organizations: Up to 15%
- Small nonprofits: Up to 12%
- Universities, hospitals, and large institutions: Up to 10%

These rates help ensure organizations can cover essential administrative and operational expenses that support their project or program.

Grant Request Categories

Please select the category that applies to the requested funds:

- **General operating support** is funding that is used for ongoing operations of an organization. This may include, but is not limited to, rent/utilities, staff salaries, or other administrative expenses for your organization.
- **Program/project support** is funding that is designated to support a specific program or project. This may include, but is not limited to, supplies, venue costs, and other program-related expenses.
- **Capital/equipment support** is used for planning significant investments in long-term assets (normally greater use than one year), such as machinery, buildings, or improvements, technology upgrades, vehicles, etc.

How much funding can our organization request?

Organizations may request between \$1,500 and \$25,000. You will also be asked to share the minimum grant amount that would still make a meaningful impact on your work.

Can other funders match this grant?

Yes. If you anticipate receiving matching funds from other sources, please indicate that in your application and share the estimated amount. Matching support can include confirmed or pending contributions from foundations, government agencies, businesses, or individual donors. This information helps us understand the broader funding landscape supporting your work.

Application Checklist

Eligibility Question

Organization Type*

If you select "Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3)", you will be required to respond to an additional set of questions about your fiscal sponsor.

If you select "None of the above", you are ineligible for this grant process and should not proceed. Please reach out to Tanya at tanya@catawbanationfoundation.org with questions.

Choices

501(c)(3) or other tax-exempt organization

Fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) or other tax-exempt organization

NC Tribal Government or other tax-exempt organization dedicated to Native American communities. None of the above - ineligible to apply, DO NOT PROCEED

Area of Focus Eligibility

New in 2026: Catawba Nation Foundation now offers three separate grant cycles. Please review the timelines carefully. Organizations will apply during one designated cycle in 2026.

- Nonprofits in Cleveland County Region: March 1 – March 31, 2026
- NC Tribes and Native Organizations: September 1 – September 30, 2026
- Catawba Nation - Fall 2026 (More Details To Come)

What if I'm not sure which cycle applies to me?

Contact Catawba Nation Foundation staff before applying—we are happy to help.

Grant-related inquiries for Catawba Nation can be answered by
Michele.Atkinson@catawba.com and Morgan.Webster@catawba.com.

[Area of Focus - Grant Cycle Timeline*](#)

Please select the Area of Focus that applies to your organization or Tribe.

Choices

Nonprofits in Cleveland County Region
NC Tribes and Native Organizations
Catawba Nation

Fiscal Sponsor Detail

These questions are required only if you have a fiscal sponsor.

If you are a student applying for a scholarship, your sponsoring school will serve as your fiscal sponsor. You will need the school's relevant information and use the school's EIN.

[Fiscal Sponsor Name*](#)

Character Limit: 250

[Fiscal Sponsor Address*](#)

Character Limit: 250

[Fiscal Sponsor EIN*](#)

Character Limit: 25

[Name of Contact Person*](#)

Fiscal Sponsor - first and last name

Character Limit: 250

[Title of Contact Person*](#)

Character Limit: 100

Contact Email*
Character Limit: 254

Fiscal Sponsor Tax Exemption*
If you are a student applying for a scholarship, upload the IRS Letter Confirming Tax-Exempt Status for your school.
File Size Limit: 4 MB

501(c)(3) & Tax-Exempt Organizations
Tax Exemption Documentation*

Upload your organization's IRS or State Determination Letter Confirming Tax-Exempt Status.
File Size Limit: 5 MB

Organization Information

Candid Information

You may use your Candid profile to help populate your application form. Before doing so, please be sure that your Candid profile contains the most up-to-date information.

To auto-populate your form with Candid profile answers, click the "Copy Candid Profile" button in the top right corner. Simply pick and choose which answers you would like to pull into the form by clicking the checkbox next to the applicable answer. When finished selecting, click the "Copy Answers" button in the bottom right of the pop-up, and the Candid data will be pulled into the applicable fields in the form.

Please note that copying answers will not overwrite any existing answers, and any answers pulled from Candid that populate into your form can be edited and updated. If you do not have a Candid profile, you may simply answer the questions by typing or copying/pasting your response.

Mission Statement*
Character Limit: 3000

Organizational History*
Provide a brief history of your organization including key milestones and impact.
Character Limit: 5000

Organizational Budget*
Character Limit: 20

Fiscal Year Start*
Character Limit: 10

Current Board of Directors*
Provide the names and contact details of your current board of directors.
Character Limit: 5000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Grant Request Details

Grant Request Category*

The grant request may be awarded to support any of these purposes. Please select the category that applies to the requested funds:

- **General operating support** is funding that is used for ongoing operations of an organization. This may include, but is not limited to, rent/utilities, staff salaries, or other administrative expenses for your organization.
- **Program/project support** is funding that is designated to support a specific program or project. This may include, but is not limited to, supplies, venue costs, and other program-related expenses.
- **Capital/equipment support** is used for planning significant investments in long-term assets (normally greater use than one year), such as machinery, buildings, or improvements, technology upgrades, vehicles, etc.

