

Funding Guidelines & Procedures

Black Hawk County Gaming Association (BHCGA) is the corporation that holds and maintains the license to conduct gambling games in accordance with the Iowa Excursion Boat Gambling Act.



#1 Staff tip:

Unlike other Cedar Valley funders, we're a Qualified Sponsored Organization (QSO). This designation allows us to receive a contractual percentage of the Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo's gaming revenue, which we reinvest in the communities we serve each year.

Eligibility Requirements*:

To qualify for funding, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a government entity or a nonprofit with a verifiable 501(c)3 status.
- Be located in, or have a project based in, one of our service counties.
- Not begin the project before the grant award date—only expenses incurred after the award date are eligible for reimbursement.

*For a complete list of guidelines and eligibility requirements, visit www.bhcg.org.

How Funds are Allocated Through Competitive Grants

90% **Black Hawk County**
 BHCGA primarily funds Black Hawk County projects, awarding **90%** of funds there.

<10% **Bremer, Butler & Grundy**
 Up to **10%** of annual revenue can fund projects outside of Black Hawk County.



FY26 Funding Calendar

	Grant Cycle	Letters of Intent Due	Applications Due	Grants Awarded
1	<i>Summer</i> May - Aug 2026	May 20	June 22	Late Aug
2	<i>Fall</i> Sept - Dec 2026	Sept 22	Oct 20	Late Dec
3	<i>Spring</i> Jan - April 2027	Jan 25	Feb 22	Late Apr



Strong proposals focus on a clear community **need**, regional **impact**, & project **feasibility**—key priorities for our Board.

Include a **detailed** project budget that demonstrates **shared funding**, strong **organizational commitment**, & **itemized** project-specific expenses.

Demonstrate that your project has a **solid plan**, a **realistic timeline**, and can launch shortly **after** the award date.

For projects **outside Black Hawk County**, include **proof of application** to the local community foundation for the **same project** within the same calendar year.