# Instructions

## FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Cycle

Annually, the Iowa Cancer Consortium’s Board of Directors invites Iowans to apply for funding to support efforts that implement pieces of the [Iowa Cancer Plan](http://www.canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan). In FY26, the organization will continue to focus on lessening the burden of cancer in all 99 counties.

For the third year in a row, Iowa has the second-highest cancer incidence rate in the US and is one of only two states where incidence rates are growing (source: Iowa Cancer Registry, [2025 Cancer in Iowa Report](https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/cancer-data/reports/iowa-cancer-reports/)). In 2025, an estimated 21,200 new, invasive cancers will be diagnosed among Iowa residents and an estimated 6,300 Iowans will die from cancer. Cancer remains the second-leading cause of death in Iowa, and each Iowan has a role in reducing the state’s cancer burden. The Iowa Cancer Plan serves as a roadmap for the work that needs to be completed.

**FY26 Funding Priority Areas:**

* Addressing cancer disparities across the cancer continuum.
* Addressing cancer prevention and/or early detection.
* Expanding successful local projects statewide in Iowa.
* Formalizing lasting and broad change in cancer control through policy and systems change within organizations, systems, and communities. (Funds may not be used for lobbying.)

**About the Iowa Cancer Consortium**

The Iowa Cancer Consortium is a statewide nonprofit coalition of over 600 health care providers, public health professionals, caregivers, researchers, cancer survivors, volunteers, and advocates working together to reduce the burden of cancer in Iowa. Through collaboration, the Consortium enhances partners’ abilities to address cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and quality of life in Iowa.

**About the Iowa Cancer Plan**

The [Iowa Cancer Plan](http://www.canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan) serves as a roadmap for cancer control efforts. Created by Consortium members and partners, the plan provides an evidence-based blueprint that anyone in Iowa can pick up and implement to reduce the burden of cancer in Iowa. The plan includes the following goals:

* Identify and eliminate cancer health disparities.
* Whenever possible, prevent cancer from occurring.
* Promote the benefits of screening tests to ensure early diagnosis.
* Reduce barriers to care, promote evidence-based practices and encourage participation in clinical trials and other forms of research.
* Ensure resources to optimize quality of life for cancer survivors and their families.

**Eligibility:**

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to be members of the Iowa Cancer Consortium. Learn more about the benefits associated with being an Iowa Cancer Consortium member [here](https://canceriowa.org/membership/). If selected for funding, project leads will be required to join. (A no-cost scholarship membership option is available for anyone who requests it.)

**Project Period:**

Project period is July 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026. *Note: this is an 11-month project period, not a full year.*

**Award Amounts:**

Applicants may apply for a maximum $25,000 per year in funding support through the Iowa Cancer Consortium. Currently, the Consortium is accepting both Single-Year and Multi-Year Applications. Multi-year applicants may request up to three years of funding in total (not to exceed $25,000 per year and $75,000 over a three-year period) and are subject to an annual renewal process. The total number and dollar amount of grant awards is dependent on funds available, and the number and scope of proposals submitted.

**Use of Grant Funds**

Grant funds may be used for staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses. Grant funds may not be used for lobbying, to replace dollars currently earmarked for cancer programs, or for clinical care (including the provision of medication, vaccinations, and/or cancer treatment). Service delivery, including radon mitigation and cancer screening, will be reviewed on an individual basis.

**A Note Regarding Audience**

The grant application should be written with an external audience in mind. That is, don’t assume that the reader/reviewer is familiar with your organization, current project(s), or previous work. Please include concise background information throughout the application that will help an external audience fully understand your project.

**A Note Regarding Collaboration**

Collaboration is central to the mission of the Iowa Cancer Consortium, and these grants are a reflection of that core value. Each project must include at least one collaborator, accompanied by a letter of support from every collaborator listed. While not an absolute rule, collaborators are generally expected to come from outside your organization or community to highlight the expanse of your planned partnerships. If your project serves a specific community, you must be able to show interest in collaboration from that community through a letter of support.

**Project Reach**

The overarching goal of the Iowa Cancer Plan is to reduce the burden of cancer in Iowa. Throughout the proposal, applicants may define ‘community’ in a variety of ways. For many, the term ‘community’ takes on some form of geography – such as a specific neighborhood, zip code or census track, city, county, region, or even statewide application. Similarly, applicants may also define their ‘community’ as a group, type of person(s), or special population. All approaches are welcome.

**Evaluation**

All applications will be reviewed and scored by external, out-of-state reviewers and the Iowa Cancer Consortium’s Board of Directors. Funding decisions are made solely by the Iowa Cancer Consortium’s Board of Directors. View the rubric on our website, at <https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp>.

**Monitoring**

The Iowa Cancer Consortium works closely with grantees to ensure they have the tools they need to be successful and to maintain stewardship of grant funds. Grantees will be required to submit two progress reports that include a short grant narrative and financial update, and one budget update. Additional details and reporting dates will be shared with funded applicants upon award acceptance.

**Additional Information about Specific Proposal Components:**

* Letter of Intent (LOI): All applicants must submit a simple letter of intent (LOI) outlining the proposed project. View an example LOI on our website: <https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp>**. Everyone who submits an LOI can submit an application, and you must submit an LOI in order to submit an application.**
* Budget: All applicants must submit a proposed budget. View a sample budget and restrictions on our website: <https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp>**.**
* Letter(s) of Support (LOS): A letter of support is required for each collaborator listed on the application. View an example LOS on our website: <https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp>**.** See: A Note Regarding Collaboration, above.

**Support through the Application Process**

Support and technical assistance for this grant opportunity are available. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Iowa Cancer Consortium staff to discuss or review their application. However, this is not a requirement and will have no effect on proposal scoring. Contact: Liz Orton, Outreach Coordinator at orton@canceriowa.org. To read about successful previously funded grants, please visit our website (<https://canceriowa.org/grants>).

**Staff Contact Information:**

* Liz Orton, Outreach Coordinator (orton@canceriowa.org)
* Kelly Wells Sittig, Executive Director (sittig@canceriowa.org)
* Kelly Rollins, Business & Financial Administrator (rollins@canceriowa.org)
* Rachel Schramm, Program Manager (schramm@canceriowa.org)

**How to Apply**

* Email a Letter of Intent (LOI) to orton@canceriowa.org by 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on April 30, 2025. Late letters of intent will not be accepted. **You must submit an LOI if you wish to apply for the grant. Anyone who submits an LOI is allowed to submit an application.**
* Carefully complete the following application. Double-check budget totals to ensure accuracy and that you’ve budgeted for an 11-month funding period, not a full year.
* Include Letters of Support from all collaborators listed on the application.
* Include resumes/CVs for each staff member if funding is requested for their time.
* If possible, compile all application documents into a single PDF (preferred, not required).
* Submit the complete application, Letters of Support, resumes/CV’s, and any other optional supporting documentation via email to orton@canceriowa.org by 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on May 14, 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Key Dates:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| March 28, 2025 | Invitation for Proposals (IFP) Release |
| April 7, 2025 | IFP Applicant Webinar ([Register](https://iowacancerconsortium.wildapricot.org/event-6132204))Recording will be available afterwards  |
| April 30, 2025 | Letter of Intent (LOI) Due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| May 14, 2025 | IFP Applications Due @ 11:59 p.m. |
| June 25, 2025 | Award Notification (tentative) |
| July 1, 2025 | Project Period Starts |
| May 31, 2026 | Project Period Ends |