



Common Council Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee

Agenda

6:00 PM, Monday, January 26, 2026
Allison Conference Room (#225), Showers Building
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be [accessed by Zoom](#)¹

1. Welcome (Chair Daily)
2. 2026 Funding
3. Review 2025 and Preview 2026
 - A. 2025 Review
 - B. 2026 Preview: Opportunities and Challenges
4. 2026 Program Eligibility Guidelines and Application Instructions
 - A. Capital improvements funding to limited to projects located with Bloomington City limits
 - B. New [online application process](#)² using CiviForm
 - C. Scoring rubric
5. Program Process and Schedule
 - A. Grant Marketing and Promotion
 - B. Application Window
 - C. Application Review - including Committee Member disclosures of conflicts of interest
 - D. Applicant Presentations
 - E. Committee Recommendations to Common Council
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee meetings can be watched on the following websites:

¹ <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/86068735836?pwd=vKbNwia8rk4R1bJk7RIAo6r3WtZiqv.1>
Meeting ID: 860 6873 5836; Passcode: 191602

² <https://civiform.bloomington.dev/programs/2026-jack-hopkins>. Please note this is a test environment and not the final application.

Posted: January 23, 2026

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](#)³
- [City's YouTube Channel](#)⁴

[Materials for this meeting](#) are available on the Committee's webpage.⁵

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, including Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the members serving on this committee:

- Isak Nti Asare, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Courtney Daily (Chair), appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Camryn Greer, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Katherine Ntiamoah, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Eddy Riou, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Dave Rollo, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027
- Andy Ruff, appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, term 1/8/2026 - 1/7/2027

The City of Bloomington is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing city materials, please contact the Office of the Common Council at council.bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3409 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

³ <https://catstv.net/>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington>

⁵ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>

**City of Bloomington Common Council
Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee
2026 Program Eligibility Guidelines and Instructions**

The City of Bloomington Common Council's Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Committee invites Bloomington area social service agencies to apply for 2026 grant funding to support critical services for Bloomington residents. This year, the Committee has \$500,000 available to distribute. Since its founding in 1993, the Jack Hopkins Fund has awarded nearly \$7 million to social service agencies working to improve the lives of our community's most vulnerable residents.

Please review the information below to ensure your project aligns with our funding priorities and guidelines.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 Eastern Standard Time on __, ____, 2026. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

NEW in 2026

Program Funding Conditions

On January 7, 2026, the Bloomington Common Council [adopted a resolution](#) to update the Jack Hopkins program funding conditions. The resolution states:

The Committee shall prioritize funding for programs and projects that serve City of Bloomington residents and are delivered within the city limits. Programs or services delivered outside the city limits may also be considered when the Committee finds that they provide a direct, measurable, and substantial benefit to City residents. Capital improvements however, may only be funded when the real property to be improved is located within the city limits of Bloomington.

In previous years, projects involving capital improvements to real property locations outside of city limits were given low priority. This year, those projects will not be funded.

New Online Application Process

This year's application will be completed online using CiviForm, which is a platform that allows application materials to be accessible. Furthermore, we have streamlined the application process to eliminate submission of documentation, such as IRS determination letters and financial statements, which may be challenging to make accessible.

Project Focus

Your project should address an identified priority for social services funds, as indicated in the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department's [Consolidated Plan](#), the City of Bloomington's [Homelessness Response & Housing Investment Report](#), or other recent and relevant community-wide surveys or assessments of social service needs.

This investment in the program should lead to broad and long lasting benefits to the community. In the words of Jack Hopkins, "priority should be given to projects or programs where investments now will have a positive, long-term spillover-effects (such as reduced susceptibility to...diseases, decreased absences from school, reducing lost time (from work) ... etc.)"

