



2025 Quality of Life Applicant Summary

Applicant:	100 Girls Like Us
Project Proposal:	You Got This Girl
Project Description:	The 100 Girls Like Us "You Got This Girl" Initiative entails providing girls ages 5-17 with the tools to Build Self-esteem, Confidence, and Awareness, Address/Manage Mental Health issues tools that will assist them with becoming their best selves, learning how to achieve their personal, educational goals and eventually becoming leaders of their community.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$20,600
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Administer Justice
Project Proposal:	Aurora Legal Clinic 2024-2025
Project Description:	Administer Justice seeks to start a third Gospel Justice Center in Aurora.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$5,000
Project Recommendation:	\$3,000

Applicant:	Agape Connection
Project Proposal:	Sankofa School of History, Culture and Creativity
Project Description:	The Sankofa Program provides complete immersion in the historical, cultural, artistic, and intellectual foundation/base of the African diasporic experience for school-age children that improves their verbal and oral communication skills and study habits as they engage in research on African diasporic figures - past and present.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$29,500
Project Recommendation:	\$12,500

Applicant:	Alive Center NFP
Project Proposal:	Aurora Drop-in Program
Project Description:	Alive Aurora's Teen-initiated free after-school Drop-in Program provides a place for Aurora community teens to come together to socialize, create and learn in a welcoming, safe and, supervised environment where the atmosphere is relaxed, where compassionate adults and older teens supervise and mentor, and where young people can connect with positive role models, and with themselves as they strengthen their mental health, explore their interests and passions, learn and grow.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$24,648
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Association for Individual Development
Project Proposal:	Aurora Victim and Outreach Services
Project Description:	The 24-hour program serves victims of crime, trauma, or quality of life issues such as housing instability, primarily in Kane County. It is a collaboration with municipalities, police, fire, and local human services providers.
Project Type:	SHAPE
Project Request:	\$100,000
Project Recommendation:	\$100,000

Applicant:	Aurora Area African American Men of Unity
Project Proposal:	Jobs for Youth Internship Program
Project Description:	Provides job readiness training, life skills development, intentional mentoring and other essential employability skills that build professional assets.
Project Type:	Youth & Education
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$7,500

Applicant:	Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry
Project Proposal:	Holiday Food Distribution
Project Description:	This grant will support our holiday meal distribution in November and December, ensuring everyone in our community has a table full of food to eat during the holidays.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$30,000
Project Recommendation:	\$16,500

Applicant:	Aurora Historical Society
Project Proposal:	Giving the Past A Future
Project Description:	"Giving the Past a Future" refers to our entire museum operations and programming over the year, including exhibits, programs, and activities at our two museum sites and off-site events and activities.
Project Type:	Museums
Project Request:	\$85,000
Project Recommendation:	\$35,000

Applicant:	Aurora Legion Travel Baseball
Project Proposal:	2025 Uniforms, Baseballs, and Equipment
Project Description:	As ALTB continues to expand, we are looking for assistance with our budget for items that are directly used by the players, such as uniforms, baseballs, and equipment.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$9,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Aurora Regional Fire Museum
Project Proposal:	Museum Operations
Project Description:	Funds will be used to support the areas of museum operations, exhibition development, and education.
Project Type:	Museums
Project Request:	\$60,000
Project Recommendation:	\$35,000

Applicant:	Aurora Starz
Project Proposal:	2025 BBA Aurora Starz Teams
Project Description:	Help fund all aspects of the Aurora Starz program so we can reduce the costs for our families in the Aurora community.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$15,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Awesome Life Academy
Project Proposal:	Awesome & Meaningful Work Program
Project Description:	To expand ALA's, job skills, vocational training and mentoring program for adults with special needs and/or disabilities.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$15,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Boys & Girls Club of North Central Illinois
Project Proposal:	After School & Summer Programming
Project Description:	Our proposed Quality of Life project focuses on expanding BGCNCIL's services in Aurora to eight locations and 6 new sites for this school year, providing essential academic, social, and emotional support to youth from diverse, low-income backgrounds.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$35,000

Applicant:	Boys Baseball of Aurora
Project Proposal:	2025 Summer and fall Seasons
Project Description:	The program would be to help fund all aspects of the BBA Summer and Fall sessions so we can keep reduced costs for our families in the Aurora community.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	ChallengeIIChange
Project Proposal:	Pathway to Home: Creating Meaningful Opportunities
Project Description:	To provide supportive temporary housing and support services and programming to justice-involved individuals who are at high risk of becoming homeless or are homeless to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. Our Housing project is new because we just completed the rehab on the house and are waiting for a certificate of occupancy from CoA. Our services exist for the question below.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Cities In Schools Aurora 2000, Inc.
Project Proposal:	Comprehensive Services Program
Project Description:	The CISA program will provide Level 1 school supplies/services for students and Level 2 students/families with long-term needs, tutoring, mentoring, literacy, enrichment/recreational, and community programs for students at risk of academic failure/dropping out of school who attend Aurora public schools or live within Aurora's boundaries.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$63,773
Project Recommendation:	\$63,733

