

The Grant Guide

Fall Update

Eighteen live deadlines between August 31 and December 9. The rolling programs that stay open year round. Sixteen opportunities that were not in the June guide. Money for the town, for our churches, for the culture keepers, and for the small business owners building something here.

Every status was checked at the funder's own source on August 15, 2026. Nothing secondhand. Nothing held back. This information is free.

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FROM THE PREPARER

Every three months, I go find the money.

Four times a year I sit down and run a full sweep for grant money. For the town. For our churches. For the nonprofits and the culture keepers. For the small business owners trying to grow something here in St. Landry Parish and across Acadiana.

I check every program at the funder's own page. Not a blog. Not a list somebody copied from another list two years ago. The source. Programs die quietly in this economy, and deadlines move without warning. Since the June guide, four federal preservation windows posted and closed inside a month, and two more programs moved six weeks early. A guide that is not re-verified is a guide that wastes your time.

So this edition is the fresh look. Eighteen live deadlines between now and December 9. The rolling programs that stay open all year, including the ones that quietly fund most small-town projects in Louisiana. And sixteen opportunities the June guide did not have, found by digging where the lists do not go.

Everything in here is free to use. Share it with your pastor, your board president, your neighbor with the good idea. Call the numbers. File the applications. If one roof gets fixed or one program gets funded because somebody saw it here first, this guide did its job.

Milton Arceneaux

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Start with the Deadline Dashboard on the next page and calendar what fits you. Then go to your section: the town, churches, culture, or business. Every entry names the amount, who can apply, the deadline, and the funder's own site. When a listing says rolling, that means apply any time, and early beats late.

START HERE

The Deadline Dashboard

Every live hard deadline, in order. Miss one? The 12-Month Money Calendar at the back tells you when it comes around again.

AUG 31	Amber Grant for Women Women-owned small businesses; monthly award, \$50K annual finale ambergrantsforwomen.com	\$10K monthly
SEPT 1	Louisiana Blue Foundation (letter of intent) Louisiana nonprofits with a measurable health program labluefoundation.org	\$25K to \$1M
SEPT 4	FFL Day of Racial Healing 2027 grants Louisiana nonprofits or fiscally sponsored groups; event held Jan 15 to 24 foundationforlouisiana.org	up to \$5,000
SEPT 4	Foundation for Rural Service Towns, schools, nonprofits; needs your local telecom co-op as sponsor frs.org	\$250 to \$5,000
SEPT 11	Preserving Black Churches Historically Black churches; a 501(c)(3) is NOT required. Full page inside. savingplaces.org	\$50K to \$500K
SEPT 28	Terra Foundation convening grants Organizations convening on American art and underrepresented traditions terraamericanart.org	\$10K to \$25K
OCT 1	National Trust Preservation Funds Public agencies and nonprofits; Louisiana is on this round's eligible list savingplaces.org	\$2,500 to \$5,000
OCT 2	Jacques Pepin Foundation Nonprofits with a free culinary job-training component; unrestricted jp.foundation	up to \$10K
OCT 15	JD Finish Line Foundation, Cycle 3 Youth and safe-community programming; window opens Sept 1 finishline.com	up to \$10K

OCT 20	CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections Digitizing photo, film, and oral-history collections of overlooked communities	\$50K to \$300K clir.org
OCT 31	LEH Parish America 250 mini grants Louisiana nonprofits and governments; 1:1 match; project done by Dec 31	up to \$1,500 leh.org
OCT-DEC	Dupuy Grant, now via Nous Foundation French and Kouri-Vini language projects; fall submission window	\$1K to \$5K nous-foundation.org
NOV 1	Louisiana State Capital Outlay FY27-28 Towns and nonprofits; capital projects, 25% match, needs your legislator's letter	\$50K and up doa.la.gov
NOV 1	Catholic Extension Society Church parishes; routes through the Diocese of Lafayette with the bishop's letter	up to ~\$100K catholicextension.org
NOV 13	IMLS African American History & Culture Museums and heritage organizations; tentative date, watch for the fall notice	\$5K to \$500K imls.gov
NOV 30	Walmart Spark Good local grants, Cycle 3 Nonprofits, schools, governments, and faith organizations; opened Aug 1	\$250 to \$5,000 walmart.org
NOV 30	Truist Foundation Workforce and small-business focused nonprofits; open portal, no invitation needed	\$15K minimum truistfoundation.org
DEC 9	NEH Public Humanities Projects Nonprofits and local governments; application opens Oct 15	\$75K to \$750K neh.gov

THE FREE MASTER KEY

National Register listing costs nothing and unlocks nearly every major preservation grant in this guide. First drafts for the December 3 state review: August 21 standard track, September 18 through a Certified Local Government. Louisiana SHPO, crt.state.la.us.

