



## THE LINK THAT LEADS TO FUNDING



### Message from the Community Grant Finder

Whether you are just beginning to explore grants or have been doing this work for years, I am excited to work with you as part of Butler County's nonprofit community. Grant Link exists to support you not just in identifying funding opportunities, but in navigating a grant environment that continues to change and grow more complex.

One thing I encourage every organization to do is use your grant calendar thoughtfully. The reality is that the grant climate looks different than it did even a few years ago. Many longtime, familiar funders are narrowing their geographic focus or tightening their funding priorities. That can feel discouraging, especially for organizations that have relied on those relationships in the past. But it is also a signal to pause, reassess, and be intentional about where you invest your time and energy.

That shift is also why diversifying funding sources matters more than ever. Depending too heavily on a small number of "go-to" funders puts organizations at risk. Exploring new opportunities, building relationships with a broader mix of funders, and staying open to different types of grants can create more stability over time. Grant Link is here to help you think through that strategy, so your funding plan supports both your mission and your long-term sustainability.

As you pursue new opportunities, Letters of Intent, or LOIs, become especially important. An LOI is often your first and only chance to make an impression. A strong LOI clearly explains who you are, what you are requesting, who you serve, and why your work aligns with the funder's priorities. It should be focused, customized, and written with care. When done well, an LOI opens the door to deeper conversations and full proposals.

Grant Link is here to walk alongside you in this work, from planning your grant calendar to strengthening LOIs and expanding your funding mix. Our goal is to help Butler County nonprofits stay ready, competitive, and confident as you pursue resources that support the people and communities you serve.

I am glad you are here, and I look forward to working with you.

— Trisha Porter, Community Grant Finder

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*The Community Grant Finder position is funded through a collaborative formed by Butler County United Way, City of Hamilton, Hamilton Community Foundation, and Middletown Community Foundation. The mission of the Grant Link initiative is to strengthen the local nonprofit community by expanding access to external funding through shared expertise, grant support, and cross-sector partnerships.*

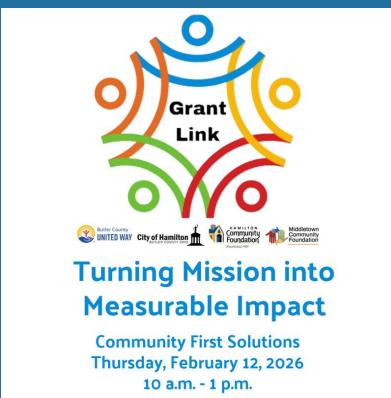
## National Outlook

Nationally, the grant and philanthropy landscape continues to evolve in 2026. According to **Foundation Source's 2026 Giving Outlook**, shifts in tax policy, technology, and donor priorities are influencing how private foundations and donor-advised funds distribute grants, underscoring the need for nonprofit leaders to stay adaptable and strategically aligned with funder expectations. While overall charitable giving remains strong, growth has been uneven, with much of the increase concentrated among larger donors and donor-advised funds. As a result, many foundations are choosing to make fewer awards while narrowing their focus on specific outcomes, populations, or geographic impact.

These national trends are showing up locally in very real ways for Butler County nonprofits. Organizations are seeing more funders refine their service-area expectations, asking earlier questions about data and financial health, and looking closely at whether programs are scalable or collaborative. Longtime funding partners remain important, but even familiar funders are adjusting priorities year to year, making renewals less predictable. At the same time, nonprofits serving multiple counties or operating with lean staff are being asked to clearly explain capacity, partnerships, and sustainability earlier in the process.

In this environment, preparation matters. Nonprofits that plan their grant calendars carefully, diversify funding sources, and invest time in strong Letters of Intent and relationship building are better positioned to compete. For Butler County organizations, clarity around impact, readiness, and community connection has become just as essential as passion for the mission itself.

## Education Series



### Turning Mission into Measurable Impact

**Date: February 12, 2026**

**Time: 10:00-1:00 PM**

**Location: Community First Solutions  
230 Ludlow Street, Hamilton, OH 45013**

**Details:** Grant Link will kick off 2026 with an in-person working lunch on February 12 focused on turning mission into measurable impact. Led by Angi Lee of the State of Ohio, this session will offer practical insight into how funders evaluate outcomes and what nonprofits can do now to be better positioned for funding. Space is limited.

[Sign Up](#)



## AI and Grant Writing

Date: April 1, 2026

Location: Midpointe Library Liberty

Details: More information coming soon

## Regional Grants of Interest

[The Louise Taft Semple Foundation Grant](#)

[Due 2/15/2026](#)

[Brabson Family Foundation Grant](#)

[Due 3/01/2026](#)

[Truist Foundation Grant](#)

[Due 3/31/2026](#)

## Looking Ahead

Grant Link is focused on helping Butler County nonprofits stay ready, competitive, and connected. As funders continue to prioritize clear impact and strong partnerships, we are committed to building local capacity so more resources flow into our community and stay here. Since mid-October, Grant Link has supported more than \$3.5 million in grant requests, helping local organizations pursue funding with confidence and clarity.

To make the most of today's competitive funding landscape, we encourage nonprofits to take advantage of Grant Link's ongoing educational series. These sessions feature outside experts who share practical knowledge and experience with Butler County nonprofits at no cost, making high-quality training accessible to organizations of all sizes. Additional details and registration information will be shared soon.

A special thank you to the ROTA Foundation for awarding new funding to seven local nonprofits in January. This support strengthens vital work happening across Butler County.



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