

2026

250th Celebration Event Application





Event Overview

What is the 250th Celebration Event Application

The America 250 Celebration Activity Application is used by organizations within Winnebago County to propose a project, program, or event that meaningfully incorporates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Selected proposals may receive funding support to help ensure successful planning and implementation.

Why is the 250th Celebration important?

The 250th anniversary of America's founding offers a unique opportunity for local organizations to reflect on our shared history—acknowledging both celebrated moments and stories that have been overlooked or unheard. Through arts, culture, education, and community gatherings, this initiative invites residents to explore the nation's evolving ideals, diverse perspectives, and local connections to the American story.

Goals of the America 250 Celebration Activities

Funded activities should support one or more of the following goals:

- Promote local commemorations of America's 250th anniversary
- Uplift local stories, people, and places that reflect community history and identity
- Recognize service, including civic, military, cultural, or community service
- Inspire youth engagement through education, creativity, and participation

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Eligible applicants include cultural organizations, neighborhood organizations, libraries, schools, and nonprofit entities
- For-profit businesses are not eligible
- Activities must:
 - Take place in 2026
 - Be open, inclusive, and welcoming to the public

Program Framework & Activity Guidelines

This program is intended to support new activities or enhancements to existing activities that incorporate the theme of America 250.

Eligible Activity Types (examples):

- Educational programs or workshops
- Public events or celebrations
- Classes, lectures, or panel discussions
- Performances (music, theater, spoken word, etc.)
- Exhibits or installations
- Community parties, picnics, or festivals

Examples of possible activities include:

- A museum or library exhibit inviting children or residents to share what America means to them
- A neighborhood picnic or block-level celebration highlighting local history
- A youth-led arts project exploring untold community stories
- A lecture or performance examining historical or contemporary civic themes

Additional Guidelines:

- Free admission is strongly encouraged, though ticketed events are allowed
- Collaborations and partnerships between organizations, neighborhoods, or wards are encouraged
- Funding amounts: up to \$2,500 per activity
- Preference will be given to scheduling that avoids overlap with other city-supported America 250 events
- Each application must designate a Responsible Party (lead organizer) and demonstrate the ability to receive and manage funds (e.g., nonprofit status or bank account)

Compliance & Restrictions

- Funded activities may not promote political or partisan positions or religious beliefs
- Funded activities will still need to go through proper permitting process if needed



GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTIRE APPLICATION AND TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

Name of Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

Date(s) of Event: _____ Hours of Event: _____

Is this a New Event Existing Event If existing, how many years? _____

How will this funding help, expand, or improve your event? _____

Amount of funding requested \$ _____

Name of Sponsoring Organization:

Event Coordinator Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is this event free to attend ; or ticketed If there is a fee, what is the cost? _____

Intended age groups: _____ Anticipated # of: Participants: _____ Staff/Volunteers: _____

Do you intend to involve community partners and/or any local businesses? (*if so, please list*):

What is the estimated cost for this event, and what ways will the funding be spent?

If this event creates a profit, what is the intended use of those funds?

Describe your event, and how this event achieves this program's goals (please reference *framework section* on page 2)



Budget Analysis

Example

\$900 - Traffic Control/Road Closures

\$500 - Per food truck/vendor

\$800 - 2-20'x40' tents/canopies

\$500 - 1-day Special Event Insurance Policy

\$250 - Misc. permits (electrical, tent, banner)

\$500 - Table/chair rental

\$500 - Marketing/Promotion

\$3,950 Total

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ - _____

\$ _____ **Total**