CREDIT UNION IMPACT FOUNDATION

Small Credit Union Sustainability Grant
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

The Small Credit Union Sustainability Grant is available to affiliated credit unions in good standing with The League that have total assets under $250 million and are experiencing an unexpected, time-sensitive operational challenge that impacts their ability to serve members.

Is this an open grant program?

No. The Small Credit Union Sustainability Grant is an **invitation-only** funding opportunity. Before submitting an application, the proposed project or funding request must be reviewed and supported by the Director of the Office of Small Credit Unions.

What types of situations are considered "unexpected" or "time-sensitive"?

The program is intended to address unforeseen operational challenges that require prompt action to maintain member service. Examples may include:

- Unexpected technology or network failures
- Critical equipment replacement
- Urgent facility repairs affecting operations
- Vendor failures requiring immediate replacement
- Unexpected compliance-related expenses
- Temporary technical or professional assistance needed to resolve an immediate issue

Routine maintenance, planned projects, and known budgeted expenses are not considered unexpected.

What expenses are not eligible?

Sustainability Grant funds may not be used for:

- Routine operating expenses
- Payroll or recurring personnel costs
- Budget shortfalls
- Planned capital improvements
- Marketing or advertising
- Strategic growth initiatives
- Disaster-related expenses
- Ongoing financial distress or operating losses
- Deferred maintenance

How much funding can I request?
Grant awards typically range from **$2,500 to $10,000,** with final award amounts determined based on demonstrated need, available funding, and alignment with program priorities. Awards may vary depending on the circumstances of each request and the anticipated impact on member service.

How often may my credit union receive a Sustainability Grant?
Eligible credit unions may receive **one Sustainability Grant during any rolling 12-month period**.

When are applications reviewed?
Applications are accepted throughout the year and reviewed on a quarterly basis. For 2026, the application deadlines are September 15 and December 15. Applications received after a deadline will be considered during the next quarterly review cycle.

How long does the review process take?
Applicants will generally be notified of the Foundation's funding decision within 3-4 weeks following the applicable quarterly application deadline.

What documentation should accompany my application?
Applicants should submit the completed application along with any available supporting documentation, such as vendor quotes, invoices, estimates, or other materials that help explain the operational challenge and funding request. Additional documentation may be requested during the review process.

How soon must grant funds be used?
Grant funds should be used for the approved purpose as soon as reasonably possible and are expected to be expended within **6 Months** of the award unless otherwise approved by the Foundation.

Is a final report required?
Yes. Grant recipients must submit a brief report within **60 days** of completing the funded activity describing how the funds were used, the impact on member service, and the outcome of the project.

Who should I contact if I have questions?
General questions about the Small Credit Union Sustainability Grant Program, application process, or requirements should be directed to the Credit Union Impact Foundation (cuif@the-league.coop).

Credit unions with a specific operational need or project in mind should first contact the Director of the Office of Small Credit Unions, Susan Lee (Susan.Lee@the-league.coop), to discuss their situation and determine whether the request may be eligible for consideration.