Applicant:	Collier Community Center
Project Proposal:	No More Excuses
Project Description:	Our Mission is to provide a better quality of life for the citizens of Aurora IL.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$20,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Difference Foundation
Project Proposal:	First Buyer and Investor Group
Project Description:	We assist with education to the tenants beyond renting. We would like to get them prepared for home ownership specifically in Aurora. Current owners will learn about investing.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$450,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Dominican Literacy Center
Project Proposal:	ESL & Citizenship Program
Project Description:	We hope to expand the visibility and availability of our ESL tutoring and Citizenship programs to better serve a greater number of Aurora's immigrant residents.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$25,461
Project Recommendation:	\$12,500

Applicant:	DuPage Senior Citizens Council
Project Proposal:	Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels), Community Dining, and Well-being Check-ins
Project Description:	The Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels), Community Dining, and Well-Being Checks service will help ensure that vulnerable older adults in the City of Aurora have access to sufficient healthy food while also preventing social isolation and improving older adults' Social Determinants of Health.
Project Type:	Seniors
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$25,000

Applicant:	DVSA Communities
Project Proposal:	Improving Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention, Advocacy and Support
Project Description:	DVSA Communities is requesting funding to hire a dedicated Hotline Advocate to provide crisis intervention services, ensuring timely receipt of and action on hotline calls related to domestic violence and sexual assault from women, children, and men in the Aurora community who are victims of abuse and assault and need assistance for their safety.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	East Aurora School District
Project Proposal:	Tomcat College and Career Camp Opportunities
Project Description:	Our project will expand opportunities for our high school students to attend academic and artistic college camps, focusing on providing a lens of future possibilities beyond secondary education.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$20,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley
Project Proposal:	Make the First Five Count for infants, toddlers and children with development disabilities and delays
Project Description:	Make the First Five Count's (MtFFC) comprehensive approach to therapy maximizes a child's success in school, engagement in society, and fulfillment in life for infants, toddlers, and children ages 0-5.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Echo Development
Project Proposal:	Senior Care Program and Youth-Anti-Bullying Program
Project Description:	Sober living, reduction resources, classes, training, coaching, and nutrition.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Fellowship
Project Proposal:	Transitional Housing, Financial Literacy Training, and Wrap Around Services for At-Risk Single Mothers and Children
Project Description:	FHC is asking for \$22,000 to support its transitional housing, financial literacy training, and wrap-around services for at-risk single moms and their children.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request:	\$22,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Fox Valley Hands of Hope
Project Proposal:	Grief Counseling
Project Description:	While many of our programs are conducted by volunteers, our supportive infrastructure and professional staff provide the vision, direction, expertise, and oversight to ensure quality, accessible services and programs for our grieving neighbors.
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$15,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Fox Valley Park District
Project Proposal:	Sports Saturday
Project Description:	Provide local youth with free access to sports and recreation opportunities.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Fox Valley Special Recreation Association
Project Proposal:	Therapeutic Recreation Summer Day Camp
Project Description:	FVSRF is requesting funds to provide emotional and behavioral support to children with disabilities from Aurora who participate in FVSRA therapeutic recreation Summer Day Camp.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	Fox Valley United Way - SPARK
Project Proposal:	SPARK Early Childhood Collaboration
Project Description:	The requested funds will enable SPARK to serve additional families, giving more underserved Aurora children the foundation of early development and learning they need for future health and success.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$25,000

Applicant:	Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois
Project Proposal:	Project Opportunity
Project Description:	Serves girls who are underserved, at risk of academic failure, at risk for potentially risky behavior, and who are living in our poorest neighborhoods and attending Aurora Public Schools K-8
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$33,900
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Healthy Hands Family Outreach
Project Proposal:	Aurora After School
Project Description:	Supporting the children of fallen officers, veterans, and foster children with mentoring and social support services to prepare them for college and careers.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Hope for Tomorrow, Inc.
Project Proposal:	Men's Veteran's Recovery Home Programs (MVRHP)
Project Description:	The MVRHP provides highly structured housing, in conjunction with certified clinicians and strict rules and policies that help transform homeless, indigent men suffering from addictions to substance-free, employed, self-sufficient, law-abiding, taxpaying citizens in the Aurora communities.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant	Imperfect Angels
Project Proposal:	Imperfect Angels of Illinois - Aurora Chapter
Project Description:	We will provide programs that teach local youth the soft- and life- skills that will help accelerate their academic success and health through mentorship and support services.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$12,500
Project Recommendation:	\$5,000