Eligibility and Conditions

- This grant is restricted to organizations that are classified as Section 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code. This policy is intended to assure that grant funds go to organizations with boards that are legally accountable for implementing the funding agreements and with the capability of raising matching funds which is an indicator of the long-term viability of the agency. Given its mission, the presence of a board, and its general viability, an exception has historically been made for the Bloomington Housing Authority.
- Each agency can submit one application, except for collaborative projects, which allow for an additional application.
- The minimum funding request is \$1,000.
- The funding request should be proportional to the number of clients served by the project.
- Funding will not be approved for capital improvements to properties outside Bloomington city limits.
- Jack Hopkins funds may never be used for inherently religious activity. Any religious activity must be separate in time or place from Hopkins-funded activity. Religious instruction cannot be a condition for the receipt of services. Any Hopkins program must be open to all without a faith test.
- Agencies must enter into a funding agreement with the City of Bloomington, with funds provided on a reimbursement basis.

- Grant funds must be expended and verified by December of the award year, unless an extension is granted.
- Any agency receiving Jack Hopkins funds must participate in the federal E-Verify program and must comply with Bloomington's Living Wage Ordinance, if applicable.

Priorities

The Common Council prioritizes the following types of projects for funding:

- Projects that provide food, housing, healthcare, or other services to City of Bloomington residents.
- Projects primarily serving low-income populations.
- Projects primarily providing emergency services (e.g. food, housing, and mental and physical medical services).
- Projects providing services to historically marginalized populations or groups.

Scope of Funding

The following requests are in-scope:

One-time investment: Applications requesting funds for projects that address changing circumstances in the community are encouraged. Requests should provide a one-time investment that, through matching funds or other fiscal leveraging, make a significant contribution to the project. Examples include capital improvements, community health initiatives, seed funding for new programs, etc.

Operational expenses: Applications requesting operational expenses will also be considered. These expenses are recurring rather than non-recurring and examples typically include outlays for personnel, rent, utilities, maintenance, supplies, client services, and other ongoing budget items. Agencies seeking funding for operational expenses should be aware that future funding may be unavailable or inadequate to cover their needs and therefore they should not rely solely on Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding for their operational expenses. Any request for operational funding should be accompanied by a well-developed plan for future funding.

Fiscal leveraging: In the words of Jack Hopkins, who originally proposed these criteria, investments "should be leveraged wherever possible by matching funds from other sources." Agencies may demonstrate such leveraging by using matching funds, working in partnership with other agencies, or through other means.

Collaborative projects: The Committee encourages social service agencies to collaborate to address local social service needs. Agencies may submit a collaborative project application in addition to a standard application.

The following requests are out-of-scope:

Paid time off and bonuses: Paid time off and bonuses shall not be considered eligible for Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding.

Funding of events and celebrations: Historically the Council has not funded applications that promote or implement events or celebrations. This policy is based upon the conclusion that these occasions do not engender the broad and long-lasting effects required above.

Applications from city agencies and for profit entities: Over the years the Council has not funded applications submitted by city departments. This is based on the theory that the departments have other, more appropriate avenues for requesting funds and should not compete against other agencies, which do not have the benefit of city resources at their disposal. Except on rare occasions, the Council has not directly or indirectly funded agencies that have the power to levy property taxes or whose primary revenues derive from property taxes.

Expenses incurred prior to the allocation of Jack Hopkins Funds: Expenses incurred prior to the allocation of Jack Hopkins Funds will not be considered. Agencies may only submit claims for expenses incurred after the adoption of the resolution authorizing the grant allocations for that particular funding cycle.

Collaborative Projects

The Committee encourages social service agencies to collaborate in order to solve common problems and better address local social service needs. To serve these ends, the Committee will allow agencies to submit an application for funding as a collaborative project. An agency may submit a collaborative project application in addition to submitting a standard application.

Applicants pursuing such funding should:

- Describe each agency's mission, operations, and services, and how they do or will complement one another.
- Describe the existing relationships between the agencies and how the level of communication and coordination will change as a result of the project.

DRAFT January 26, 2026

- Identify challenges to the collaboration and set forth steps that address the greatest challenges to its success.
- Describe how project responsibilities and funding will be allocated between the agencies.