Choices

General Operating
Program/Project
Capital/Equipment

Grant Request Name*

The name of the request is attached to every form within your process. This is the "identifier" for the request. This is a required system field that cannot be deleted. It may be renamed in the question label.

Character Limit: 250

Area of Focus*

Choices

Catawba Nation
Cleveland County & Nearby Communities
NC Tribal Communities

Funding Category*

Choices

Cultural Preservation
Economic Development
Educational Advancement
Environmental Conservation

Request Summary*

Provide a brief summary of the request, including key objectives and expected milestones.

Character Limit: 5000

Alignment with Community Priorities*

Describe how the request aligns with the priorities of the community you serve. Where possible, reference community planning documentation. Please include specific datapoints, if available.

Potential Impact Metrics

- **Social Impact:** Assess long-term changes that can be attributed to the organization's programs (e.g., reductions in poverty, or improvements in environmental conservation or cultural preservation).

- **Community Engagement:** Track how the community is involved, such as through volunteerism, advocacy, or partnerships.

Character Limit: 5000

Alignment with Community Priorities Documentation

Optional documentation to demonstrate alignment with community priorities.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Amount Requested*

Funding requests may range from \$1,500 - \$25,000.

Note: the Foundation reserves the right to grant higher than requested.

Character Limit: 20

Minimum Award Amount*

What is the minimum award amount that would be impactful to the organization?

Character Limit: 20

Matching Funds (Optional)

Will other funders be able to match this grant? If yes, what is the anticipated matching amount?

Character Limit: 20

Use of Funds*

Explain how the requested funds will be allocated and used effectively?

Character Limit: 5000

Supplemental Documentation

Please upload any supplemental documentation here. This is optional.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Grant Request Metrics

Communities Served & Estimated Impact*

Define the communities this request will serve and the estimated number of people the project will impact. Please include specific datapoints, if available.

Potential Programmatic Metrics

- **Number of Beneficiaries Served:** Track how many individuals or groups the nonprofit is reaching (e.g., students, families, communities)
- **Program Output:** Measure the actual delivery of services (e.g., workshop held, meals served, training provided).
- **Program Outcomes:** Evaluate the changes or results in the lives of beneficiaries (e.g., improved health, educational achievement, increased access to conserved land, strengthened cultural knowledge or participation in traditional practices).

Character Limit: 5000

Measurable Goals & Impact Tracking*

Outline the measurable goals associated with the funds. Describe how you will track and measure the impact of the request, considering both output metrics (e.g. # of people served, # of engagements) and outcome metrics (e.g., impact of services provided).

Character Limit: 5000

Budget Template & Financial Oversight

Organizational Budget Description (Optional)

Provide a detailed budget including anticipated expenses and revenue sources.

Character Limit: 5000

Budget Template Upload (Required)*

You must use the Excel template available via download here [link] to share required and optional financial information. Detailed instructions are provided on the first tab of the Excel workbook. Save the file to your computer to edit, and save your edits. Create a pdf of the final budget (operational budget and, if applicable, the program/project budget or the capital budget) and upload the pdf version with your application.

File Size Limit: 11 MB

Grant Oversight*

Describe how financial accountability and stewardship of funds will be ensured.

Character Limit: 5000

Sustainability & Collaboration

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, but if a field does not apply to your organization enter N/A.

Organizational Capacity*

Describe your organization's experience and capacity for delivering the request.

Character Limit: 5000

Plan for Additional Funding*

Outline plans for securing additional funding or in-kind support for the request.

Character Limit: 5000

Long-Term Sustainability*

Provide details on how the project will be sustained beyond the funding period.

Character Limit: 5000

Collaboration & Partnerships*

Identify any partners involved in the project and describe their roles.

Character Limit: 5000

Additional Funding Considerations

Provide any additional details about project feasibility and sustainability.

Character Limit: 5000

Next Steps

Anything else?

Is there any further information you would like to share with us? Feel free to upload a file or share via the text field.

Character Limit: 10000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Once you submit your application, you cannot edit the form. Please review your answers before submitting.

After you submit this application, check your email for the submission confirmation. Grant applications for the Cleveland County region close on March 31, 2026. Decisions will be announced by August 1st, 2026.

Review Process

Who reviews my organization's grant application once it is submitted? What does the review process look like?

All submitted grant applications are initially screened by CNF staff to ensure the application is complete. Each application is also reviewed for alignment with CNF's focus areas before undergoing review from CNF's Impact Committees and approved by the Board of Directors.

Will my organization be contacted during the review process? If so, how will we be contacted?

CNF staff will follow up with applicant organizations during the review process only if there is a question or if clarifying information is needed about the submitted application. CNF staff will reach out to the contact email address or phone number listed under the "Applicant Name" fields within the application.

Award Decisions

When will my organization receive a decision on our grant application? How will we be notified?

Award decisions are announced via an e-mail sent to the e-mail address under the Applicant Name submitted on the application. Award notifications for the **Cleveland County region** will be made by August 1, 2026, and **North Carolina Tribes & Native Organizations** will be announced on December 1, 2026.

Grant Terms

If my organization receives a grant award, are there any reporting requirements for this grant?

Yes. All grant recipients will be required to submit a report. The report request will be shared via email within 60 days of the report due date, which will be noted in the Award Agreement.