



## Grant Cycle **FUNDING**

Impact Central Illinois' funding cycle runs from July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year. In each funding year we solicit proposals, evaluate them January through May, and announce award decisions in June.

### **IMPACT GRANTS - \$300,000\*** **\$100,000 IN EACH OF THESE 3 CATEGORIES**

- Health & Community Wellbeing
- Education & Community Development
- Social Services & Basic Needs

### **INSPIRE GRANT - \$25,000\***

- Only for smaller Nonprofits

\* These are our goal amounts, but these numbers may increase or decrease as membership changes.



# GRANTS NEWSLETTER

## 2025 Grants Leadership Team



Deanne Short, Jami Truelove, Stacey DelVecchio & Kristin Zika

### **Deanne Short, FRC Chair**

Deanne is a retired economist so likes seeing the full picture of applicants from their financials to the impact of the services they provide. She has been on the Financial Review Committee since she joined ICI in 2022. She will now serve as the Financial Review Committee Chair.

### **Jami Truelove, Nonprofit Relations Chair**

Jami has joined the Impact Board as the Nonprofit Relations Chair and now manages a team of NP Liaisons who will report to her after each GRC meeting. She works in the nonprofit world herself and enjoys helping our local nonprofits apply for funding and show their vision to the women of Impact.

### **Stacey DelVecchio, Grants Chair**

Stacey is in her 5th year with ICI. She loves all things related to advocating for women and is an avid scrapbooker. She lives in Dunlap with her husband and kitty and is a retired Caterpillar engineer. She served as the GRC Advisor Chair last year and will become the Grants Chair on 1/1/25.

### **Kristin Zika, Grants Chair/Technology Chair**

Kristin first began reviewing women's collective giving grants in 2004, serving as a GRC Chair for Impact Austin, and is thankful for the way her personal philanthropic journey has been shaped by this initiative. She is honored to have served as the Grant Chair for Impact Central Illinois since 2021. Kristin's term ends December 31, 2024 when Kristin will move to be Technology Chair.

# KEY CRITERIA

## Key Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

Impact Central Illinois has the desire to support programs or projects being proposed by **highly capable** organizations addressing **measurable needs** within our community with **innovative solutions**.

### Highly Capable

- Has performed supportive background research for their proposal
- Demonstrates prior experience or capability to bring their proposal to fruition
- Defines an achievable plan of action
- Clarifies and understands any proposal partnerships
- Displays financial integrity through a clear description of their budget and an understanding of how they will proceed if their project is not fully funded

### Measurable Need

- Describes the problem or need in central Illinois with measurable statistics
- Demonstrates the risk if the proposal is not implemented now
- Defines the impact on beneficiaries and/or has involved beneficiaries in the development of the proposal
- Contains a plan to measure, monitor, & evaluate
- Envisions and articulates the benefits that go beyond the immediate proposal

### Innovative Solution

- Plays a unique role
- Takes a calculated risk tackling a large-scale problem or the root-cause of an issue facing our community
- Adapts a national/global idea for local needs
- Repurposes an older tool or methodology for a new purpose
- Introduces new capabilities to the organization
- Employs innovative or sustainable funding revenue streams to support the proposal



## Grant Review Cycle **INSIGHTS**

- We believe every woman brings valuable knowledge, insight, and life experience to our organization and we welcome every member to the grant review process, regardless of where she may be on her philanthropic journey.
- We believe every nonprofit in our community deserves our respect and recognize them as the experts in determining what type of programs or projects our community most needs.
- We believe in the value of transparency regarding how we use our Key Criteria to evaluate proposals and align each question asked to a corresponding Key Criteria.
- We believe in the value of meeting together as grant review committees. We facilitate constructive conversation within each committee prior to any decisions regarding invitations to nonprofits moving forward in the grant cycle.



## GRC SignUp

Monday, November 18th  
through  
Friday, January 3, 2025  
Watch your email for details.

