



## 2026-27 Competitive Grant Cycle Guidance

The Kendrick Foundation envisions a Morgan County where all residents are healthy and thriving and, as such, invests in conditions that support the physical and mental health of all Morgan County residents.

According to the [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#), the health of a place results from past and present policies and practices. Population health and wellbeing is something we create as a society, not something an individual can attain in a clinic or be responsible for alone. Health is more than being free from disease and pain; health is the ability to thrive. Wellbeing covers both quality of life and the ability of people and communities to contribute to the world. Population health involves optimal physical, mental, spiritual, and social wellbeing.

[Morgan County](#) is faring about the same as the average county in Indiana for population health and wellbeing – 19% of adults report poor or fair health, 19% of adults experience frequent mental distress and 13% experience frequent physical distress, and 37% of adults have obesity (2023). Additionally, 34% of adults always, usually, or sometimes feel lonely (2023). There were 17 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people in Morgan County during 2019-23.

According to [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#), community conditions include the social and economic factors, physical environment, and health infrastructure in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age. Community conditions are also referred to as the social determinants of health (SDOH).

[Morgan County](#) is faring slightly better than the average county in Indiana for community conditions – 13% of people do not have a reliable source of food, 18% of adults drink excessively, 16% of adults smoke, 23% of adults are physically inactive, and 23% of adults sometimes, rarely, or never get the social and emotional support they need (2023). There were 36 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people in Morgan County during 2021-23. Many Morgan County residents lack adequate access to mental health providers and primary care physicians.

Using these and other data, the Kendrick Foundation seeks to partner with strong, innovative community organizations to implement scientifically supported, evidence-based, and/or evidence-informed strategies to address one or more of the following focus areas:

- Mental health
- Substance use
- Physical activity and nutrition

### **Timeline for 2026-27 Competitive Grant Cycle (Subject to Change)**

- Wednesday, April 29 – Letter of intent opens by 4 p.m. (EDT)
- Friday, May 22 – Letter of intent closes at 4 p.m. (EDT)
- Friday, June 26 – Invitations to select organizations to submit full proposals by 4 p.m. (EDT)
- Friday, August 7 – Full proposals due by 4 p.m. (EDT)
- Friday, September 23 – Notices of award via email and grant agreements by 4 p.m. (EDT)

The grant project period is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

## **Application Process**

1. The Kendrick Foundation utilizes an online application process through Smarter Select. First, organizations must complete the letter of intent. See the last page of this document for the letter of intent template or go to <https://kendrickfoundation.org/grants/> to download a copy. Please fill in all highlighted areas. All areas must be addressed to be considered.
  - a. Page limit: Three pages
  - b. The letter of intent should be signed by the head of your organization. Submit your letter of intent at <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/109158-Kendrick-Foundation>
2. This phase of the application process allows the Kendrick Foundation to quickly assess if the proposed project/initiative aligns with our goals and if proposed strategies are based in evidence, before requiring organizations to submit a full application. Partnering organizations only need to submit one letter of intent.
3. Select organizations will be invited to complete a full grant application, which requires more extensive information including an action plan. Applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with partner organizations with shared objectives to increase coordination, reduce duplication, and maximize resources and impact. Partnering organizations need only submit one application per project/initiative, though a formal Memorandum of Understanding is highly recommended for all joint applications. Additional information, instructions, and an action plan template will be provided to those organizations invited to submit a full application.

## **Key Proposal Components**

### **Data**

The 2026-27 competitive grant cycle will focus on using data to inform innovative, collaborative efforts and implement scientifically supported, evidence-based, and/or evidence-informed strategies that will improve the health and wellbeing of Morgan County residents. A strong proposal will include data showing the need for your project/initiative. The [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#) provide a comprehensive source of data on health, comparing counties across the U.S. and within each state, highlighting the influence of social, economic, and environmental factors on health outcomes. It also offers guidance and resources for communities to address these factors and improve health equity.