For the Town

Programs a small municipality or parish can apply to directly. Several route through the Acadiana Planning Commission, (337) 806-9368.

ROLLING	USDA Community Facilities	grant + loan
The bricks-and-mortar workhorse: town halls, fire stations, community centers, equipment. Towns under 5,000 with qualifying income sit in the top tier, a 75 percent grant share. Pre-application call: Lafayette Area Office, (337) 262-6601.		
		rd.usda.gov
AUG 24	DRA Community Infrastructure Fund	\$250K to \$1M
Delta Regional Authority infrastructure money for distressed parishes, and St. Landry qualifies. This year's deadline is August 24, tight but annual. Call the Acadiana Planning Commission and get in the 2027 pipeline now.		
		dra.gov
ROLLING	EDA Public Works & Economic Adjustment	varies
Federal economic-development construction money. The current notice has no deadline, applications accepted on a rolling basis. Route through the Acadiana Planning Commission.		
		eda.gov
APR 1	Louisiana LWCF Outdoor Recreation	50% match
The canonical small-town park grant, run by the Office of State Parks. Playgrounds, walking trails, pavilions, sports facilities. Annual deadline April 1.		
		lastateparks.com
FALL 2026	EPA Brownfields Assessment	up to \$500K
No-match money to assess and plan reuse of vacant or blighted properties. The FY27 solicitation is expected this fall with a short window; a coalition application through APC is the route.		
		epa.gov
WATCH	FEMA BRIC (restarted)	varies
Hazard-mitigation infrastructure; the next round is expected. Get your town's projects listed in the parish hazard mitigation plan now. First-time applicants earn bonus points.		
		fema.gov
ROLLING	Community Heart & Soul	\$10K
Seed money for resident-driven town visioning, with a \$10K local match. Built exactly for towns of a few thousand people.		
		communityheartandsoul.org
ROLLING	KABOOM! Community-Built Playspaces	full build
Playground build partnerships with municipalities; prioritizes underserved communities. They bring the build, the town brings the site and the people.		
		kaboom.org
JAN 2027	AARP Community Challenge	varies
Quick-turn placemaking money. Ten Louisiana communities won in 2026, including Abbeville, Bunkie, Sibley, and Welsh, towns our size. Opens late January.		
		aarp.org/livable
MAR 2027	Keep Louisiana Beautiful	\$1K to \$10K
Gateway, beautification, and litter projects with a 15 percent match. Reopens March 2027.		
		keeplouisianabeautiful.org

For Churches & Faith Organizations

THE BIGGEST LIVE CHECK ON THIS BOARD

Preserving Black Churches

\$50K to \$500K

DUE SEPT 11, 5PM ET

National Trust for the Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, backed by Lilly Endowment. Funds restoration, capacity, endowment, planning, and programming for historically Black houses of worship, active or not.

Who can apply: the church itself, a 501(c)(3) steward, or a public agency. A 501(c)(3) is NOT required. Building must be 50 or more years old. No letter of intent this cycle, full application only, so start now. Awards run \$50,000 minimum.

savingplaces.org/black-churches · actionfundgrants@savingplaces.org · (202) 588-6000

NOV 1

Catholic Extension Society

up to ~\$100K

Building and ministry support for Catholic parishes. Applications route through the Diocese of Lafayette and carry the bishop's letter. Due November 1.

catholicextension.org

JAN 2027

National Fund for Sacred Places

varies

Capital grants plus training for historic houses of worship of any denomination. The 2027 round opens around January; dates not yet posted.

fundforsacredplaces.org

NOV 30

Walmart Spark Good Local Grants

\$250 to \$5,000

Faith organizations are eligible alongside nonprofits and schools. Cycle 3 closes November 30; apply through the Opelousas Supercenter's giving portal.

