

Celebrating/Sharing Our Unique Cultures & Communities

I Am Trenton 2026 Citywide Grant Round

BACKGROUND

[The I Am Trenton Community Foundation](#) was established by a group of Trentonians in 2007 to *make Trenton even better through community engagement, building pride in our city, and community-focused giving*. Our grants support projects designed and led by Trenton residents to enhance our communities/neighborhoods. We believe in putting resources on the ground and investing in Trenton's own changemakers.

Citywide Grants:

Our 2026 Citywide grant cycle will support Trenton pride – we want you to share and promote the best of your culture, community or neighborhood. We encourage you to think about ways to create projects/programs that show off our community, through outreach, collaborations across cultures and communities, examples of building resilience, or using our diversity to meet challenges/opportunities. We want to show the world that diversity is our strength. We will interpret these categories broadly - we just ask that you pick those that best fit your project. See below for more detail on these priorities.

WHO CAN APPLY - Note: *We prioritize projects led by residents and grassroots organizations. Large/established nonprofits or businesses may apply as applicable but are very unlikely to be funded unless it is for a very compelling project led by residents in the neighborhood, and a clear reason is presented why the organization cannot secure funding for the project from its regular sources.*

We will prioritize projects designed by and led by Trenton residents and people with lived experience related to the project. All applicants must be able to demonstrate strong ties to Trenton and be able to engage Trentonians in the work/project.

Eligible applicants:

- Individuals or unincorporated organizations with a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Individuals or unincorporated organizations without a fiscal sponsor – grant income will be considered taxable income by the State of NJ & IRS. We require a W9 with either an EIN or SSN to issue each grant.
- 501(c)(3) organizations with priority given to less resourced organizations that have great ideas but are still building the internal capacity and experience to attract traditional foundation grants.
- Registered businesses located in and serving Trenton and its visitors.
- All former grantees must have submitted final reports before the application deadline and have complied with the requirements of former grant cycles to be considered in this grant round.

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GRANT AMOUNTS & GRANT PERIOD

Citywide
● Applicants can request up to \$7,500. We expect most successful grants to be between \$1,000 to \$5,000. ● The grant period is up to one year from the date of grant approval. ● A total of \$115,000 is available to be distributed in 2026. ● Repeat applicants are limited to 3 grants over 5 years. We encourage you to use this experience as a steppingstone to be successful in other funding opportunities. ● New applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and receive 2 bonus points as first-time applicants during the initial review process.

SUMMARY OF GRANT PRIORITIES -

Citywide 2026
Share The Best of Trenton: Share the Best of Trenton Pride in Culture & Community Tell us about the good things happening (or about to happen) in your neighborhood or culture, and how you'll get the word out. Examples: making videos, inviting neighbors and visitors to events, creating restaurant guides or event calendars, or trying new ways to spread the word. <i>What we're looking for: A clear, specific plan to showcase something positive about Trenton, with a real audience in mind (residents, visitors, or both) and a concrete way of reaching them.</i> Cross-Sector Collaborations Show how different groups, cultures, or neighborhoods in Trenton can work together, and celebrate both what makes us different and what we share. Examples: joint events, partnerships across neighborhoods or cultures, or projects that turn "different" into "we're stronger together." <i>What we're looking for: Evidence of an actual partnership (not just an idea) between distinct groups, neighborhoods, or cultures, with a clear picture of how the collaboration benefits everyone involved.</i> Preparing for a Changing Environment Show how your community is getting ready for challenges or opportunities ahead by building strength and resilience <i>before</i> they're needed. Examples: plans for climate, economic, or population changes; projects that make your neighborhood more resilient or set it up to bounce back faster. <i>What we're looking for: A forward-looking project that names a specific future challenge or opportunity and shows practical steps being taken now to prepare for it.</i>

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HOW TO APPLY

The full application appears below. All applications must be submitted through the online form at <https://www.iamtrenton.org/grants/CitywideGrantProgram2026>. We will not accept emailed or mailed applications.

- We accept applications in Spanish and English. There is a translate function on the application so the questions come up in your language.
- We know it is easier for some people to speak than to write. Applicants can submit their Project Details as a short essay OR as a short video in English or Spanish. A simple video of you answering the questions is sufficient - we are not looking for fancy editing.

THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18th 2026, AT 11:59 PM

WE DO NOT FUND

- Projects or organizations that discriminate based on age, race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
 - Debt reduction or on-going operational support
 - Capital campaigns or fundraising events
 - Re-granting programs
 - Scholarships
 - Partisan political activities, lobbying, or efforts to influence an election
 - Religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytizing. Religious organizations can apply for non-denominational activities that are open to all and do not require participation in religious services.
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TIMELINE

1. **Pre-application workshops (**
 - First time applicants and those who have not been funded in past **must** attend a workshop – we are setting aside dates for targeted training of new applicants
 - Past grantees are required to attend also – we will have special sessions for past grantees that highlight major changes

Workshop Dates: Check dates and times & register at:
<https://www.iamtrenton.org/grants/CitywideGrantProgram2026>
2. **Application deadline – October 18th 2026, at 11:59 Eastern Time.** Please submit all materials through the online form at <https://www.iamtrenton.org/grants/CitywideGrantProgram2026>
3. **Notification of awards** - We will notify all grantees on whether their application was funded or not **by December 7th, 2026.**
4. **Check presentation / gathering:** We will give out checks to grantees at a gathering the week of **Dec 14th, 2026.** Details will be shared with grantees once finalized.
5. **Grant activities** must occur between **January 1st, 2027, and December 31st, 2027**

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HOW WE CHOOSE WHICH PROJECTS ARE FUNDED

Applications are reviewed by the Grants Committee which includes I Am Trenton board members, volunteer community members and others that believe and support Trenton's grass roots resilience. Reviewers score each application individually, then discuss all the applications in the pool. We prioritize funding projects at the amount requested, but we may approve a grant for a lower amount.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEES

If your project is funded, you should expect the following:

Grant Agreement and W9: Grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement with I Am Trenton Community Foundation. For applicants with a fiscal sponsor, the grant agreement will be between IAT and the fiscal sponsor. We also require a signed W-9 form with an EIN or SSN to issue each grant.

Please note that projects over \$2,000 may receive two installments of funding: one at the start of the project, and the second after a progress report submission no later than April 30th, 2026 (see below).

Reporting :

- We ask that grantees document their project activities through photos, short videos, etc.
 - We will call and email grantees to ask for an update on progress by **July 5, 2027**
 - A final written report will be due by **January 5th, 2028**. Report instructions will be provided to grantees directly.
 - We may ask grantees to prepare short presentations about their projects for a public event during the grant period. Details will be provided once they are finalized.
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HOW TO REACH US

Feel free to contact the Grants team at any time throughout the application process or as you carry out your grant activities. **For Spanish-language help, please email us and leave your name and phone number and we will call you back.**

- Email: grants@iamtrenton.org
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Applications will NOT be accepted by hard copy, mail, or email. The following are questions/examples provided for reference as you prepare your application.

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APPLICANT INFORMATION/ INFORMACIÓN DEL SOLICITANTE

Applicant name/ Nombre del beneficiario:

Please enter the **legal name** of the entity that would receive the grant funds if your project is selected for funding./ Por favor, introduzca el **nombre legal** de la entidad que recibiría los fondos de subvención si su proyecto es seleccionado para su financiamiento.

Applicant Information/ Información de contacto del solicitante

Please enter the email, phone, and mailing address of the applicant. / *Introduzca el nombre, el correo electrónico, el teléfono y la dirección postal de la persona de contacto.*

Applicant type/Tipo de solicitante: Which category best describes you?

Please pick the category that best describes your status as an applicant. Depending on the category you select, you will need to provide additional information and the listed documents.

