



**Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services**  
**Operation Round-Up Program**  
2501 E. Main Street PO Box 611  
Albert Lea MN 56007  
507-373-6421 · 1-800-734-6421  
Fax: 507-369-0259

## **PURPOSE**

The Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services (FMCS) Trust will be funded by Operation Round-Up contributions from participating members of FMCS. The contributions will be used to fund local charitable and educational organizations in Freeborn & Mower Counties. This program gives back to the community – one of the seven cooperative principles.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Requests must be for charitable, educational or non-profit organizations only.
- Non-profit organizations that serve communities located within Freeborn & Mower Counties.
- One application per project or event accepted each year.
- Charitable status or 501 ( c ) (#) organizations.
- Application must be received or post-marked by the deadline date and be for a project or event in the future (will not grant projects in the past).

## **GRANT LIMITS**

- \$500 per school for After-Prom and/or After-Graduation Events.
- \$500 for Booster Clubs – Athletic/School
- \$500 annually per project/event for an organization.
- \$2,000 annually for volunteer fire departments or first responder units serving the areas within Freeborn & Mower Counties.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Completed application form submitted before deadline.
- Non-profit organization in Freeborn and/or Mower County.
- If funds are requested to purchase a new item or for a repair, please include two (2) bids for the item or work. At least one bid should be from a vendor or supplier within the FMCS territory.
- Documentation of purchase or verification of receipt of the grant dollars.

## **EVALUATION FACTORS**

- Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community.
- Geographic area served.

## **EXAMPLES OF ALLOWED EVENTS/PROJECTS (but not limited to):**

- Education, art, music or theatrical programs at public or private schools, or provided through community organizations.
- Public library programs or improvements.
- Leadership or business clubs or events sponsored by a school or community organization.
- Teen, community or recreation center improvements & events.
- Equipment for athletic teams that remains relatively fixed in place, such as; soccer goals, basketball backboards, scoreboards, swimming pool equipment, etc.
- Clearly defined youth programs including 4H & FFA.
- After-Prom Events and After-Graduation Events

## **NOT ALLOWED EVENTS/PROJECTS:**

*Please do not apply for any of the following*

- General operating, tax or payroll expenses.
- Individual or group registration fees (field trips, camp, etc.). Scholarship programs or individual scholarships.
- Political causes or lobbying.
- Advertising
- Projects of religious denominations, unless the expenditure is directed to the benefit of the community at large (all youth, all elderly, etc.) and is not limited or offered primarily to members of that denomination.
- Repairs and improvements to private property or that of religious denominations.
- Organizations or programs outside of FMCS service territory, unless a direct benefit is provided to a significant number of FMCS members.
- Uniforms, personal athletic equipment, or general sponsorship for little leagues, traveling teams and youth clubs, etc.
- Specific community foundations, unless the application designates a specific project.

Each application will be considered on a quarterly basis.

Inquiries may be made to [dschroeder@fmcs.coop](mailto:dschroeder@fmcs.coop)

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Grants are awarded quarterly.

**Deadlines to apply are: March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. \***

Trustee meetings are held the beginning of April, July, October and January. Projects completed prior to trustee meetings may not be funded.

Please apply early for best consideration.

**\* Funds are disbursed approximately one month after each deadline.**

2501 E. Main Street PO Box 611  
Albert Lea MN 56007  
507-379-8841 · 1-800-734-6421  
F: 507-369-0259



**Applicant Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Check will be made out to applicant organization name and mailed to this address below)*

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount of Project/Event: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of People Benefiting From This Project/Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Only non-profit | charitable organizations will be considered for funding. Please include 501 c (#) form. Failure to do so, may disqualify application.**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Name of Project/Event:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Funds will be used for:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How Project/Event Benefits Community:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization History:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization mission & goals:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project/Event Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Revenue Sources:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Completed Form To:**  
Dawn Schroeder  
Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services  
2501 Main Street E | PO Box 611  
Albert Lea MN 56007  
[dschroeder@fmcs.coop](mailto:dschroeder@fmcs.coop)

*If organization applying is a school, application must be signed by the principal of the school.*

I will \_\_\_\_\_ I will not \_\_\_\_\_ allow a photo with my name & organization to appear in FMCS publications | Social Media.