# Kentucky Colonels

2027 Good Works Program Guidelines

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**Contact:**
Grants@kycolonels.org
502-753-0780

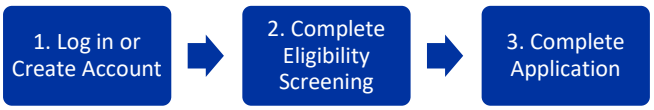
**Mailing Address:**
Kentucky Colonels
943 South First Street
Louisville, KY 40203

## How to Apply

**Step 1:** Login or create an account to our Grant Application Portal.

**Step 2:** Applications will open for submission beginning **December 7, 2026**. Click apply and complete the eligibility screening for the application you are applying for.

**Step 3:** Once eligibility has been determined, click apply on the correct application.




## Timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| **Thursday, November 19, 2026** | Good Works Program Grant Overview Webinar |
| **Monday, December 7, 2026** | All Applications open for submissions |
| **Friday, January 15, 2027** | Large Applications Due |
| **Friday, January 22, 2027** | Medium Applications Due |
| **Friday, January 29, 2027** | Small Applications and New Organization Applications Due |
| **Mid-June, 2027** | Notification of award |
| **Thursday, September 30, 2027** | Last day to request extension |
| **Friday, October 29, 2027** | All purchases completed and receipts turned in for reimbursement |

## Eligible Organizations

Please review the eligibility questions below before applying.

1. Is your organization currently recognized as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code?
2. Is the date of your organization's IRS exemption determination letter before January 1, 2022? *
3. Is your organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky? *Organizations not incorporated in Kentucky must primarily serve Kentuckians.*
4. Will all items that are subject to the grant request be purchased between the date of award in mid-June and October 29, 2027?
5. Has your organization timely filed its last two Forms 990 with the IRS?
6. Are multiple sub-organizations or sub-offices applying? *For example: YMCA's that operate under the same Tax ID number may not apply for the same funding cycle. Or if you have a fiscal sponsor that shares the same Tax ID number, only one organization is eligible to apply per year.*
7. Is your organization the end user? *If you are an organization that provides funding and/or materials to other charities, you may not be eligible.*

**For Application for Organizations who have existed 3-5 years, the date of your organization's IRS exemption determination letter must be before January 1, 2024.*

## Ineligible Organizations

The following organizations are not eligible for grant funding.

1. Churches or organizations exempt as religious organizations that require participation in religious activities or training for staff.
2. Most Governmental Agencies (ex: public school districts)
3. Public School Foundations, PTO's, Booster Clubs
4. Colleges/universities
5. Most grant-making organizations. However, if you would like to partner to make a bigger impact, please email Eric Patterson at epatterson@kycolonels.org.

## Generally, What We Do Not Fund

Requests for funding from the Kentucky Colonels should be for items that will directly benefit as many of the clients you serve as possible. To guide you in preparing your request, here is a listing of items that are not eligible for funding. Additional explanations are included under limitations.

1. Marketing or Advertising including newsletters, websites, etc.
2. Design work
3. Facility rental
4. Equipment rental
5. Convention/meeting registration fees
6. General operating computer software or subscriptions (such as Microsoft Office or Virtual Meeting applications)
7. Operational or administration expenses such as rent, utilities, office supplies
8. Salaries or consultant fees
9. Academic scholarships
10. Service agreements and extended warranties
11. Speaker/presenter fees and meals associated with conventions, meeting, etc.
12. Staff training
13. Travel expenses and lodging for staff
14. Vehicle expenses
15. Website development/maintenance
16. Building improvements for leased properties

## Limitations

1. In general terms, funding is limited to tangible items and limited client services.

2. If your request includes computer equipment, you must demonstrate how the equipment will be utilized by, or to the benefit of, the clients you serve. As a cost guideline, a desktop computer with a 21" monitor should not exceed $800. A laptop computer should not exceed $1,000.

3. Grant funds may be used for subscriptions or custom computer software in special circumstances if being used to provide services to clients. If requesting a grant for subscriptions, please include length of subscription, devices to be used on, and plans for how long subscriptions will be used by the organization. (Examples: Medical Software, Learning Curriculum)

4. Motorized vehicle funding by the Kentucky Colonels is at most, up to a maximum of $20,000. We reserve the right to make vehicle funding commitments at a lesser matching amount. This applies to all vehicles including cars, vans, tractors, etc.

5. Funding will be considered for specialized labor only (i.e., plumbing, electrical work, etc.) and not general labor (i.e., painting)

6. Generally, we do not provide funding for transportation. We will provide funding for transportation costs for helping participants attend youth programs or patients to travel to medical treatments.

7. Funding for building improvements or upgrades will typically only be considered for organizations who own the property or have a long-term lease (greater than five years). Organizations should have copy of lease available for review.

## Reporting/Reimbursements

1. Grants are paid as a reimbursement of expenditures that were approved for grant funding. You will not receive a check until all documentation has been received. If you have any doubt as to whether an expenditure qualifies for such reimbursement, check with us before making it.