### **Evidence-based Strategies**

Evidence-based health or public health methods and interventions are practices, procedures, programs, or policies that have been proven effective. The effects are clearly linked to the activities themselves, not to outside, unrelated events.

The Kendrick Foundation will select proposals that include scientifically supported, evidence-based, and/or evidence-informed strategies from credible sources such as the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps [What Works for Health](#), the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) [Community Guide](#) and/or [fact sheets](#), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Healthy People 2030](#), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Evidence-based Practices Resource Center](#), etc.

As the County Health Rankings provide a starting point for change, the [Roadmaps](#) provide guidance and tools to understand the data, and strategies that communities can use to move from education to action. [What Works for Health](#) is a database of more than 400 evidence-informed strategies to support local change makers as they take steps toward expanding health opportunities. Each strategy is rated for its evidence of effectiveness and likely impact on health disparities.

## SDOH

### Social Determinants of Health



[SDOH](#) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH can be grouped into five domains: [Economic Stability](#), [Education Access and Quality](#), [Health Care Access and Quality](#), [Neighborhood and Built Environment](#), and [Social and Community Context](#).

A strong proposal will include the SDOH that your project/initiative will target or work toward improving, how you plan to improve the condition, as well as how improving this condition will impact the health of Morgan County residents.

### Eligibility

Non-profit organizations impacting Morgan County are eligible to apply. We do fund organizations whose headquarters are located outside of the county, but only if those served by the proposed project/initiative reside within Morgan County. Only 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and organizations that are exempt from filing for a 501(c)(3) status (units of government, school corporations, and religious organizations) are eligible. Organizations may submit multiple applications for different projects/initiatives.

### **What the Kendrick Foundation Does Not Fund**

- Individuals: Individuals wishing to apply must do so with the cooperation of a non-profit organization, and the organization must submit the application.
- Organizations with outstanding grant reports due to the Kendrick Foundation
- Programs normally fully funded by local units of government
- Programs that do not serve Morgan County residents
- Projects to build or fund an endowment
- Religious activities or programs that serve or appear to serve predominantly one denomination and not the community at large
- Political organizations or campaigns
- National and state fundraising efforts which do not directly benefit local agencies or chapters
- Programs that could be considered discriminatory
- Projects/initiatives operated by for-profit companies

### **What the Kendrick Foundation Expects from Partner Organizations**

- Visionary Funding and Grant Requests: We want to read innovative, inspired applications using evidence-informed strategies to positively impact Morgan County. We may contact applicants requesting clarification or more detailed information.
- Timeliness: Late applications will not be accepted. Recipients are expected to meet deadlines.
- Grant Agreement Adherence: Recipients must establish a grant agreement with the Kendrick Foundation. If your budget or plan changes, the grant agreement must be re-approved and amended. Any unused grant funds must be returned.

- Meeting Attendance: Throughout the year, grantees will be required to attend various trainings and meetings as part of this award.
- Thorough Reports: We expect typed reports that show exactly how grant funds were used and made a difference in the community. This includes measured outcomes and well-tracked data. Organizations will not receive any future grant funding until all prior grants are closed. Grantees will also be asked to provide photos or other media for promotional purposes.
- Feedback: As your partner, we need to know about your successes and struggles, and we always welcome your feedback.

### **What Partner Organizations Can Expect from the Kendrick Foundation**

- Ongoing Support: We want to help you deliver a strong application and make an even greater impact in Morgan County. From before the application deadline to after the final report, feel free to communicate with us. If there are other ways we can support your invaluable work, let us know.
- Feedback: We can provide feedback before organizations submit a letter of intent or full grant application. If your request is not funded, we are happy to discuss ways to strengthen future applications. We want to enhance the collective capacity of all organizations serving Morgan County.
- Visits From our Team: You can expect visits from us, as we want to see and experience your work in action.
- Equal Opportunity: The Kendrick Foundation operates without discrimination as to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, mental or physical disability, ancestry, religion, medical condition, or any other basis in accordance with federal, state, and local laws.