walmart.org

MID-2027

Black & Indian Mission Office

varies

Grants for ministry in Black and Native communities. The 2027 cycle posted and closed earlier than expected this year; watch for the next window in mid-2027 and file early.

blackandindianmission.org

For Culture Keepers, Historians & Filmmakers

BEST NEW FIND OF THIS SWEEP

CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections

\$50K to \$300K

DUE OCT 20

National program that pays to digitize photo, film, audio, and oral-history collections documenting marginalized communities, and Creole archives are exactly the target. A sister program, Recordings at Risk, funds \$10K to \$60K for deteriorating tape and film and opens around November.
clir.org/hiddencollections

NOV 13

IMLS African American History & Culture

\$5K to \$500K

Federal museum-services money for Black history and culture organizations; no match required under \$100K. FY27 deadline tentatively November 13; the notice should post in September.

imls.gov

ROLLING

W.K. Kellogg Foundation, open-door LOI

varies

Rolling letters of inquiry with a 30-business-day response. Racial equity, food, and community; Louisiana is a priority geography. A real path for Black-led cultural organizations.

wkcf.org

ROLLING

Mellon Foundation, Humanities in Place

varies

Rolling inquiry portal, confirmed accepting. Major funder of place-based cultural and heritage work.

mellon.org

ROLLING

South Arts, Arts in Rural Places

up to \$3K

Artist fees for rural communities, 1:1 cash match, first-come while funds last. Apply at least 60 days before your project, and apply early in the fiscal year.

southarts.org

ROLLING

FFL Solidarity Fund

up to \$25K

Foundation for Louisiana's rolling community fund, average award around \$5K. Apply 60 or more days before your activity. Their fiscal sponsorship program is also the eligibility unlock for any group without its own 501(c)(3).

foundationforlouisiana.org

OCT-DEC

Dupuy Grant (Nous Foundation)

\$1K to \$5K

The historic CODOFIL grant for French and Kouri-Vini projects, now administered by the Nous Foundation with a fall window, October through December.

nous-foundation.org

2027

Endangered Language Fund, Language Legacies

~\$2K

Small grants for community language work; Kouri-Vini is eligible and community applicants are welcome. Next cycle roughly February to April 2027.

endangeredlanguagefund.org

SPRING 2027

Levitt Foundation Music Series

~\$40K/yr

Three years of funding for a free outdoor concert series in small towns; 66 towns funded in the last round. Next call around spring 2027. Get on their interest list now.

levitt.org

SEPT 28	Terra Foundation convening grants	\$10K to \$25K
Inquiries due September 28 for organizations convening on American art, including underrepresented traditions.		terraamericanart.org
ROLLING	Henry Luce Foundation	\$10K to \$1M
Rolling concept notes for American art, including underrepresented traditions.		hluce.org
CHECK NOW	Black Public Media	up to ~\$150K
Public-media development and licensing for Black stories; the annual open call has historically run August into September. Check the window now. AfroPoP also acquires finished films year round.		blackpublicmedia.org
ROLLING	Field of Vision	varies
Rolling documentary commissions, no deadlines. A pitch lane for working documentary filmmakers.		fieldofvision.org
APR 2027	Oral History Association, Emerging Crises	up to \$4K
Fast oral-history documentation money; next deadline around April 15, 2027.		oralhistory.org
JUL 2027	Southern Documentary Fund	\$15K
Production grants for Southern stories on an annual July cycle. This year's closed August 14; calendar July 2027.		southerndocumentaryfund.org
ROLLING	Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation	\$150K to \$850K
Relationship funder for Southern community organizations; submit the Organizational Summary any time.		mrbf.org

For Nonprofits & Small Businesses

SEPT 1

Louisiana Blue Foundation

\$25K to \$1M

Health-focused tiers from community grants to major investments. Letter of intent due September 1; a measurable health outcome is the price of entry.

labluefoundation.org

SEPT 4

FFL Day of Racial Healing grants

up to \$5,000

Eighteen awards statewide for events held January 15 to 24, 2027. Louisiana nonprofits or fiscally sponsored groups. Due September 4.

foundationforlouisiana.org

SEPT 4

Foundation for Rural Service

\$250 to \$5,000

Community projects sponsored by your local telephone co-op. Due September 4; call your co-op first.

frs.org

MONTHLY

Amber Grant for Women

\$10K monthly

Monthly award for women-owned businesses, with a \$50K annual finale drawn from monthly winners. Next deadline August 31, then every month.