- **An individual or unincorporated organization WITHOUT a fiscal sponsor Required information and documents:** *If you are awarded a grant, you will be required to fill out a W9 form providing the name and SSN of the individual receiving the funds.*
- **A registered business Required information and documents:** *(1) EIN of business, (2) Business registration certificate (3) Authorization/contact info**
- **A 501c3 nonprofit organization Required information and documents:** *(1) EIN of nonprofit, (2) IRS letter confirming 501c3 status (3) Authorization/contact info**
- **An individual or unincorporated organization WITH a fiscal sponsor Required information and documents:** *(1) EIN of fiscal sponsor, (2) IRS letter confirming fiscal sponsor's 501c3 status, (3) Authorization/Fiscal Sponsor letter & Contact info**

***Authorization/Fiscal Sponsor Info** - You will be asked to upload a signed letter from the Owner, Executive Director or Board Chair authorizing the submission of this grant proposal in the applicant's name and that the contact person listed is to be the main person with whom we will interact about this submission. The letter must reflect the specific name of the authorized project and the authorized contact person. Fiscal sponsors must include the name of the organization/person implementing the project

Grant History/ Historial de subvenciones

Have you ever received an I Am Trenton grant in any previous rounds? / ¿Has recibido alguna vez una subvención de I Am Trenton en rondas anteriores? Yes/No answer to identify new applicants

If yes, Please check any Citywide Grant Round where you had a grant in last 5 years

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title/Titula Del Proyecto: Give us a short memorable title

Project Summary/Resumen del Proyecto: Please describe your project in one sentence. If your project is funded, we will use the title and short description in press materials and on our website.

What amount are you requesting/Cantidad? (check guideline for grant program): _____

Project Category/Categoria del Proyecto: Please pick the category that **best** describes your project and is part of the grant program you selected at the beginning of the application.

Citywide grants:

- _____ Share the Best of Trenton Pride in Culture & Community
- _____ Cross Sector Collaboration
- _____ Preparing for a Changing Environment

Project Location/Ubicacion: For Citywide grants, give us a primary address/site/park/building where the project will occur

PROJECT NARRATIVE/ DETALLES DEL PROYECTO

Please provide short, clear answers to the following questions in **either** a written document (maximum 2 pages) or a short video (maximum 3 minutes). **Please UPLOAD the document/video below.**

1. **Who are you? / ¿Quien es usted?** - Tell us about yourself, your organization/group, and any key partners. What do you currently do, and what past experience or success has informed your project?
2. **What will you be doing? / ¿Que estara haciendo?** - Please describe your project. How did you come up with the project? Describe project activities, timeframe, and details. Please be clear if any of your activities will take place outside of Trenton. How will residents be engaged in the project?
3. **What will you achieve? ¿Qué lograrás?**
Please explain how your project will make Trenton even better. What is the specific impact or improvement for Trenton? How many Trenton residents will your project impact? Make sure your answer here matches the project categories chosen above.
4. **Why do you need support from I Am Trenton? / ¿Par que necesita neustra ayuda?**
Please describe why a grant from I Am Trenton will make a real difference for you. For example, if there are challenges you have faced in getting funding to support this specific work, or if there is a unique opportunity you are trying to take advantage of, please discuss that here.

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BUDGET/ EL PRESUPUESTO

Please upload a budget that lists **the specific expenses** your project will have. An example budget for a hypothetical community information campaign is shown below. We need to know what you will spend the I AM TRENTON grant funds on. We do not need your entire agency/organization budget, just the project you are proposing here. Please note that budget submissions are often problematic, causing lost points. Be sure to tell us what you are using our funds for and a realistic total budget for the project with other funders, as needed.

SAMPLE BUDGET TEMPLATE – REQUIRED FIELDS*

Expenses*	Amount*	Source of funds*	Status of funds* (Confirmed, Requested, etc.)
Artist fees - poster and pamphlet designs (\$100 x 4)	\$400	IAT	Requested
Printing - posters	\$200	IAT	Requested
Printing - pamphlets	\$200	Partner Name	In-kind; confirmed
Stipends - community members to host Facebook Live sessions	\$500	IAT	Requested
Translation - Spanish	\$250	IAT	Requested
Poster / pamphlet distribution	\$300	Volunteers	In-kind; confirmed
Total project cost*	\$1,850		
Total requested from I Am Trenton*	\$1,350		

PHOTOS / FOTOS

Please upload up to three photos that can help us understand who you are and what you propose to do. This can be examples of a past project you did, and/or images that show an issue you're aiming to fix. If your grant is approved, we may use these photos in press materials and on our website so please make sure you own the image. **Please DO NOT use logos or event flyers.**