

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

With every swipe of a Local Heroes co-branded Gesa Visa® Debit Card, Gesa members earn funds designated for grants in that card's Local Heroes category (Firefighters, Healthcare Heroes, Law Enforcement, Educators, and Veterans). The Gesa Local Heroes Grants Program awards these funds to eligible organizations across the state that support Local Heroes in regions where Gesa is active. Applications are accepted annually in June for awards ranging up to \$50,000. The funding amounts each year are dependent on the total funds raised the prior year through the Local Heroes co-branded Gesa Visa Debit Cards. Gesa's Grant Giving Committee reserves the right to partially fund grant applications. Grants are awarded annually in mid-September.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a Local Heroes grant, an organization must provide proof that the requested project funds will support a Local Heroes population (Firefighters, Healthcare Workers, Law Enforcement, Educators, and Veterans) in a Gesa community. A Gesa community is defined as a county where Gesa has a physical location. Currently, these include the following counties:

- Benton
- Chelan
- Clark
- Franklin
- Grant
- King
- Kitsap
- Kootenai
- Pierce
- Spokane
- Walla Walla
- Yakima

Grants will not be awarded for the following:

- Activities, groups, or events not in a Gesa Community;
- Administrative expenses or expenses such as conference and travel;
- Projects whose primary purpose is religious or political;
- Organizations where funds would be used for the purpose of building assets or capital;
- Sponsorship requests that benefit or fund a single individual's participation in an event or activity;

APPLICATION DETAILS

- The 2022 application period opens June 20 and closes July 31. All applicants, whether selected or not, will be notified of decisions by September 15.
- The number of awards varies each year depending on the availability of funding and the amount of each request. Applications may be partially funded at the discretion of Gesa's Grant Giving Committee.
- Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria: thorough, complete application; connection to Local Heroes population(s); established need for funding; and anticipated impact.
- Grant recipients may be asked to submit photos (as applicable) and a narrative report within one year of receiving the funds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the eligible Local Hero populations?

Gesa Credit Union's Local Heroes Affinity Debit Cards recognize Firefighters, Healthcare Workers, Law Enforcement, Educators, and Veterans.

What types of programs does the Local Heroes Grant Program fund?

The Local Heroes Affinity Debit Cards fund programs, projects, and initiatives that support Local Heroes populations identified by Gesa: Firefighters, Healthcare Workers, Law Enforcement, Educators, and Veterans. This might include equipment, training, or program support for fire departments, healthcare facilities, police departments, schools, and organizations that work with firefighters, healthcare, law enforcement, educators, and veterans.

Where does the funding come from?

Every time a Gesa member swipes their Local Heroes Affinity Debit Card, Gesa makes a donation to the fund for that card's Local Heroes category. Funds accumulate over the course of a year and are disbursed annually. Total amounts given are dependent on debit card usage, so some Local Heroes categories may have more available funds than others.

How does Gesa decide which grants to fund?

The Grant Giving Committee is made up of Gesa team members and community members who work together to evaluate every grant request annually. We use the following criteria as guidelines for our decision-making: connection to a Local Heroes population, financial need, and anticipated impact.

When will I know if my organization was selected for a grant?

All applicants will be notified via email no later than September 15, 2022, of their grant status.

What is the application timeline?

Applications are accepted annually starting in June with decisions finalized by September of each year.

My grant wasn't funded. Can I apply again?

Yes! Eligible organizations can apply annually whether you are awarded funding or not.

I received a grant from Gesa in 2021, can I apply again?

Yes! Eligible organizations can apply annually whether you are awarded funding or not.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

You can inquire about your grant status and request information by emailing localheroes@gesa.com.