

Hands for Larger Service Awards Application Details

Nebraska 4-H Foundation's Hands for Larger Service Awards (formerly known as the Governor's Ag Excellence Awards) sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) is a prestigious award designed to recognize 4-H clubs for their efforts to serve their communities. This grant is intended to provide funding for 4-H Clubs to complete projects that will have a lasting impact on their communities. Projects should be intentional and impactful, growing club members as leaders and fulfilling a need in their community. Recognition is in the form of a \$500 grant issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. Examples of fundable programs include mentorship programs, intergenerational programs, attending educational experiences, hosting workshops/educational events and service-learning opportunities.

Projects should fit within at least one of four program areas: College and career readiness, health and wellness, STEM, and ag and food systems. Projects should strengthen the educational experience of the county and/or state's 4-H youth and adult volunteers.

Priority consideration will be given to clubs who integrate community engagement and educational components into their projects while furthering the mission of Nebraska 4-H to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Consider avenues to address youth issues within your communities while promoting positive youth development and being an advocate for 4-H. Projects should have a potential for increasing life skills, reaching expanded youth audiences (at-risk, low income, diverse, disabled, etc.) and increasing new audiences in ongoing 4-H programming.

Applications must include:

- Description of the project/activity to be completed. Including content area of focus and why it is important to your club and community. Define any youth concerns in your community that will be addressed by this proposal (use statistics, numbers, how do you know it is an issue etc.):
- Goals and anticipated outcomes of the project. Describe actions to be taken to achieve goals and/or objectives. Include an estimated number of people who will be impacted as a result of the project.
- How do you anticipate the community benefiting from the completion of this project? What is the impact/change on your community?
- How will this project grow club members as leaders and develop their skills?
- What is the timeline (start to finish) of this project to be completed?
- Provide an itemized, anticipated budget for the entire project.
- Identify one additional community resource you can connect with to assist with the project (speakers, additional youth, materials).
- Evaluation: How will you know your project had an impact?
- A written letter of support from your county 4-H personnel.
- Include:
 - Club name,
 - county,
 - contact information (adult and youth; email, phone, address)
 - Number of club members

- Have you ever received a Hands for Larger Service/Gov. Ag grant previously? What year?

At the conclusion of the project, please submit a report to the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. All reports due October 31. The report should include:

- Club name and county
- Club members names
- Narrative of the project. Include how goals and outcomes were achieved.
- What did club members learn? Specific skills developed/gained.
- What was the community impact? How did your community change or grow as a result of the project? Number of people impacted? How did you assess the impact or what tools did you use to evaluate your impact.
- How were you an advocate for 4-H, help carry on the 4-H mission.
- Did you utilize any additional community resources to complete your project?
- Please include photos of the project
- Signature from the club's county 4-H educator

Guidelines:

1. All grants must be turned in on time. Any grants submitted after the date listed, will not be considered.
2. Items that assist in maintaining a previous project or exhibition of the project will be considered.
3. Grants are not to be used for purchasing awards, parade materials, booth decorations, project books, project supplies or items that would be used in 4-H or fair competition.
4. Generally, snacks for refreshments, give-away items, e.g. t-shirts, etc. and building rental are not approved expenditures. Monies cannot be used for capital equipment or hardware (defined as items and material with a life expectancy of greater than five years) or building drives.
5. We ask that items to be purchased are such that can be used by future members and passed on and not one time use items. If a member or leader choses to discontinue the project(s), please find another member to pass the item on to for continued use. Items purchased shall remain with the club or turned over to your County Extension office.
6. Please be creative and thoughtful when answering the questions giving as much information for the committee to evaluate.
7. Clubs who have previously received an award but have not submitted a report at the conclusion of the project will not be considered for future awards.
8. Not all grants will be funded. Please include, if applicable, other funding opportunities available.

In order to be considered for the award, applications must be completed/submitted by **May 15**. Please direct any questions to Lindsay Shearer by email lshearer2@unl.edu or by calling 402.472.9019.