



**Emergent Needs**  
**Request for Proposals**  
 April 6, 2026

**Overview:**

The Schenectady Foundation is seeking applicants for its Emergent Needs grant program. We anticipate committing up to **\$270,000** in this round of funding.

**Impact Statements:** Emergent Needs is one of three competitive grant processes the Foundation will offer in 2026. The others are Equitable Access to Healthy and Neighborhood Revitalization. The Foundation has crafted long-range impact statements capturing its desired outcome for our community for each of these processes.

Applicants interested in applying for funding under the *Emergent Needs Process* must demonstrate how their proposed project will contribute toward the impact statement:

*Schenectady County residents are supported by projects that are responsive to new or emergent needs.*

**The Grant Process:** The Foundation uses a **two-step online grant process**. The first required submission is a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) through our grants portal. This provides an overview of the proposed project and its associated outcomes. Upon approval of an LOI, applicants will be given access to the full grant application. Please review our [Eligibility](#) and [Decision Criteria](#) documents and visit our [Grants](#) page of our website to learn more about our process.

**Important dates:** Here are several dates applicants should keep in mind:

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	The LOI process will be available online to all prospective applicants
April 10 <sup>th</sup> @ 9 am	Letters of Inquiry orientation session via Zoom. <a href="#">RSVP HERE</a>
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final submission date for Letters of Inquiry.
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Applicants notified if they have been selected for Grant application stage.
May 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 9 am	Grant application orientation session via Zoom.
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Grant applications are due.
6/15 – 6/18	Grant applicant meetings with Foundation staff and board
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Grant decisions are shared with applicants

**Optional Grant Application Questions:** You are not required to respond to the following but, should you do a good job in using these questions to better explain the problem you are addressing, it can potentially improve your likelihood of earning a grant.

**Mental Models**

Often a picture says more than a long narrative. And so one of our optional questions is to provide a mental model of the issue your proposal is addressing. We will provide samples for you should you wish to submit a mental model, e.g. the Iceberg model.

**Theory of Change**

If you have a Theory of Change, or Logic Model, for the proposed project, you may use that as another optional upload.

**Questions?**

Still need help? Contact Sofia Pawlusik at [spawlusik@schenectadyfoundation.org](mailto:spawlusik@schenectadyfoundation.org) or call 518-393-9500.