2. Examples of documentation
    a. Receipts
    b. Paid Invoice
    c. Cancelled Check

3. Should funds be awarded, all items must be purchased between the date of the grant award and **Friday, October 29, 2027.** If the deadline for grant completion cannot be met, in rare instances an extension may be granted. The recipient must request and receive an extension by email from the Kentucky Colonels. Such requests must be received no later than **Thursday, September 30, 2027.**

4. Except in very narrow circumstances, any excess amount not used for an award may not be utilized for other purposes, unless it is approved in writing.

## Advisory Information

1. **Application Types:** There are four different grant applications available. You can access all applications by clicking *Apply* on your applicant dashboard. The various levels of applications have increased levels of complexity as the amount of the grant request becomes higher. **Please note, applying for the wrong application may negatively impact your grant decision.**

    a. **UPDATED:** Organizations 3-5 Years in Existence: For organizations who have been in existence for at least three years but do not meet the five years in existence requirement. Grants are capped at $5,000.00.
    b. Small Grant Application: For grant requests up to $2,500.00
    c. Medium Grant Application: If your grant request is between $2,500 and $10,000.00.
    d. Full Grant Application: If your grant request exceeds $10,000.00.

2. **Bids:** There are different bid requirements depending on the total amount of your grant request. You are required to obtain three bids and upload copies of the bids for requests greater than $10,000. Please note that the bid requirements below pertain to the overall request and not individual items.

    a. Requests up to $2,500 – one bid required, and no bid uploads required
    b. Requests between $2,500 and $10,000 – two bids required with all bids uploaded
    c. Requests greater than $10,000 – three bids required with all bids uploaded

3. **Financials:** The Kentucky Colonels strive to make sure that each dollar contributed is granted to organizations with the greatest need. For the 2027 grant cycle, we will continue to take a close look at financial information provided by nonprofit organizations to ensure we are providing grants to the organizations that need the funds the most. Organizations who are financially healthy may be asked to sit out for a grant cycle.

4. **Hospitals:** If you are a large multi-hospital system, know that only one hospital or facility is eligible to apply per year. Large multi-hospital systems are defined as any hospital corporation operating five or more facilities in the Commonwealth. Also, please note that large hospital systems are carefully vetted and are generally not funded. Please reach out to us before applying to determine if your organization will be eligible. If your organization is a part of a large hospital system and awarded a grant, you may not be eligible to receive a grant in the next grant cycle.

## Recognizing the Kentucky Colonels

Grant recipients are asked to acknowledge the Kentucky Colonels' funding. Items such as plaques, decals, and vanity license plates provided to the recipient by the Kentucky Colonels will be used by the recipient to publicize the grant. Items not provided by the Kentucky Colonels will need approval.

Reciprocal PR is expected in the form of social media and/or newsletters. If approved for a grant, we may reach out to you for information such as pictures, quotes, or other relevant information for the grant received. We have provided a follow-up form through the grant system for you to upload the information mentioned above.

For questions or approvals, please contact us at 502-753-0780 or grants@kycolonels.org.

# F.A.Q.

**Q: My organization has multiple offices and sub-organizations. Am I eligible?**
A: Organizations with multiple offices or sub-organizations are eligible for consideration only if none of the sub-organizations have applied.

**Q: I am having difficulty navigating the online application. Are there any resources or guidance available?**
A: If you are having difficulties with the online grant software, please refer to these tips for Kentucky Colonels Online Grant System. If this doesn't answer your questions, please email grants@kycolonels.org or call 502-753-0780. We will also work with your organization by setting up a time for you to complete the application at our office, or over the phone.

**Q: It says in the application to have at least three bids for the request. What if there is only one supplier?**
A: Please research to confirm there are no other suppliers. If there is only one option, please attach a thorough explanation at the bottom of the grant item request form in the note section provided.

**Q: What types of bids are accepted?**
A: Bids need to match the documentation listed on the grant item request form and include price per item, item description or picture, and vendor information. Links to bids or verbal bids are **not** accepted as documentation.

**Q: Do you provide reimbursement for additional costs associated with a grant such as shipping costs?**
A: We do provide reimbursement for shipping costs if approved by the Trustee.

**Q: What is the general range of requests regarding dollar amount?**
A: In 2026, the Kentucky Colonels granted $2.6 million to 318 organizations. Please take this amount into consideration when you make your request.

**Q: Will you let me know when my application is received?**
A: You will receive a verification via email when we have received your application.

**Q: Will you reimburse purchases made before the grant was approved?**
A: No. Any purchases made before grant decisions in mid-June are not eligible for reimbursement.

**Q. If the item is on sale, should I provide a bid with the sale price or full price when not on sale?**
A. Always, use the full price of the item when researching and completing bid sheet. Your application will only be reviewed for the items at the price they are listed, and we are unable to fund the difference if an item is no longer on sale at the time you are awarded.