### **Grant Selection**

This 2026-27 competitive grant cycle is intended to provide financial support for projects/initiatives from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Compelling multi-year proposals may also be considered. Upon eligibility review by the Kendrick Foundation team, applications are reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The Board is charged with the challenging task of selecting from a pool of very compelling projects and initiatives, and thus considers the following aspects, among others, when making award decisions:

- Does the application meet the eligibility requirements? Does it impact Morgan County?
- Does the request clearly align with the established focus areas?
- Is there a clearly stated impact? Is it feasible?
- Is the request unique from other existing services or opportunities in Morgan County?
- Does the organization collaborate and cooperate with other community partners to implement evidence-informed strategies?
- Is the request proactive in addressing solutions to problems, rather than symptoms? Is the proposed project/initiative an upstream effort?
- Will the proposed project/initiative lead to policy, systems, and/or environmental change?
- Which SDOH (or conditions that contribute to health) will this initiative focus on/improve?
- Is the organization fiscally responsible and financially sustainable?
- Can the organization obtain any additional funding needed?

### **Tips for Strong Applications**

- Utilize scientifically supported, evidence-based, and/or evidence-informed strategies from County Health Rankings & Roadmaps [What Works for Health](#), the CPSTF [Community Guide](#) and/or [fact sheets](#), the HHS [Healthy People 2030](#), SAMHSA [Evidence-based Practices Resource Center](#), and/or other supported sources to address focus area(s)

- Partner with another agency or organization to leverage resources and areas of expertise
- Share existing outcomes or metrics that show your current impact and capacity for the proposed work
- Determine the administrative costs associated with adequately monitoring/evaluating effectiveness and include them in your proposal
- Clearly explain the timeline of your project/initiative and associated outcome measurement, especially if yours is a multi-year project

**Contact Information**

For questions regarding this funding opportunity and/or technical assistance needs, please contact Nikki Jo McCrady at [njmccrady@kendrickfoundation.org](mailto:njmccrady@kendrickfoundation.org).

## Organization's Letterhead

Month XX, 2026

Kendrick Foundation  
11 W. Main St.  
Mooresville, IN 46158

Regarding: Letter of Intent for 2026-27 Competitive Grant Cycle

Dear Board of Directors:

The Organization's Name intends to apply for the 2026-27 Kendrick Foundation grant to address the focus area(s) of mental health, substance use, and/or physical activity and nutrition. Our proposed project/initiative will include...[provide a high-level overview of the proposed project/initiative, priority population(s), and projected number of Morgan County residents that will be served; 3-5 sentences. If available, include data that highlights the need for the project/initiative].

We are confident in this approach as our proposed project/initiative will include implementation of the following scientifically supported/evidence-based/evidence-informed strategies:

- List strategies and cite sources of evidence for each strategy

Further, our project/initiative addresses the following social determinants of health (list all that apply):

- [Economic Stability](#)
- [Education Access and Quality](#)
- [Health Care Access and Quality](#)
- [Neighborhood and Built Environment](#)
- [Social and Community Context](#)

We plan to partner with the following organization(s) to ensure maximum impact:

- Partner Organization Name – Include a 1-2 sentence description of the organization and role in project/initiative
- Partner Organization Name – Include a 1-2 sentence description of the organization and role in project/initiative

We anticipate a total budget of \$X for this proposed project/initiative. Of this, we are requesting \$X (% of project) from the Kendrick Foundation. The remaining costs will be shared with...[include partner organization name(s) and amount of cost sharing].

Upon invitation, we look forward to sharing our full proposal with the Kendrick Foundation Board of Directors and appreciate the opportunity to work together to improve the health of Morgan County residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Name (Include electronic or wet signature above, type name here)

Title (The signatory should be the organization's President, CEO, and/or Executive Director.)