
Title	1004	03/30/2026
	by Sean Gifford in T-Mobile Hometown Grant Application Q1 2026 (January 5 - March 31, 2026)	id. 53674237
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Original Submission 03/30/2026

Score n/a

T-Mobile Hometown Grants is a \$25 million, five-year initiative to support the people and organizations who help small rural towns across America thrive and grow. In this grant cycle, up to 25 applicants will be selected to receive a Hometown Grant. Apply for funding to support a community project of your choice, like revitalizing or repurposing a historic structure, creating a downtown asset or destination, or improving a space where friends and neighbors gather. Projects that add to a sense of place or could lead to further investment are of particular interest. We look forward to learning more about your town and your project. T-Mobile's Hometown Grants program is entering its final phase, and there's still time to apply until March 31, 2026. We launched this program in April 2021 with a five-year commitment to support up to 500 small towns across the country with up to \$25 million in funding—and we're proud to say that goal is nearly complete. To date, T-Mobile's Hometown Grants have funded transformative projects in hundreds of communities—revitalizing parks, upgrading technology, supporting public safety, expanding access, and so much more. Each grant of up to \$50,000 has helped communities jumpstart local projects and create lasting impact. **Important Deadline** The final opportunity to apply is open now. All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2026. No applications will be accepted after this date. We're grateful for every town, partner, and local leader who has brought this program to life. While this chapter is coming to a close, the stories, connections, and community impact will continue to grow for years to come. **HOW TO APPLY** Review the eligibility and grant criteria below to ensure your community and proposed project meets application requirements. Applicants can submit their proposals by completing this application form. The grant application period will close on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. No late applications will be accepted. Applications will be evaluated and selected by a review panel, and all applicants will be sent an award decision by late May 2026. Grant recipients will each receive an award of up to \$50,000 to implement their ideas and will have 12 months (June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027) to complete their projects. Recipients will be required to submit a progress report at the 6-month mark following the grant disbursement, and a final report will be due at the end of the 12-month implementation period. All reports are to be completed using a template provided. **REVIEW CRITERIA** Your application will be reviewed by an internal T-Mobile review committee and non-profit

partner based upon the following criteria. Please note that the letters of support for your project are an important part of this application. Community need - Proposed project should fill a demonstrated need in the community. This grant funding is intended for shovel-ready projects that would not otherwise be possible to implement through municipal funding. Proposal & letters of support should demonstrate strong community support for the project. Community impact - Project should connect the community in meaningful, innovative, and creative ways. Partners and engagement - Strong applications actively involve local organizations by incorporating them into the planning and execution processes and engaging the community in activating the project site. Letters of support should come from a variety of stakeholders within the community. Feasibility - You should have a shovel-ready plan ready to go and be able to complete your project within your detailed budget and within 12 months of receiving funding, if selected. Projects must be completed and usable by the public by May 31, 2027. Make sure to consider these parameters when choosing the kind of project you propose for this grant. Alignment with T-Mobile's small town strategy - T-Mobile strives to be a force for good. To read more about T-Mobile's many corporate initiatives and key segments, visit <https://www.t-mobile.com/responsibility>. ELIGIBILITY Who may apply? This grant program is specifically open to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and local government entities. If selected, the grant award must be managed and deployed by the nonprofit organization or government entity who applied for the grant. Grant funds may not be awarded to for-profit businesses, directly or indirectly via pass-through funding to for-profit businesses. Additionally, religious congregations are not eligible for this grant program. Applicants must be located in small rural communities with a population of 50,000 people or less. Proposals must focus on a physical project benefiting the public. The applicant organization must own the site where the proposed project would be implemented OR provide a description/confirmation of adequate permissions to alter the site. If the applicant organization does not own the site, one of the letters of support must come from the owner of the site. Applicants may submit up to one (1) application per organization per grant cycle. Applicants may re-apply to subsequent grant cycles if they are not selected in an earlier round. Previous T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program grantees are eligible to apply again for later grant cycles. Previous T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program grantees must demonstrate successful completion of their prior grant project in their application. What types of grant expenses are eligible? Requested funding must be for a physical placemaking project. Eligible Grant Uses: Construction/installation supplies and materials Equipment Labor costs for construction/rehabilitation/installation/artist fees Artist's supplies and fees associated with a community engagement design process (i.e. a mural or creative crosswalk informed by facilitated community discussions) Streetscape and/or indoor furniture for a community space Other physical items Special events or public space activation programming can only account for up to 10% or \$5,000 of total grant amount. Ineligible Grant Uses: Engineering and architectural plans or fees Staff salaries (beyond initial construction/rehabilitation/installation labor) Operational and maintenance expenses Reimbursement for projects that are already completed Pass-through funding to private entities or initiatives TIMELINE Applications Open on January 5, 2026 Applications Close on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CT Grant Recipients