## GRC Save the Date

Thursday, March 20, 2025

**Meeting #1: Proposal Reveal and Portal Training**

5:30 PM Social Time  
6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

**Meeting #2: First Proposal Review**

5:30 PM Social Time  
6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting  
Move 5-6 Proposals Forward for Review

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

**Meeting #3: Second Proposal Review**

5:30 PM Social Time  
6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting  
Select 3 for Site Visits

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

**Meeting #4: Site Visit Review**

5:30 PM Social Time  
6:00 - 8:00 PM Meeting  
Select 2 Finalists for Annual Meeting Vote

ALL GRC meetings are held at:  
**Peoria Next Innovation Center**  
801 W. Main Street, Peoria, IL



Thank you  
Peoria Next  
for your  
continued support.

# 2025 GRC Chairs & Co-Chairs

**Impact Grant**  
Health and  
Community Wellbeing



**Ronda Guyton, Chair**

Ronda is a retired Undersheriff of the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. She is living with metastatic breast cancer, is married to Graylin, and has four sons and 3 grandchildren. This is her 3rd year in Impact Central Illinois.



**Kari Burg-Braggs, Co-Chair**

Kari is the branch manager at Morgan Stanley. Her community involvement includes CASA and City of Peoria Arts Commission. She enjoys her time at the lake with friends and family. This is her 4th year being a part of GRC.

**Impact Grant**  
Education and  
Community Development



**Denise Ghere, Chair**

Denise and her husband live in Pekin and have one son in college. In her third year with ICI, she has served on the FRC and GRCs and loves how Impact brings us all together to make a difference.



**Meiosha Zobak, Co-Chair**

Meiosha is inspired by the philanthropy achieved through ICI's collective giving model, and the women that make it possible. She lives in Peoria and loves long bike rides in the spring and summer months.

**Impact Grant**  
Social Services and  
Basic Needs



**Wendy Kolbus, Chair**

Wendy is a lifelong Peorian and married with two sons. She loves the philanthropic mindset, history & people who make our area so special. She feels blessed to be part of the positive impact ICI is making on our communities.



**Melody Malcom, Co-Chair**

Melody lives in East Peoria. She is involved in her church where she teaches Sunday School. She joined ICI in 2022 and served on the INSPIRE FRC and GRC and is in her 2nd year as the Social Services GRC co-chair.

**Inspire Grant**  
For Smaller Nonprofit  
Organizations



**Brittany Parker, Chair**

Brittany is in her 4th year with ICI. She loves meeting women with a passion for their community! She enjoys living in Washington and loves to run and be outside. Her husband and 4 kids keep her life busy.



**Tina Vandermyde, Co-Chair**

This is Tina's 4th year with ICI where she's participated on GRCs for two years. Tina's served the community with her involvement in Crittenton Centers, St Jude, her HOA, and her church. She lives in Peoria with her husband their dog Dutch.

## Abbreviations

GRC: Grant Review Committee  
FRC: Finance Review Committee  
NP: Nonprofit  
ICI: Impact Central Illinois

## Nonprofit Grant Cycle Overview

**Nonprofit Info Session**

Thursday, October 10, 2024

11:00 AM to Noon

- New Grant Cycle Changes
- New Timeline
- 2024-25 Deadlines
- Portal Opens

**On-Line Portal Financial**

**Submission**

Open: October 10, 2024 through  
January 1, 2025 @ 11:59 PM EST

**FRC Review**

**January 2 - February 16, 2025**

Approved Applicants notified on  
February 17, 2025. Online proposals  
due by March 17th @ 11:59 PM EST

**GRC Reviews**

March 20 - April 15, 2025

**Semi-Finalists Announced**

April 16, 2025

**GRC Site Visits**

April 23 - 30, 2025

**Grant Finalists Notified**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

**Annual Meeting Vote & Awards**

Tuesday, June 3, 2025



Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:

