



John M. Scott Trust Fiscal Year 2026 (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026) Category III-Emergent Need Grant Program Request for Proposal (RFP)

On behalf of the Trustee, the John M. Scott Health Care Commission (“Commission”) is pleased to invite organizations that provide services to promote health and well-being among McLean County residents to submit a grant proposal for funding from the John M. Scott Health Care Trust (“Trust”). This RFP will cover important information about the Category III-Emergent Needs grant program, this funding opportunity, and the requirements of the Trust.

Summary of the Category III-Emergent Needs Grant Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2026

Minimum Request	Maximum Request	Term	Eligible Applicants
\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	1 Year Commitment (May 1, 2025-April 30, 2026)	Local Unit of Government or 501c3 Organization

John M. Scott Health Care Trust Information

The City of Bloomington serves as the Trustee for the John M. Scott Health Care Trust. This Trust was established based on funds left from the estate of Judge John M. Scott. Judge Scott (1824-1898) was a noted community member from the Bloomington-Normal area that championed equality and care for marginalized people. After his passing, a portion of his estate was directed to building a hospital in the community. The last surviving annuitant of the estate passed away in 1976. Courts intervened because the original intent to construct a hospital was irrelevant by that time as the community had several hospitals. The Court made the City the Trustee, and the John M. Scott Health Resources Center was created. After the adoption and implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, service demand declined at the center due to the expansion of Medicaid. In 2018, the Trustee approved a transition to a grant-only model of service delivery so local organizations could meet gaps in health care needs for under resourced community members.

The Trust provides grant funding to organizations providing health care related services to McLean County residents at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Line. An eleven (11) member Commission serves as the advisory body to the Trustee. The Commission is supported by a City of Bloomington staff member within the Community Impact and Enhancement Department.

Three categories of funding are available through the Trust. This RFP is for **Category III-Emergent Need grants only**.

- Category I: General Operating Grants (Available every three years.)
- Category II: Community Health Needs Priority Grants (Program grants available annually.)
 - Capital Grants
 - Program Grants
- Category III: Emergent and Emergency Grants

Purpose of the Category III-Emergent Need Funding

This program is to provide a funding opportunity to organizations with innovative and/or targeted programs that align with the overall goals of the John M. Scott Health Care Trust. This program could be used for smaller programs or projects that typically would not qualify for the John M. Scott Trust's Category I or II grant programs. Organizations could also use this funding to build capacity so smaller programs or projects can eventually qualify for the Category I or II grant programs. This RFP is off cycle from the normal Category II grant cycle typically open from September to October.

Who Can Apply

To be eligible, grant applicants must be one of the following organizations. Additional restrictions may be placed on funding opportunities at the Commission's discretion.

1. Tax-exempt organization per Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or
2. A unit of local government, which the Commission defines as school district, municipality, township, or county.

In both cases, grantees must attest that they comply with the John M Scott Health Commission's non-discrimination policy that includes age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, citizenship, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental disability, veteran or military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, criminal record, or any other basis prohibited by federal state or local law, and have a procedure for handling complaints.

Organizations headquartered outside of McLean County may apply, but services and projects funded by the Trust must serve McLean County residents at or below 185% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#). This is a firm legal requirement of the Trust and is not subject to the Commission's discretion. Grantees do not need to exclusively serve community members at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Line to receive Trust funds. However, any program or project must determine the annual income of their clients if the organization does not exclusively work with people at or below the income limit. Many grantees serve a wide range of community members and only use John M. Scott Health Care Trust funds to deliver the portion of their project or program that meets the income and residency requirements. Applications will need to outline how their program or project will properly meet these Trust requirements. The Commission welcomes a variety of methods to ensure these requirements are met, but unclear methods listed in the application will likely result in a decision not to fund. Please see the table below for the current Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size. Organizations can demonstrate that a client meets the annual household income limit in the following methods. Common methods to determine income that are acceptable are listed below.

- Income determination by source documentation.
 - Organizations request income information for the household to determine if the annual income is below the 185% FPL limit. Documentation can be the client’s Federal 1040 Income Tax Return or specific income documentation such as paystubs.
- Self-certification on intake forms.
 - The client states their income on a self-certification form or on intake documentation that the client completes for a program or the organization.
- Percent of Service
 - If a program (or organization) serves clients that do meet Trust requirements and clients that do not, the program (or organization) can determine the percentage of clients served that do and do not meet Trust requirements. The program (or organization) can request Trust funds that are less than or equal to the percentage of clients served that meet Trust income requirements. For example, if forty percent of the program participants meet Trust requirements, the applicant can request up to forty percent of the program costs in a Trust application.