Notified by late May 2026 Grant Funds Disbursed to Selected Recipients approximately June 1, 2026 Project Implementation Period: June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027 Final Grant Reports Due June 11, 2027 TIPS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION To help avoid losing any work as you complete your application, we encourage you to type your responses into a separate document, saving your work frequently. When you're ready to submit your application, you can copy and paste your responses into this form and click "submit." You can also save your work in the Submittable application form, but we still recommend saving a backup copy of your work. Gather cost/pricing information for your budget document early and request letters of support from key stakeholders early so you're ready to upload these materials before the deadline. Carefully review your application and file uploads before you submit. No late applications will be accepted, and no changes may be made to your application once submitted. Make sure your email address is correct and add notifications@email.submittable.com to your contacts to receive updates about your proposal. Otherwise, emails sent via the submission portal may end up in your spam folder! This grant program is open to communities that are part of the Main Street America network as well as those that are not currently part of the Main Street America network. If your organization is a Main Street America community, you will be asked to enter your Main Street America member ID number in this application. You can find your MSA member number in the Members Area, on your membership renewal notices, and in renewal confirmation emails. If you need help locating your organization's MSA member number, contact Membership@mainstreet.org or 312-610-5611. Award determinations will be made by late May 2026 and funds will be disbursed by approximately June 1, 2026, if selected. You will receive a notification about award determinations via your Submittable account that you use to submit your application. Please note that you cannot make any changes to your application once it has been submitted. We look forward to receiving your project proposal! Questions? Email TMobileGrant@mainstreet.org

Applicant Details: Project Manager Contact Information

First Name	Sean
Last Name	Gifford
Title/Position	Volunteer
What is your connection in the community?	Community Leader (e.g. social services director, community organizer, etc.)
Email Address	sean.c.gifford@outlook.com
Phone number (xxx-xxx-xxxx)	+17193609990

Are you willing to serve as your community's key contact/sponsor for the grant?

Yes

Organization Details

Name of Organization Requesting Funds

City of Three Forks

Organization's Street Address Line 1

206 S Main

Organization's Street Address Line 2

Organization's City

Three Forks

Organization's State/Territory

MT

Organization's Zip Code

59752

Organization's County

Gallatin

Tribal affiliation, if applicable

Which best describes your organization:

Local government entity (includes the city, county, Tribal government, public libraries, public school districts, and other public agencies)

How many staff (full-time and part-time) does your organization have?

None

How many years has the project lead been in their current position?

7 years

Has your organization led a local placemaking initiative before?

No

If implementing placemaking projects is something new for your organization, please describe your capacity/expertise to manage such an initiative.

I served as Mayor of Three Forks, MT from 2019–2022, where I oversaw multiple municipal projects and managed grant-funded initiatives, including road improvements, parks and recreation projects, and sewer system upgrades.

I also served 21 years in the Army, retiring as an E-9/Sergeant Major, where I managed large budgets, coordinated timelines, and supervised personnel.

Currently, I am a small business owner managing two locations and eight employees. These experiences have prepared me to effectively manage grant funds and oversee project completion if the grant is awarded

Has your organization previously received a T-Mobile Hometown Grant?