Applicant:	Indian Prairie Educational Foundation
Project Proposal:	Kid Essentials Fund
Project Description:	The Kid Essentials Fund aims to improve academic income student's performance in Aurora and elevate area students with the Essential achievement resources are provided to meet the basic needs of these vulnerable students.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request:	\$10,000
Project Recommendation:	\$7,500

Applicant:	Indian Prairie School District
Project Proposal:	Granger CARES
Project Description:	Granger Cares (Community Advocacy, Resilience, Engagement, and Supports) is a multifaceted approach to advance health equity, student wellness, and mental health support after school hours at Granger Middle School by providing no-cost after-school therapy to students by an Illinois licensed clinician.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Judah Robinson Foundation
Project Proposal:	Homeless Mental Health Intervention
Project Description:	Homeless mental health intervention provides mental health services including counseling and case management to individuals impacted by homelessness and serious mental illness
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$12,500

Applicant:	Ladder Up
Project Proposal:	Tax Assistance Program
Project Description:	Ladder Up provides free financial programs to help low-income residents secure tax, access to legal counsel and financial educational services.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$20,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Leaders in Transformational Education
Project Proposal:	LITE Youth Development
Project Description:	Our project provides interactive, evidence-based life, daily, and employability skill development, immersive career exploration within trades, arts, and sports, and support with entrance into higher learning for young adults ages 16 to 24.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	Lewis Simmons Foundation
Project Proposal:	Building Strong Blocks Workforce Momentum Project
Project Description:	Our existing program will support hundreds of lives in the Fox Valley community by providing deeper layers of wraparound services identified through our strong partnerships with local agencies. Thus, we will fill needed gaps in education, workforce development, entrepreneurship for reentry, and support for homeless and domestically abused citizens.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Loaves & Fishes Community Services
Project Proposal:	Grocery Assistance Program for Aurora Residents
Project Description:	The Grocery Assistance Program supplies healthy and nutritious food to individuals at risk of food insecurity living in poverty or with low income. Grant funds from this request will support Aurora residents.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$25,000

Applicant:	LV Cares Foundation
Project Proposal:	LV Cares Foundation
Project Description:	To help people afford medication.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$10,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Project Proposal:	Marie Wilkinson Child Care & Youth Before & After School Care
Project Description:	The MWCDC will continue to provide quality service to Aurora Community through early childcare, educational readiness, technological skill development, safe/healthy environment, before/after school programs, homework assistance & variety of family support.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry
Project Proposal:	Hunger Relief and Reducing Food Insecurities Among Youth, Seniors, and Veterans
Project Description:	To provide emergent food assistance to high school students, seniors, and veterans through accessible locations and weekly distributions to combat food insecurity and strengthen communities.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	NAMI DuPage
Project Proposal:	Mental Health Education of Youth
Project Description:	The Mental Health Education for Youth program promotes early recognition of and intervention for youth at risk of serious mental illness. The program educates students in Aurora schools from 5th grade high school students and offers teen workshops and support groups
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$12,500

Applicant:	NAMI KDK
Project Proposal:	NAMI Mental Health Service for the City of Aurora
Project Description:	We provide services at our office, public schools, public libraries, churches, and other community agencies in the City of Aurora
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$5,000

Applicant:	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Project Proposal:	BackPack Program
Project Description:	Northern Illinois Food Bank is requesting funding to support our BackPack Program providing weekly food-filled backpacks for children identified as food-insecure through partnership with Aurora schools.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$20,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Project Proposal:	Senior Grocery Program
Project Description:	Northern Illinois Food Bank is requesting funding to support our Senior Grocery Program in Aurora. Monthly food boxes are provided at Echo Development and Marie Wilkinson Food Pant and monthly Mobile Markets are provided at Constitution House and Downer Place
Project Type:	Seniors
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$25,000

Applicant:	OLI Gardens
Project Proposal:	Sustainable Solutions to Food Insecurity in the Aurora Area
Project Description:	The O.L.I. Gardens, Inc. {dba Gold Star Gardens) project in Aurora is to develop and cultivate dedicated raised bed community gardens that provide nutritious foods to food deserts, honor the sacrifices of fallen soldiers and first responders, and engage and educate diverse community members and school students in meaningful and educational activities relating to food insecurity.
Project Type:	Community
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Quad County Urban League
Project Proposal:	The Quad County Urban League's Economic Empowerment Center
Project Description:	The Quad County Urban League (QCUL) Economic Empowerment Center will provide employment skills training and community resources, serving youth and young adults ages 16-24, unemployed adults, and families in poverty in the Aurora service area.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$22,500

Applicant:	RITAS Ministry
Project Proposal:	Prisoner Reentry and Opioid outreach
Project Description:	Educate the community about and distributed Narcan and teach individuals to think positively and become employed.
Project Type:	SHAPE
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$27,000

Applicant:	Riverwalk Adult Day Services
Project Proposal:	Recreational Center & Senior Center
Project Description:	The funds will help fund the salaries for the highly trained activity assistants in a 1:6 staff to participant ratio for Riverwalk Rec participants that all suffer some form of disability, such as Down Syndrome, Autism or other Intellectual Disabilities as well as in the adult daycare staff.
Project Type:	Seniors
Project Request:	\$25,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,500

Applicant:	Sanjeevani4U
Project Proposal:	Continued rehabilitation of survivors and mental health affected individuals
Project Description:	We continue rehabilitation of survivors of mental health and domestic abuse, residents who are from Aurora city
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$2,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Simply Destinee
Project Proposal:	S.E.E.D.S. - Support, Educate, Empower, Dance, Sustain
Project Description:	Simply Destinee is seeking funding for its afterschool program that offers dance and other activities focusing on suicide prevention, promotion of self-esteem, mental health wellness, and building a community of support for low-income and/or struggling youth ages 7 through 18, mainly from the Hispanic community.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Suicide Prevention Services of America dba Stone Manor Counseling
Project Proposal:	Continuing the expansion of suicide preventions services of America
Project Description:	Expanding the mission and opportunities of suicide prevention services in Aurora due to the limited mental health resources in the area.
Project Type:	Mental Health
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	VNA Health Care
Project Proposal:	Improving Access To Health Care for Uninsured Aurora Residents
Project Description:	VNA closes gaps in healthcare for some of the most vulnerable residents of the City of Aurora and thereby improves access to care and reduces health disparities through the delivery of comprehensive rima care and enabling services.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$0

Applicant:	Waubensee Community College
Project Proposal:	Education Support for residents of Aurora seeking to obtain State of Illinois H.S. Diploma
Project Description:	Provide supports and educational opportunities to residents of Aurora to complete State of Illinois High School Diploma
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$25,313
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Wayside Cross Ministries
Project Proposal:	UYM's 20205 Academic Support & Learning Enrichment Program
Project Description:	UYM's proposed QOL project will offer academic enrichment and youth leadership development for under-resourced children in East Aurora School District (EASD) 131.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$15,000

Applicant:	Wheatland Athletic Association
Project Proposal:	Fee Assistance and Scholarship Program for Aurora Residents in need of Financial Support
Project Description:	WAA seeks to build on recent growth and continue to increase access to recreational and competitive sports opportunities for Aurora residents of all ages by offering financial assistance to families that request help and demonstrate a need.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$30,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	Wong Center for Education
Project Proposal:	STEM IGNITION - Fall Term
Project Description:	STEM IGNITION-Fall Term will address the problem of learning recovery by using STEM education and robotics to engage students in activities that pique their interest and enhance the individual's learning, which will be done after-school for grades 1 through 8 at 17 schools in East Aurora School District 131.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	World Relief Chicagoland
Project Proposal:	Refugee and Immigrant Youth Services - Empowering Aurora's Young People to Thrive
Project Description:	The World Relief Chicagoland Refugee and Immigrant Youth Services program will provide early childhood support, tutoring, and parent engagement support to promote academic improvement, socioemotional development, and community integration among immigrant and refugee children and youth in Aurora.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$20,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	Xilin Association
Project Proposal:	Managing Aging Life
Project Description:	Improving Aurora senior's physical and mental health by providing in-home service, evidence-based health programs, and socialization activities.
Project Type:	Seniors
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$20,000

Applicant:	YMCA of Metro Chicago Aurora
Project Proposal:	Managing Aging Life
Project Description:	Improving Aurora senior's physical and mental health by providing in-home service, evidence-based health programs, and socialization activities.
Project Type:	Education & Youth
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000

Applicant:	YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Project Proposal:	Early Childhood Emergency Fund Project
Project Description:	The Early Childhood Emergency Fund Project will allow Aurora families enrolled in YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's Early/Head Start programs to access resources including groceries, transportation assistance, health care, housing, and utility support, which will support overall family well-being while increasing enrollment and retention rates in childhood programs and supporting the economic development of families.
Project Type:	Basic Needs
Project Request:	\$35,000
Project Recommendation:	\$10,000