CITY OF LA CROSSE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Please note that previous funding amounts are not a guarantee for continued support and any funding amount may be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, performance, available City funds, and collaborating efforts by your organization with similar organizations.

Contact Information

Organization
Hmong Cultural and Community Center - HCCC (fka Hmoob Cultural and Community Agency- HCCA)

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Name of contact person
Mai Tia Yang

Proposal Summary

Project Name
Strength in Community - empowering community and creating change

Total amount of City funds your agency is requesting
$40,000.00

Will any new jobs be created as a result of the project?
○ Yes ◉ No

If so, how many?

What benefit has your organization provided to the La Crosse community, and specifically to the City, in 2024?
The Hmong Cultural and Community Center services a diverse community, including youth, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities, through its programs and services. Many of these families are low-income and rely on public assistance. The Center is also the only organization in La Crosse County offering traditional memorial services, which are a vital part of the Hmong funeral customs. In addition, the organization provides essential translation and interpreting services and assists with completing applications for citizenship, passports, social security, and public assistance.

Last year, our annual Hmong New Year event attracted between 10,000 and 15,000 visitors from outside La Crosse over the span of 2-3 days. This event created over 600 hotel rooms for one weekend.

HCCC also collaborate with the School District of La Crosse for over 15 years to teach Hmong History to all 4th graders as part of the social studies curriculum. For the last two years, HCCC was able to expand this program to other school districts in the Coulee Region.

The Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC) also serves as a voting site for two districts, further contributing to the community by providing accessible voting opportunities for local residents.

The center is the only place in La Crosse County that offers traditional memorial services to the Hmong community, which is an essential part of Hmong funeral traditions. These services provide culturally specific and highly valued support to grieving families, ensuring the preservation of cultural practices and providing the community with a safe space to grieve and honor their loved ones.

What does your organization have planned for the remainder of 2024 (that is of benefit to La Crosse, and specifically the City)?

HCCC continues to look for options to expand program to meet the needs of other members. Currently, all programs are housed at the center with participants from Holmen and Galevsille. HCCC would like to expand programs to Holmen and Onalaska.

What does your organization plan to accomplish with the help of City funding in 2025?

With the help of City funding in 2025, the Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC) plans to accomplish several key initiatives that will significantly benefit the broader La Crosse community. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing services, expanding outreach, and fostering deeper community engagement.

With City funding, HCCC plans to offer more educational programs and cultural events that highlight Hmong traditions, arts, and heritage. These programs will foster greater cultural understanding and promote inclusivity within La Crosse. HCCC also plans to continue with current programs to help with wellness and mental health in the community.

The continue trust and support from the City As a voting site for two districts, Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC) recognizes that handicap accessibility is crucial to ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities, can participate in the voting process with dignity and confidence. Currently, a bell is available for assistance, but we believe that having handicap accessible doors will provide even greater independence and remove any potential barriers to voting. With city funding, HCCC would like to update doors for handicap accessible. This project is estimated to be $10,000.

Organization Details

Legal status of organization
Private, Non-Profit

Federal Tax Identification Number
980835587

What was your organization's total operating budget for the past year?
$210,000.00

Has your organization received City funds in the past?
◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how much has your organization received and how many years has your organization participated in the program?
17,500 to help offset operating costs for voters.

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Organization Structure

Attach the following documents (check off as you upload each file below)

- ☑ Concise organization chart showing your agency's major administrative structure
- ☑ Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- ☑ List of Board of Directors
- ☑ Current agency budget
- ☑ Current project activity budget if currently funded
- ☑ Other financial forms: Form 990, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, et al.

File Upload

Organizational chart.docx	95.9KB
HCCABYLAWS, 2022 (7).pdf	299.73KB
Elders and clan reps.docx	96.08KB
StatementofFinancialPosition.pdf	37.39KB
HCCC 2025 Final Budget.pdf	400.64KB
Capacity Grant 2025.pdf	44.54KB

What is your agency's primary funding source(s)?
Members' fees and fund raising

What percent of your anticipated total project budget does this City request represent?
10%

What other source(s) of funds could your organization pursue? Does your organization receive similar funding from other municipalities?
HCCC plans to pursue grants from State and Federal level along with Corporate sponsorships from local businesses and corporations to fund specific events like the Hmong New Year or programs that have a measurable economic impact on the community. Partnerships with companies that value diversity, inclusion, and community support may also help fund some of our programs.