2026 Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding Schedule

Technical Assistant Meeting for Applicants: DATE

Application Deadline: DATE

Agency Presentations: DATE

Agency presentations will be requested only from applicants for whom the Committee requires additional information.

Committee Recommends Allocation of Funds: DATE

Common Council Acts on Committee Recommendations: DATE

Agencies Sign Funding Agreements: DATE

HAND Technical Assistance Meeting for Grantees on Claims & Reimbursements: To Be Determined

General Guidance

- Attend the technical assistance meeting for applicants. While attendance is not required, it is strongly encouraged for new applicants and for agencies whose applications have not been successful in the past. Bring your questions.
- Keep your application clear and concise.
- Be bold: you will not be penalized for big asks.
- Peruse other successful applications as posted on the Committee's webpage.
- Applications will be assessed using scoring rubric with standardized criteria to ensure fairness and alignment with funding priorities. The rubric will provide applicants with clearer expectations and allow for more structured feedback.
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call. You can email the Council Office at council@bloomington.in.gov.

kari.bennett@bloomington.in.gov (691)

Program Name : 2026-jack-hopkins

Status: Submission Confirmation

Submit Time: 2026/01/13 at 10:21 AM EST

Organization Name

All Bloomington Pets R Good, Inc.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Address

401 N Morton St
Bloomington, IN 47404

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Phone Number

+1 812-349-3409

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Email

kari.bennett@bloomington.in.gov

Answered on : 2026-01-13

website url

www.petsRdabest.org

Answered on : 2026-01-13

President/Chair of Board of Directors

Liberty Anne Bennett

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Executive Director

Emerald Isle Bennett

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Executive Director - Phone Number

+1 812-349-3409

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Executive Director - E-mail

kari.bennett@bloomington.in.gov

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Grant Writer

Murphy Mayhem Bennett

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Grant Writer - Phone Number

+1 812-349-3409

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Grant Writer - Email Address

kari.bennett@bloomington.in.gov

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Project Name

More Treats for Good Pets

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Amount Requested \$1,000 minimum

50000.00

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Number of Bloomington residents to be served by this project in 2025

25000

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Total number of clients to be served by the project in 2025

25000

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Project Description (brief overview, one or two sentences)

This project will reward at least 25,000 Bloomington pets with treats for being good. They and the City of Bloomington will benefit from the good will.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Collaborative Project?

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Needs Addressed by Project

Food

Other (Please Specify)

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Other Text Box - Needs Addressed by Project

Animal Services

Answered on : 2026-01-13

List the name(s) of the agency partner(s)

Barny the Barn Cat LLC

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Mission Statement (150 words or less)

Our mission is a world where all pets are good and rewarded with treats.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Is your organization a 501(c)(3)

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What is the Lead Agency's Employer Identification Number?

12-3456789

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What date was the Lead Agency's IRS 503(c)(3) Determination Letter issued?

02/12/2015

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Does the Lead Agency participate in the E-Verify program?

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What date did the Lead Agency enroll in the E-Verify program?

10/23/2016

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Number of full-time employees of the Lead Agency

1

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Number of part-time employees of the Lead Agency

1

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Number of volunteers of the Lead Agency

50

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Project Synopsis (200 words or less)

We are requesting \$50,000 to purchase dog treats for at least 25,000 Bloomington resident pets. The treats will be healthy, organic, locally sourced, and produced by Bloomington's own Foxy Pepa LLC. The treats will be purchased in bulk and repackaged into individual servings by our staff, board and volunteers. The packaging will be made from material woven from animal fur collected by local animal shelters. The local weavers guild has agreed to make the packaging. The treats will be distributed at Bloomington veterinarian clinics and animal shelters. There will be a special effort made to equitably distribute the treats so that all good pets have an opportunity to receive treats. We will publicize the availability of treats in multiple ways, including our website, our social media platforms, through a broadly distributed press release, and by barking the news on WFHB and WFUI. We will leverage this opportunity to promote the benefits that pet ownership provides to Bloomington residents, including physical and

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Address where the project will be located

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Type of Project

Capital

Operational

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Does your project involve a capital improvement?

