



## **Freeborn Mower OPERATION ROUND UP®**

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### **UPDATED GUIDELINES 2023**

#### **PURPOSE**

The Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) Trust will be funded by Operation Round Up contributions from participating members of FMEC. The contributions will be used to fund local charitable and educational organizations in Freeborn & 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 & Mower Counties.
- Applications 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 weighed when reviewing subsequent applications.***
- Application must be received by the deadline date and be **for a project or event in the future** (*will not grant projects in the past*).

#### **GRANT LIMITS**

- **Up to \$500** per school, for After-Prom and/or After-Graduation Events.
- **Up to \$500** for Booster Clubs – Athletic/School
- **Up to \$1,000** per project/event for an organization.
- **Up to \$2,500** annually for volunteer fire departments or first responder units 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 all applications – if possible)***
- If funds are requested to purchase a new item, or for a repair, please include two (2) bids for the item or work. At least one bid should be from a vendor or supplier within the FMEC territory if possible.
- 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 on a quarterly basis.
- **Deadlines to apply are: March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. \***
- Trustee meetings are held the beginning of April, July, October, and January.
- *Projects completed prior to 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 [dawn.schroeder@fmec.coop](mailto:dawn.schroeder@fmec.coop)

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