Proposal Details

Provide an overview of the program (this pertains only to the activity for which you are seeking funds).

Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC) recognizes that cultural preservation is crucial to maintaining and celebrating the rich heritage of the Hmong community, both within La Crosse and beyond. This project is designed to protect, promote, and honor Hmong culture by ensuring that future generations maintain a strong connection to their roots, language, traditions, and customs. At the same time, the initiative will foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation within the broader community.

HCCC's commitment to cultural preservation is demonstrated through a variety of ongoing programs aimed at engaging all age groups and strengthening cultural pride. These programs include:

Hmong Education Project focuses on educational initiatives that promote language learning, academic success, and cultural awareness which . It ensures younger generations stay connected to their heritage while providing them with the academic tools they need to thrive.

Niam Tsev Koom Siab (Mother's Unity) – Hmong Women Line Dance Program brings together Hmong women to learn and celebrate traditional dance as part of their cultural identity. It offers an opportunity for bonding, empowerment, and the transmission of cultural values to the next generation.

Youth Cultural Dance program encourages Hmong youth to participate in traditional cultural dance. Through this, the younger generation learns the significance of dance in Hmong culture and the stories it tells, all while developing a sense of pride in their heritage.

HCCC's cultural class offer hands-on learning experiences where participants can explore Hmong language, arts, crafts, history, and traditional practices. The aim is to educate community members of all ages about their cultural roots and preserve vital traditions for future generations.

Together, these programs play a pivotal role in sustaining the cultural legacy of the Hmong community in La Crosse. Through language, dance, and cultural classes, HCCC ensures that Hmong traditions remain alive, vibrant, and passed down from generation to generation, while also fostering greater understanding and respect among the broader community.

By continuing to invest in and expand these cultural preservation initiatives, HCCC plays a critical role in strengthening the cultural fabric of the Hmong community and promoting cross-cultural exchange in La Crosse.

Specifically state how the requested funds will be used.

The requested funds for the Cultural Preservation Initiative will be used to support and expand the current programs at the Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC), ensuring their sustainability and increasing their impact on the community.

Funds will be used to hire qualified instructors for the Hmong Education Project, Niam Tsev Koom Siab (Mother's Unity) line dance program, youth cultural dance program, and cultural classes. This will ensure that each program is led by experienced, culturally knowledgeable individuals who can effectively engage the community and teach essential cultural practices. Funding will be used to acquire educational materials for the cultural classes, such as Hmong language books, instructional tools, and dance costumes to prevent avoid anyone participant from financial hardship.

State the specific local needs and problems that your proposal intends to address.

By supporting these initiatives, the requested funds will help preserve, promote, and celebrate Hmong culture for current and future generations, while also fostering understanding and respect for Hmong traditions in the broader La Crosse community.

The more we educate the community of our cultural differences and the important of our identity, the less racism the community is face with.

Identify the project target population your proposed program or activity will serve. Include unique characteristics such as: ethnicity/race, age, disability, income level.

The Cultural Preservation Initiative at HCCC will serve a diverse and dynamic population, including youth, adults, and seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families. The initiative aims to empower the community by preserving or learning about cultural heritage, promoting cross-generational learning, and ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their background—can actively engage in and contribute to the community.

Describe methods used to measure success in achieving objectives and specifically meeting needs of the target population.

The Cultural Preservation Initiative will be evaluated through a combination of quantitative data (e.g., attendance, survey results, proficiency assessments) and qualitative data (e.g., interviews, feedback, and community engagement). These methods will help measure the program's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the target population, empowering participants, and achieving long-term cultural preservation goals. By consistently gathering feedback, tracking progress, and adjusting the program to the community's evolving needs, HCCC will ensure that the Cultural Preservation Initiative continues to benefit the community and fosters cross-cultural understanding in La Crosse.

If more than one agency within the La Crosse area deals with similar problems or clients that you have identified, describe how your agency coordinates tasks and responsibility with these other agencies and how duplication of services will be avoided.

The Hmong Cultural and Community Center (HCCC) works closely with several other agencies within the La Crosse area that address similar community needs, including social services, cultural organizations, and educational institutions. To avoid duplication of services and ensure effective use of resources such as referral services, collaborates with schools for volunteers and training.