REVISED November 2026

Nasdaq Philanthropic Foundation, Inc.
Economic Opportunity Grant Program

MISSION

Established in 1994, the Nasdaq Philanthropic Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") works to connect business, capital and innovative ideas to advance global economies and local communities to champion greater access in investor engagement.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Driven by Nasdaq's Purpose to empower economic opportunity, the Foundation strives to empower communities by transforming investor engagement and fostering opportunities that broaden access to resources and enable communities to share in the wealth that markets create.

NASDAQ FOUNDATION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Economic Opportunity Grant Program allows us to fund and help scale programs that align with the Foundation's mission while adapting to market conditions and community needs.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The Economic Opportunity Grant Program drives impact through five key areas:

1. **Regional Revitalization and Rural Wealth Building**

Strengthening rural economies and increasing market opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Grants will be given to programs which deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:

- Supporting rural entrepreneurs and small businesses in launching, sustaining, and scaling their ventures
- Improving infrastructure that directly enables rural business growth and market

access
- Creating pathways for wealth building and economic resilience through business ownership and market participation
- Strengthening regional ecosystems that connect rural entrepreneurs and small businesses with the resources needed to launch, sustain, and grow

2. Investor Identity

Cultivating a new generation of investors equipped to shape the future of financial markets.

Grants will be given to programs which deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:
- Building confidence and identity among emerging investors
- Expanding access to knowledge and tools for investing and wealth creation
- Enhancing financial literacy, with an element of teaching participants how to invest in capital markets
- Fostering investor mindset and long-term wealth-building strategies

3. Financial Literacy and Resilience

Empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed financial decisions, thus cultivating financially resilient communities.

Grants will be given to programs which deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:
- Delivering comprehensive financial education programs
- Building financial capability and confidence through practical, actionable training
- Strengthening household and community financial resilience
- Integrating financial literacy with pathways to investment and wealth creation

The Foundation generally does not fund financial literacy projects which focus exclusively on K-12 education.

4. Access to Capital

Expanding pathways to capital and financial opportunities that catalyze the growth of businesses, supporting both new and established ventures.

Grants will be given to programs which deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:

- Connecting founders and entrepreneurs with investors, funders, and other capital providers to support the launch and growth of their businesses
- Supporting programs that prepare businesses for investment readiness
- Facilitating access to alternative financing models and capital sources for under-resourced communities

5. Employee and Community Ownership

Helping individuals have a stake in the businesses and assets they help build — expanding access to ownership, building long-term wealth, and strengthening local communities to create broader, shared economic opportunity.

Grants will be given to programs which deliver impact in one or more of the following ways:

- Supporting employee ownership models and transitions
- Promoting community ownership structures and cooperative enterprises
- Advancing equitable wealth distribution through shared ownership models
- Building capacity for under-resourced communities to own and control local assets and enterprises

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Grant proposals could be evaluated based on some of the following criteria and considerations:

- Does the organization have the capacity and expertise to successfully leverage Foundation funding?
- Does the project complement, rather than duplicate, the efforts of the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center or address an audience that the Entrepreneurial Center is currently not addressing?
- What is the organization's governance and financial model, track record in the community, and leadership team expertise?
- What is your intended impact with the Foundation funds? Are the short-term objectives for success identified, measurable, and aligned with Nasdaq Foundation priorities?
- Will the project have influence or repercussions elsewhere in the community? If it is successful, could it be duplicated elsewhere, or scaled to serve more people?

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ELIGIBILITY

The Nasdaq Foundation will accept grant requests from:

- Organizations designated as tax-exempt according to §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.
- A for-profit business or consultant acting on behalf of a qualified tax-exempt entity or through a fiscal sponsor that is tax-exempt. Please note that if the grant is awarded, a representative of the tax-exempt entity must sign the grant agreement, and the grant will be paid to the tax-exempt entity.

Entities specifically ineligible for Foundation support include:

- For-profit businesses - generally, entities not designated as tax-exempt according to §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.
- Entities and individuals designated as "disqualified persons" as defined in §4946 of the Internal Revenue Service code.
- Former grant recipients who did not fulfill the terms of a previous grant from the Foundation or another tax-exempt entity.
- Organizations that present a potential or actual conflict of interest with Nasdaq, Inc., the Foundation or any of their officers or directors.

AMOUNTS AND TERMS

- There is no set minimum or maximum grant amount. The Foundation's Leadership Team will consider whether the amount requested is commensurate with the project proposed and appropriate for the Foundation's annual grantmaking target and charitable purposes.
- Reasonable overhead costs may be included in the grant request but must be specified.
- Generally, grants have one-year terms. The Foundation will consider a multiple-year commitment if the grant seeker can demonstrate the necessity or benefit of multiple-year funding in the grant proposal.
- Organizations may only submit one proposal per cycle.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Expressions of Interests should be submitted through the GrantsConnect online application portal prior to the bi-annual deadline. Submissions received after the posted deadline will not be considered for that cycle.

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KEY DATES

The key dates for 2027 are as follows:

January Cycle

- Expression of Interest Submission Deadline: January 29
- Invitation to Submit Full Proposal for Select Applicants: March 5
- Full Proposal Submission Deadline: April 23
- Applicants Notified of Outcomes: May 28

July Cycle

- Expression of Interest Submission Deadline: July 30
- Invitation to Submit Full Proposal for Select Applicants: September 3
- Full Proposal Submission Deadline: October 15
- Applicants Notified of Outcomes: November 19