



Freeborn Mower OPERATION ROUND UP®

PO Box 611 | 3366 Bridge Ave.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(507) 373 -6421 · (800) 734 -6421

GUIDELINES 2026

PURPOSE

The Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) Trust will be funded by Operation Round Up contributions from participating FMEC members. The contributions will fund local charitable and educational organizations in Freeborn and Mower Counties. This program gives back to the community one of the seven cooperative principles.

ELIGIBILITY

- Requests must be for charitable, educational, or non-profit organizations only.
- Non-profit organizations that serve communities located within Freeborn and Mower Counties.
- Applications are accepted once a year per project or event.
 - Organizations may apply additionally throughout the year for a different project |event
 - ***However, we ask that you prioritize your annual requests as funds are limited. Previous grant awards to your organization will be taken into consideration when reviewing subsequent applications.***
- Application must be received by the deadline date and **be for a project or event in the future** (*the program will not fund projects in the past*).

GRANT LIMITS

- **Up to \$500** per school for post-prom| after-graduation events
- **Up to \$500** for booster clubs | athletic/school
- **Up to \$1,000** per organization for a project/event
- **Up to \$2,500** annually for volunteer fire departments or first responders serving the areas within Freeborn & Mower Counties.

REQUIREMENTS

- Completed application form submitted before the deadline.
- Non-profit | Charitable organization in Freeborn and/or Mower County.
(Proof of non-profit status; IRS Determination Letter or 501c to accompany each application, when possible)
- If funds are requested to purchase a new item or for repair, please include two (2) bids for the item or work. If possible, at least one bid should be from a vendor or supplier within the FMEC territory.
- Documentation of purchase or verification of receipt of the grant dollars.

EVALUATION FACTORS

- Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community.
- Geographic area served.

EXAMPLES OF **ALLOWED** EVENTS/PROJECTS (but not limited to):

- Education, art, music, or theatrical programs at public or private schools or provided through community organizations.
- Public library programs or improvements.
- Leadership or business clubs or events sponsored by a school or community organization.
- Teen, community, or recreation center improvements & events.
- Equipment for athletic teams that remains relatively fixed in place, such as soccer goals, basketball backboards, scoreboards, swimming pool equipment, etc.
- Clearly defined youth programs, including 4H & FFA.
- After-Prom Events and After-Graduation Events

EXAMPLES OF **NOT ALLOWED** EVENTS/PROJECTS:

Please do not apply for any of the following:

- General operating, tax, or payroll expenses.
- Individual or group registration fees (field trips, camps, etc.) that are deemed primarily recreational.
- Political causes or lobbying.
- Advertising
- Projects of religious denominations, unless the expenditure is directed to the benefit of the community at large (all youth, all elderly, etc.) and is not limited or offered primarily to members of that denomination.
- Repairs and improvements to private property or that of religious denominations.
- Organizations or programs outside of FMEC service territory, unless a direct benefit is provided to a significant number of FMEC members.
- Uniforms, personal athletic equipment, or general sponsorship for little leagues, traveling teams, and youth clubs, etc.
- Specific community foundations, unless the application designates a specific project.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- Grants are considered and awarded every quarter.
- **Deadlines to apply are: March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. ***
- Trustee meetings are typically held the second week of April, July, October, and January.
 - *Projects completed before trustee meetings may not be funded.*

Please apply early for the best consideration.

*** Funds are disbursed approximately one month after each deadline.**

Inquiries may be made to oru@fmec.coop

Grants awarded are based on information provided to the Board of Trustees of the Operation Round Up Program.



**Freeborn Mower
OPERATION ROUND UP®**

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APPLICATION -2026

*Only non-profit, charitable organizations in FMEC's service territory will be considered for funding.
Each application must include a 501 c (#) form or an IRS Determination Letter.
Failure to provide documentation will delay or may disqualify the application.
Please provide documentation with each application.*

Applicant | Organization Name: _____ **Date:** _____

(Check will be made out to the organization name and mailed to this address below)

Contact Person: _____ **Title:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Organization Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **County:** _____ **Additional Contact Info:** _____

Mailing Address: (if different from above) _____

Email Address: _____ **Website:** _____

Has Your Organization Rec'd a Previous Grant From ORU: _____ **If Yes, When:** _____

What Project or Event Was the Previous Grant For: _____

PROJECT OR EVENT DESCRIPTION

Amount Requesting: \$ _____ *** Total Amount of Project or Event: \$** _____

How Many People Benefiting from This Project or Event: _____

Name of Project or Event: _____

Funds will be used for: _____

Project or Event Date: _____ **or, When Will Funds Be Used:** _____

If ORU only approves a portion of the request, can the project or event still proceed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How Project or Event Benefits Community: _____

Organization History: _____

Organization mission & goals: _____

Other Revenue Sources: _____

_____ I will allow a photo with my name and the organization's name to appear in FMEC publications and/or, on Social Media channels.

Signature: _____

*If the organization applying is a school,
the application must be signed by the principal of the school.*

*** If the grant is awarded, it must be used solely for the approved project or event.**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST - Applicant please complete:	
Applicant is nonprofit or charitable organization	<input type="radio"/>
501 c (#) form, IRS Determination Letter or nonprofit status in included	<input type="radio"/>
If school applying – must be signed by Principal	<input type="radio"/>
Project or event is after the ORU meeting date	<input type="radio"/>
Request meets guidelines	<input type="radio"/>

Submit to:
Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative
Attn: ORU Program
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