



ROUTE 66 EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE & GUIDELINES

Purpose:

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is holding a “Party with a Purpose” to celebrate the upcoming Route 66 Centennial. The Road Ahead’s goal is to help the 5+ million people who live and work along Route 66, by focusing on preservation, promotion, research/education, and economic development projects that benefit Route 66. The Road Ahead is raising funds in a variety of ways for a *Centennial Visionary Fund*, which will be used to support its projects. The Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant program specifically seeks to help Route 66 businesses and attractions owned and/or operated by a woman or a group of women.

Grant Funds:

The Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program is funded by the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Initiative, launched in December 2020. [See: <https://100extraordinarywomen.com/route-66-extraordinary-women-initiative>]. In these times of COVID, when businesses are struggling, this Initiative is asking women to help other women along Route 66. The Initiative’s intent is to distribute grant funds on as timely a basis as possible. Accordingly, the Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program is now accepting applications to be funded from an initial pool of \$10,000. The maximum grant request per this round of the program is \$2,500. There is no minimum request amount. As more funds are raised, additional grant rounds will be scheduled. Grant application submitted may be for either nonconstruction or construction related projects.

Eligibility:

Grant applications to the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program may be submitted by businesses and attractions directly located on an alignment of Route 66, that fall into one of the following categories:

- For-profit businesses owned and/or operated by a woman or a group of women
- For-profit attractions owned and/or operated by a woman or a group of women
- Not-for-profit attractions [such as museums] owned and/or operated by a woman or a group of women
- Independent, small businesses that travel the road, serving businesses/attractions along Route 66, including, for example: small tour operators, suppliers with Route 66 as their sales region, food trucks, etc.

Deadlines:

- Grant Application must be received via mail, email, or online application by midnight [Central Time] April 30, 2021
- Grant Awards will be announced by May 14, 2021
- Grant funds will be distributed by May 28, 2021
- Final Reports are due within 90 days of completion of a project

Review Criteria:

2021 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Projects will be reviewed per the following criteria. Projects that:

- Help keep a woman owned/operated Route 66 Business/Attraction in operation.
- Help a woman owned/operated Route 66 Business/Attraction reopen.
- Help preserve, restore and/or expand a woman owned/operated Route 66 Business/Attraction, per Secretary of the Interior Standards [<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm>].
- Help a new, woman owned/operated Route 66 Business/Attraction open.

Preferences:

Preference in awarding grants will be given to projects that:

- Provide or obtain matching funds for their project. [Matching funds, however, are not required for a project to be considered for a grant award.]
- Contribute their own funding to help with the project.
- Are woman owned/operated small Businesses/Attractions, that reflect the spirit of Route 66.
- Are likely to have a positive impact on the local community.
- Are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or located in a District listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or is a property deemed eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Help ensure - based on applications actually received - at least one grant is awarded in each of the Route 66 states.

General Conditions:

- Registered not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status must provide their IRS letter of determination.
- All grant application materials submitted become the property of the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program. Grant applications will not be returned.
- The Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Review Committee may request additional information to assist in its evaluation of an application.
- The Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Review Committee reserves the right to reject any and all applications, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time, in its sole discretion.
- There is no guarantee that any particular Business/Attraction will receive funding. Applicants who submit qualified applications, but do not receive funding - due to insufficient funding or lower review scores compared to other applications – may submit applications to future rounds of the Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program.
- Grant funds awarded cannot be used in support of any political campaign, election activities, or other political activity.
- If there are significant changes to a Business/Attraction's structure or personnel during the grant period, the grant applicant shall bring this to the attention of the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Review Committee.
- Grantees are responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and for maintaining supporting documents that provide full and complete disclosure of the use of grant funds, should such records be requested with a project's Final Report. The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion [creed], gender, gender expression, age, national origin [ancestry], disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations. Decisions regarding grant awards are based on guidelines that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- In most instances, grant funds to individuals are counted as taxable income on the recipient's federal tax return. Please contact your accountant if you have questions.
- Privacy: Information provided through the application process is the responsibility of each applicant. Applications submitted to Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program remain confidential to the general public and any fellow applicants. Applicants will not hold the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership's officers, employees, and/or agents liable for any losses, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind relating to the use or the adequacy, accuracy, or completeness of any information submitted via the application process.
- Conflict of Interest: Current directors, officers, employees and contractors of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership, EW Micro-Grant Review Committee, and such individuals' family members (spouse, parents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and spouses of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) are not eligible to receive an award.
- Publicity: If awarded, please be advised that the business/attraction's application information, name, statements, and other information provided during the application process may be used for promotional purposes in all forms and media and the business/attraction may be contacted by the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership for such purposes. Applications to the Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program entails a perpetual license to use such information without additional compensation (except where prohibited by law), and without any right to review and/or approve such content. Until notified, applicants must agree not to share any status as a grant recipient publicly, including but not limited to all social media platforms, news media, or local publications.