

COMMUNITY DISASTER RELIEF

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Effective: April 2025

The Community Disaster Relief Grant Program is designed to support recovery efforts following severe weather events that impact communities within Norfolk Southern's 22-state network. Grants are awarded for specific recovery-related projects, not for general operating support. Amounts are determined based on the severity of the event and the community's recovery needs. The application period typically remains open for three to six weeks but will vary depending on ongoing recovery efforts and the nature of the disaster.

To be eligible, an organization must meet the below criteria:

- Qualifies as a tax-exempt public 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as listed in the IRS Master File
- Located within 30 minutes of NS network (Note: Organizations closest to our network will receive priority during review).
- Impacted by a recent storm

Applications must include the following:

- A valid Federal W9 Form (rev. March 2024)
- A valid 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS
- A valid contact email address & phone number for questions regarding grant
- If applying as a 501(c)(3):
 - Short overview of the organization (major achievements, recent accomplishments, impact, and major donors)
 - Board of Directors listing
 - Latest IRS 990 filings
 - Budget for program or proposed project
 - Full year operating budget

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Organizations not in the NS territory
- Organizations requesting general operating support (i.e., funding requests for salaries, overhead, rent or utility expenses)
- Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) public charity status
- Organizations that have a written policy or a history of discrimination against individuals because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status
- Individuals or organizations established to help individuals
- Religious affiliated organizations that do not support the community at large or discriminate based on religion type
- Fraternal organizations
- Political or lobbying organizations
- Fundraising events, telethons, races, or benefits
- Amateur, civic, or professional sports or athletic organizations, clubs, or activities
- Organizations whose programs have an international and/or national scope
- Civic leagues or Chambers of Commerce
- Referral or consulting agencies and organizations