ambergrantsforwomen.com

OCT 15

JD Finish Line Foundation, Cycle 3

up to \$10K

Youth and safe-community programming. Window runs September 1 to October 15.

finishline.com

OCT 2

Jacques Pepin Foundation

up to \$10K

Unrestricted grants to nonprofits running free culinary job training. Due October 2.

jp.foundation

NOV 30

Truist Foundation

\$15K minimum

Workforce development and small-business ecosystem nonprofits. Open portal, no invitation needed. Due November 30.

truistfoundation.org

FALL 2026

Hancock Whitney Opportunity Grants

up to \$25K

Food security, workforce, and youth, administered through the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The 2026 cycle is expected this fall; watch September and October.

gnof.org

BY DEC 7

Verizon Small Business Digital Ready

\$10K

Complete two free courses to qualify; monthly selections run through December 7.

verizon.com/digitalready

NOV 30

Walmart Spark Good Local Grants

\$250 to \$5,000

Cycle 3 open now through November 30 for deed-verified nonprofits, schools, governments, and faith organizations.

walmart.org

IMMINENT

Camelback Ventures, Cohort 17

\$50K

Fellowship plus capital for underrepresented founders. Reopening imminently; subscribe to their list today so you see the window open.

camelbackventures.org

2027	Echoing Green Fellowship	varies
Global fellowship for social entrepreneurs; verify the 2027 window this fall.		echoinggreen.org
90+ DAYS	Louisiana Office of Tourism grants	up to \$15K
Marketing money for events that draw visitors; file at least 90 days before the event. For a fall festival, that means filing by early July.		crt.state.la.us
LOCAL	St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission	varies
Local project and event-marketing grants with low competition. Email sarah.wise@cajuntravel.com for current guidelines.		cajuntravel.com
ROLLING	Cleco Corporate Giving	small awards
Rolling applications through the Benevity portal; lead with the St. Landry service-area tie.		cleco.com
ROLLING	FFL Fiscal Sponsorship	access
No 501(c)(3)? Foundation for Louisiana's fiscal sponsorship is the front door that makes your group eligible for most grants in this guide.		foundationforlouisiana.org

The 12-Month Money Calendar

When each window opens or closes, twelve months out. Calendar these now.

AUG 2026	National Register first draft Aug 21. DRA infrastructure Aug 24, or book the 2027 pipeline with APC. Amber Grant Aug 31. Verify the Black Public Media window.
SEPT	LA Blue letter of intent Sept 1. Racial Healing and Rural Service grants Sept 4. Preserving Black Churches Sept 11. CLG National Register drafts Sept 18. Terra Sept 28. Watch GNOF and imls.gov.
OCT	National Trust funds Oct 1. Pepin Oct 2. NEH application opens Oct 15; Finish Line closes Oct 15. CLIR Oct 20. LEH mini grants end Oct 31. Dupuy window opens.
NOV	Capital Outlay and Catholic Extension Nov 1. IMLS Nov 13. Walmart and Truist Nov 30. CLIR Recordings at Risk opens.
DEC	National Register review meeting Dec 3. NEH Public Humanities Dec 9. NEA posts new FY28 guidelines late in the month.
JAN 2027	AARP Community Challenge opens. National Fund for Sacred Places launches its 2027 round. Congressional project-funding requests: call your U.S. House and Senate offices this month.
FEB	NEA Grants for Arts Projects cycle one. Entergy Charitable Feb 1. Endangered Language Fund opens.
MAR	Keep Louisiana Beautiful reopens. Community Foundation of Acadiana competitive cycle mid-month. LEH project RFPs.
APR	LWCF park money April 1. Oral history fund April 15.
MAY	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area cycle May 1 to 31. State historic preservation fund. State arts project grants FY28.
JUN-JUL	USDA rural business grants. DRA SEDAP around June 1 through APC; do not miss it twice. Tourism grant filings for fall events. Southern Documentary Fund in July.

HOW THIS GUIDE IS MADE

Four times a year, every program is checked at the funder's own source, current amounts, current rules, current dates. Dead programs get dropped. New money gets added. Verified August 15, 2026.

This information is free. Share it. Next edition: November 2026.

Questions, or a grant we should know about: milton@creoleculture.com