

Rooted Together Q&A 2026

Phase 1-Letter of Intent (LOI)

Q: If we applied last year with a similar project, are you prepared to review revised LOIs fairly, or will reviewers feel like they're reading the same application again?

A: Yes, the review panel is prepared for returning applicants. The LOI questions have been revised for 2026 with clearer language about what reviewers are looking for, giving applicants an opportunity to better demonstrate how their proposal aligns with the program's priorities. Revised applications should read differently because both the application questions and evaluation criteria have evolved.

Q: What does "bold" and "visionary" mean? What kind of projects are you looking for?

A: The Foundation is looking for projects with the potential to create meaningful, long-term change in a neighborhood or community. Strong proposals are community-led, require significant collaboration and investment over time, respond directly to community priorities, and have the potential to transform the place rather than simply expand existing services. Innovative approaches and sustainable solutions that are not already being provided by government or other entities are encouraged.

Q: For rural communities, what qualifies as a "neighborhood" or place-based project? Could a Pueblo qualify?

A: The Foundation recognizes that geographic boundaries in rural communities are often broader and less defined than in urban areas. A Pueblo or similarly connected community can qualify as a place-based community if it demonstrates strong community leadership and a shared vision for change. While an entire county may be too broad, rural place-based projects are evaluated with an understanding of the unique characteristics of rural communities.

Q: Are there limitations on how grant funds can be used? Can they be used for capital expenses or capital campaigns?

A: Grant funds may be used for capital expenses, but capital campaigns alone are generally not what reviewers are seeking. Successful proposals should clearly demonstrate how the investment advances a community-led, place-based strategy and contributes to broader neighborhood transformation. Simply expanding facilities or services without a strong connection to community impact is unlikely to be competitive.

Q: Is the previous awardee's application available to review?

A: No, the recipient's application is not publicly available. However, information about the first Rooted Together recipient is available on the [Rooted Together webpage](#).