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Do you own the property at which the project is to take place?

No

Answered on : 2026-01-13

If you are seeking funds for capital improvements to real estate and if you do not own the property at which the project will take place, please explain your long-term interest in the property.

We have a 99 year lease with the property owner, Foxy Pepa LLC.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Is the property zoned for your intended use?

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Property Zone - If no, please explain.

-

Answered on : 2026-01-13

If permits, variances, or other forms of approval are required for your project, please indicate whether the approval has been received. If it has not been received, please indicate the entity from which the permitting or approval is sought and the length of time it takes to secure the permit or approval.

No permits will be needed for this project.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What is the nature of the operational request?

Collaborative

Answered on : 2026-01-13

None of the above operational requests

-

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What is your plan for future funding?

Fundraising and grants.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Provide a description of how project responsibilities will be allocated among the participating agencies.

Libby and Emmy will manage the overall project, including volunteer coordination. Barny the Barn Cat LLC will make the treats.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Describe how funding the project will be allocated between the participating agencies.

Libby and Emmy will pay Barny the Barn Cat LLC for making the treats.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

How do your missions, operations and services complement each other?

Our missions align perfectly because all pets are good and deserve treats.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

What is the existing relationship between the agencies?

We have play dates all the time!

Answered on : 2026-01-13

How will communication and coordination change as a result of the project?

We will play more and bark less.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Explain any challenges and steps you plan to take to address those challenges.

It will be a challenge not to eat the treats as they are being made and packaged. We will address this challenge by making sure we eat our kibble before working with the treats.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Please use the Jack Hopkins 2026 Application Spreadsheets to complete your Project Budget, Ranked Funding Priorities, and Cost Estimates.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mMxsWw3ePTMSMUEEx0DKZzVKMn6f8IH0zahyhSLq_IQw/edit?usp=sharing

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Describe the source of other project funds (grants and other sources), including whether they are confirmed or pending, and if pending, when you anticipate funding will be received.

We have received a Sophia Travis grant from Monroe County, and have undertaken a fundraising campaign. If we receive this Jack Hopkins grant, our project will be fully funded.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Describe when you plan to submit your claims for reimbursement and what steps precede a complete draw down of funds.

As soon as the treats are distributed, which will be approximately 2 months after the funding agreement is

executed.

Answered on : 2026-01-13

If the Committee is unable to meet your full request, will you be able to proceed with partial funding?

Yes

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Explain how your project addresses a previously-identified priority for social services funding as documented in Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan or 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, or any other community-wide survey of social service needs.

[illegible]

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Jack Hopkins Funds are intended to be a one-time investment. Explain how your project fits this criterion. If you are requesting operational funds (e.g., salaries, rent, vouchers,etc), you must detail your plan for future funding.

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Answered on : 2026-01-13

Long-Term Benefits (200 words or less)

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Answered on : 2026-01-13

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Answered on : 2026-01-13

Yes

Description	Amount
PROJECT FUNDS	
Jack Hopkins grant request	50000
Sophia Travis grant - awarded	25000
Fundraising	25000
TOTAL	100000
PROJECT EXPENSES	
Treats produced by Barny the Barn Cat	90000
Hospitality for volunteers	5000
New oven for treat production	5000
[Add more as appropriate]	
TOTAL	100000

Priority	Project Expense	Amount
#1	Treats	90000
#2	Oven	5000
#3	Volunteer hospitality	5000
#4		
#5		
#6		
#7		

Item	Entity Providing Estimate	Estimated Cost
Treat production	Barney the Barn Cat LLC	90000
Treat production	Mega Treat Company Inc.	100000
Oven	Local Appliance Company Inc.	5000
Oven	Amazon	4500