Please see the table below for the current Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size. City of Bloomington staff can provide technical assistance during the application window.

2024 Federal Poverty Line (FPL) Limits (As of 07/31/2024)	
Household Size	FPL 185% Annual Income Limits
1	\$27,861.00
2	\$37,814.00
3	\$47,767.00
4	\$57,720.00
5	\$67,673.00
6	\$77,626.00
7	\$87,579.00
8	\$97,532.00
9	\$107,485.00
10	\$117,391.00
11	\$127,391.00
12	\$137,344.00
13	\$147,297.00
14	\$157,250.00

Organizations that currently receive Category I and II John M. Scott Health Care Trust funding may apply for funding within this category as well. However, Category III funding cannot be used to increase funding to a program/project that is currently funded. Organizations may also submit more than one application for this RFP.

Additional Grant Information

Category III-Emergent Needs proposals may include program overhead, operating, administrative, program supplies or services, and/or personnel expenses. The Commission understands this funding is often the most difficult to secure and intends to help meet this need when possible. However, the Commission has a strong preference that costs be for the program or project funded instead of general organizational administrative, overhead, or operating costs. Applications should also clearly describe how the program or project has direct health care services or addresses [Social Determinants of Health](#) that directly impact health outcomes.

All applicants must demonstrate that their work aligns with the funding goals of the John M Scott Health Commission based on legal requirements, have sound financial management policies in place, and demonstrate strong financial stewardship with grant funds.

FY2026 Category III-Emergent Need Funding Priorities

For this funding opportunity, the Commission has identified the following issues as a priority. The order of the list does not indicate priority ranking.

- Heart Disease
- Oral Health
- Mental Health
- Pandemic Response, Recovery, and Preparation
- Health Disparities within Communities of Color
- Social Determinants of Health

The Commission has identified BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) led organizations that primarily serve communities of color as a priority in this funding opportunity.

How to Apply

Proposals for the FY2026 Category III-Emergent Needs funding will be available online starting on 01/27/2025. The application will close on 02/28/2025 at 11:59PM. If this application period changes due to unforeseen circumstances, the RFP information and outreach materials will be modified to reflect any changes. Late applications will not be considered. The Commission may request additional information in addition to the application and supporting documentation provided from any applicant during the funding deliberation process. Paper applications will not be considered.

To access the online application please visit:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pAb_IxG8XmqCmA7pf7Kduqji1eg7rKqmefEDDdZoqyg/edit

Documentation Required with Submission

In addition to the application, applicants are required to submit their current Board of Directors (or equivalent body) roster, non-discrimination policy (employees and clients), and a project/program budget. The project/program budget must indicate what costs specifically would be covered by Trust funds.

Application Evaluation

All applications will be scored using a standardized scoring tool by John M. Scott Health Care Commissioners and community members with experience and knowledge relevant to the

applications. The scoring criteria serves as a guideline for the Commission, but the Commission reserves the right to consider other factors outside of scoring while making funding decisions.

Estimated Funding Timeline

- RFP Launched: 01/27/2025
- Online Application Window Open: 01/27/2025-02/28/2025
- Workshop: 02/12/2025
- Application Scoring and Evaluation: February-March 2025
- Commission Approval of Selected Applicants: April-May 2025
- Trustee Approval of Applicants and Grant Recipients Notified: April-May 2025
- Grant Agreements Executed: May 2025
- Funding Released: May 2025
- Mid-Term Report Date: November 28, 2025
- Final Report Due: May 30, 2026

**Please note this timeline is an estimate and certain events/activities may be changed at the discretion of the Commission or Trustee.*

Grant Workshop

A workshop with information and training on how to apply for grants from the John M. Scott Health Care Trust will be held on 02/12/2025 at 10AM via Zoom. This workshop will cover the basics of the Trust, ideas on how to meet the legal requirements, and other information to strengthen your application. Applicants will also have the opportunity to ask questions. This workshop is not mandatory, but it is strongly recommended. The Zoom information for this workshop is listed below.

JMS FY26 Category III Workshop

Time: Feb 12, 2025, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84306458140?pwd=bapq38FPO28HS7WrLYtTmrM0oprCaZ.1>

Meeting ID: 843 0645 8140

Passcode: 650197

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,84306458140#,,,,*650197# US

+13126266799,,84306458140#,,,,*650197# US (Chicago)

Additional Resources

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review excerpts from the Judge John M. Scott Will and amended declaration of the Trust that moved to a grant driven model of service before applying.

That information can be found here:

[John M. Scott | City of Bloomington, Illinois](#)

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