



**Wood County Economic Development
(Planning & Zoning/Extension)**

400 Market Street/ P.O. Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: 715-421-8466

Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Application Instructions & Grant Information

The Wood County CEED (Conservation, Education, and Economic Development) Committee and the Board of Supervisors have made available a limited amount of economic development funds to be awarded each year to projects or proposals that seek to enhance the economic vitality of Wood County. This includes projects or proposals to encourage business growth and development, promote tourism and recreational opportunities, develop workforce retention or attraction strategies, and more.

To be successful, proposals should be clear and concise with a detailed description of the project's scope, program or activity, timeline, and 1:1 match funding. A successful proposal will -

1. **Align to REDI Plan Goals:** Wood County's economic development strategy ([The Rural Economic Development Initiative \(REDI\) Plan](#)) outlines strategic goals in key focus areas. Proposals should align with one of these strategic goals -
 - Supporting **Entrepreneurship**
 - Offering collaborative **Economic Development Networking**
 - Ensuring robust **Technology Infrastructure**
 - Addressing **Housing** needs throughout the County
 - Engaging in solutions for **Child Care** Accessibility & Affordability
 - Supporting **Asset-Based Branding & Tourism**
 - Developing combined county-wide **Recreational Mapping** to increase use and attract tourism
2. **Provide an ROI to Wood County:** Proposals should provide a detailed ROI (Return on Investment) description for the funds invested.
3. **Be Completed in One Year:** These economic development grant funds are not ongoing. Successful proposals will have a clear timeline and will be completed within the **2026** calendar year.
4. **Include a 1:1 Match:** Proposals should include at least a 1:1 match. The match can be monetary or in-kind contributions. A description of the match must be included in the application.

Who Can Apply? Applications are welcome from local municipalities or units of government, non-profit/community organizations, or project-based teams. Proposals should have a Wood County focus.

Funds Available & Grant Size: A total of \$325,000 is available in this fund for the budget year. There is no cap in place for these requests, but keep in mind there is a **1:1 match preference** and scoring will be based, in part, on the match details.

What we do not generally fund: Annual campaigns, Operating expenses or losses, Debt retirement, Endowments, Direct support of individuals, Lobbying, Sectarian causes

Process: All applications are due by **4:30pm on Friday, July 11, 2025**. Applications are reviewed in August, approved by the County Board in November and grantees will be notified following approval of the County budget. Note that funds will not be released until a project results report is presented to the CEED Committee.

Questions/More Information: Contact Jason or Victoria in Wood County Planning & Zoning with questions. 715-421-8466, jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov, victoria.wilson@woodcountywi.gov.



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2026 Wood County (WI) Economic Development Funding Request

Proposal Title:

Applicant Organization:

Website:

Mailing Address:

Street Address: (if different)

Contact Name & Title:

Phone:

Email:

Proposal Narrative

1. REDI Alignment (select one)

If selected other, please describe:

2. Please provide a summary of your proposal. Explain how it is consistent with and supports the Wood County REDI (Rural Economic Development Initiative) Plan.

3. Have you received funds through this grant in the past? (if yes, check box)

Have you applied in the past? (if yes, check box)

If yes, in which years did you receive funds and in which years did you apply?



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- 4. Describe the timeline for this proposal.** Note this grant requires the funding recipient to complete work on the proposal/project within one calendar year (2026).

- 5. Explain how this proposal will provide a Return on Investment (ROI) to Wood County.** Please be as specific as possible. E.g. The housing incentive we offered with County Economic Development funds will lead to an annual tax levy increase of \$X.

- 6. Describe the match for this proposal.** Note that a 1:1 match is preferred. E.g. For a \$5,000 grant award, the grantee must provide \$5,000 of in-kind or financial match. The match must occur within the calendar year (2026) the funds are awarded for.



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Funding Considerations/Request Summary

(provide separate spreadsheet/budget if needed)

Budget Summary		Budget Detail	
Total Organization Budget	\$	Revenue/Income	
Total Proposal Cost	\$		\$
Total Amount Requested	\$		\$
Total Match *	\$	Total Revenue/Income	\$
* Please provide a match explanation in question 6.		Expenses	
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total Expense	\$

Project Reporting Requirement

As a reporting requirement of receiving an Economic Development Grant, a one-page summary project report will be prepared and presented to the CEED Committee. **This report must be submitted no later than Tuesday, October 1, 2026.** Funding will not be released to the applicant prior to the reporting requirement being met. Please also note that funds are not able to be carried over into the following year.

Signatures

I attest that the information in this application submitted to Wood County is true and correct.

Applicant

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>

Highest Organization Elected Official/Board Chair

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>