

# 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.bhcgag.org](http://www.bhcgag.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><br>May - Aug 2025   | <b>May 21</b>         | <b>June 18</b>   | <b>Late Aug</b> |
| 2 <i>Fall</i><br>Sept - Dec 2025    | <b>Sept 22</b>        | <b>Oct 20</b>    | <b>Late Dec</b> |
| 3 <i>Spring</i><br>Jan - April 2026 | <b>Jan 26</b>         | <b>Feb 19</b>    | <b>Late Apr</b> |



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.