



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Mini-Grant Guidelines

PURPOSE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. The [MLK Day of Service](#) is a part of the [AmeriCorps](#) national call to service initiative. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

These mini grants offer eligible entities grant funding to effectively recruit and engage volunteers in meaningful service activities OR to deliver a service-learning activity that relates to Dr. King. A service-learning activity is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities. Preference will be given to applicants that engage one other community partner in the planning, collaboration, or execution of the event. Service activities should engage a minimum of 10 volunteers and paid staff may not count as volunteers.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Entities that are eligible to apply are public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, school districts, institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties), labor organizations, partnerships and consortia, and Native American tribes. *All projects must take place in the state of Kansas.*

All entities must have an Employer Identification Number (EIN), Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number AND must have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to applying. *Organizations that apply using the EIN and UEI of a fiscal sponsor are required to submit a Letter of Support written on the fiscal sponsor's letterhead.*

GRANT PROJECT PERIOD

Projects under this proposal should occur from **January 1-31, 2027**. Mini-grant award recipients will be notified on or around **October 22, 2026**.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Kansas Volunteer Commission will make available up to \$30,000 in grants and expects to award up to **\$5,000** per eligible entity. Applicants will be reimbursed 100% (not to exceed the approved amount) of their costs by **March 15, 2027**. This is a cost-reimbursement grant funding opportunity



that will be paid upon submission of the project report and documentation of expenditures. Only those expenses incurred after the grant starts will be eligible for reimbursement.

There is a dollar-for-dollar cost match requirement. This means if an applicant requests \$4,500 for this grant, they must include a \$4,500 match. See [Mini-Grant FAQ](#) for more information.

- Grantees will be required to include documentation for match expenses in final reports.
- Matching funds may be a combination of cash or in-kind match and must be non-federal funds. *The value of volunteer hours is not considered an acceptable source of match.*

Recipients will be selected based on the quality of application, the need and impact of the proposed activities, and the organization's demonstrated readiness to implement the proposed project. Should there be competition for funds, priority will be given to organizations serving underrepresented and vulnerable populations as well as those serving in rural areas.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

Mini-grant recipients will be required to:

- Engage at least **10** volunteers in community service or service-learning projects within the grant period. Track and report impact of service project including
 - Number of volunteers
 - Number of volunteer hours
- Include the Kansas Volunteer Commission logo on all program materials and publicity.
- Submit a final report by **February 10, 2027**. *A form will be provided.*

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

- Funds may not be used for staffing, equipment, gift cards, subawards, or indirect costs.
- Match funds must be incurred during the project period
- Grant funds are intended to supplement, not supplant.
 - Supplement means to add to; to enhance; to expand; to increase; to extend; to create something new. Supplant means to take the place of; to replace by something else.
- Grant funds under this program are federal funds from AmeriCorps, [OMB CIRCULAR A-133](#), therefore the Commission will not fund projects that engage in:
 - Political activity and advocacy.
 - Religious activity.
 - Benefiting for-profit entities.
 - Voter registration.
 - Abortion services.
- Grants under this program are subject to applicable Cost Principles under the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Circulars](#) A-21 (2 CFR part 220), A-87 (CFR part 225), or A-122 (2 CFR part 230), and the Uniform 6 Administrative Requirements for grants under A-102 (45 CFR part 2541) or A-110 (45 CFR 2543 or 2 CFR part 21).



APPLICATION TIMELINE

Grant guidelines released by or around	September 3, 2026
Application due by	October 6, 2026
Award announcement by or around	October 22, 2026
Grant award period start date	January 1, 2027
Grant award period end date	January 31, 2027
Final report due	February 10, 2027
Reimbursement date	March 15, 2027

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- The grant application can be found at [MLK Day of Service Mini Grant](#).
- All *new* applicants must submit a signed W-9 form to volunteer@ksde.gov.
- All applicants will receive confirmation of receipt of their application within two business days. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt, please email tierney.kirtdoll@ksde.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For technical assistance and/or questions about this grant opportunity, please contact Tierney Kirtdoll at tierney.kirtdoll@ksde.gov or (785) 368-6211.

RESOURCES

- [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Project Ideas | youtube.com](#)
- [Points of Light Resources](#)
- [19 Resources and Ideas to Celebrate the MLK Day of Service | Teach For America](#)

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency:

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