



# Midwest Energy Community Fund Impact Grant Program Information and Guidelines (Revised July 2019)

The Midwest Energy Community Fund Impact Grant Program is funded and governed by Midwest Energy and supports activities or investments in Midwest Energy's retail electric and natural gas communities or activities beneficial to retail customers immediately outside\* the service area. The Impact Grant Program consists of five \$5,000 grants, with one to be awarded annually in each existing Community Fund area. These five grants will be awarded to communities or organizations working on projects larger than the typical Community Fund applicant. A requirement is that the applicant must match the award with funds from the community (invested in a pass-through fund with a local community foundation) or documented pledged funds.

*\* For example, a school or hospital, not in Midwest Energy's service area, may have a significant number of Midwest Energy customers benefiting from its service.*

## Guidelines

- The project must enhance the community as a whole with long-lived improvements
- Potential projects must be submitted by an organization or committee established for the purpose (i.e., not by an individual)
- The application must demonstrate community support

## Examples

- Community or economic studies
- Creation of a community endowed fund for charitable purposes through a local or area community foundation
- Strategic planning for community or economic development activities
- Regional planning efforts between communities where collaboration, working partnerships or consolidation are the goals
- Creation of bike and walk trails, healthy community activities, youth/senior programs or facilities, beautification projects or similar community projects

The local match for Impact Grants must be on a 1 to 1 basis (\$5,000 must be raised or pledged to receive a \$5,000 grant). Applications to create an endowed fund for a community must have a 2 to 1 match or (\$10,000 raised or pledged to receive a \$5,000 grant).

The regular Community Fund application can be used for the basic information, but additional information should be supplied describing the project, community support and the matching funds (please e-mail this information to [jwright@mwenergy.com](mailto:jwright@mwenergy.com)). The review of these applications will be completed by a sub-committee of members of the five current Community Fund committees with at least two members of Midwest management. The funds will be taken from the total dollars available for the Midwest Community Fund; the remaining dollars in the Midwest Community fund will be spread to the five areas prorated on meter count as we do every year. **The Impact Grant is only available during the October committee review. If you are not awarded an Impact Grant, your application will be considered for a standard Community Fund Grant with a maximum award of \$1000.**