No

If the project lead were to leave their current position, what steps would be taken to ensure that this project would continue uninterrupted and be completed by the May 31, 2027 deadline?

If the project lead were to leave their position, project oversight would be transitioned to a designated secondary volunteer or organizational leader who is familiar with the project scope, budget, and timeline. All project documentation, contracts, and grant requirements would be maintained in shared records to ensure continuity. This structure would allow the project to continue without interruption and ensure completion by the May 31, 2027 deadline.

Project Details

What is the name of your project?

Three Forks Community Ice Rink

Please select the project category that most closely describes your proposal.

Park

I understand that, if checked selected, the grant award must be managed and deployed by the nonprofit organization or government entity who applied for the grant. I understand that grant funds may not be awarded to for-profit businesses, directly or indirectly via pass-through funding to for-profit businesses.

Physical Address of Project Site Note: If your project spans an area larger than a single address, please use the address of the organization requesting funds and include a brief description in the following prompt.

Physical Address of Project Site: Street Address 1 508 2nd Ave East

Physical Address of Project Site: Street Address 2 Stevenson Park

Physical Address of Project Site: City Three Forks

Physical Address of Project Site: State/Territory MT

Physical Address of Project Site: Zip Code 59752

Physical Address of Project Site: County Gallatin

If your project does not have one single address, please include a brief description of your proposed project's location, being as specific as possible. (If your project DOES have a single address, you may skip this question.)

Population size of the city where project would be located 1926

Brief Project Summary: Please describe your project in one to two sentences. Install new dasher boards and a privacy fence/windbreak for the community ice rink to improve safety and usability. This project will help ensure families have access to a safe, free, and welcoming outdoor space for recreation during the winter months.

Detailed Project Proposal: Tell us about your project idea. Be sure to describe how your idea represents innovative, experimental, creative and/or entrepreneurial approaches to local placemaking. We encourage you to include visual project renderings, maps, images, etc. in this document to help communicate your shovel-ready project proposal to the review committee. Further in the application, you will be asked to upload a separate detailed budget, provide a timeline, and discuss your intended outcomes.

[Rink_Grant_Request.pdf](#)

At which stage are your plans for this project as of now? Ready for construction/implementation

Please upload 2-3 photos of the project site as it currently exists.

[IMG_1432.jpg](#)

[IMG_3185.jpeg](#)

[IMG_1386.jpeg](#)

Does your organization own the site? Yes

Have these plans been approved and permitted, if applicable? Yes

Please briefly The community of Three Forks is a small rural town located in Gallatin

describe the community in which your project would be implemented, including community demographics, any primary industries, and any particular challenge(s) that the community is facing. How will this grant help your community address this challenge?

County in southwest Montana. The town has a population of roughly 1,900 residents and serves as a close-knit community with strong ties to outdoor recreation and agriculture.

Community Demographics

Three Forks has a small and relatively stable population with a median age of about 41–43 years, slightly older than the surrounding Bozeman metropolitan area. The community is predominantly White (over 90%), with small Hispanic, Asian, and multiracial populations. The median household income is roughly \$79,000–\$80,000, and about 6% of residents live below the poverty line.

Primary Industries

Three Forks has historically been rooted in agriculture and ranching, and these industries remain an important part of the local economy. Today, many residents also work in retail, construction, and public administration, while some commute to nearby communities such as Bozeman for employment. Agriculture and construction remain among the highest-paying sectors locally.

Community Challenges

As a small rural community, Three Forks faces several challenges common to rural Montana towns:

Limited recreation and youth programming, especially during the long winter months.

A shortage of affordable and accessible community gathering spaces for families and youth activities.

Population growth and economic pressures from the nearby Bozeman area, which can strain local infrastructure and resources while still leaving small towns with fewer amenities.

These factors can make it difficult for young people and families to find safe, structured recreational opportunities close to home.

How the Ice Rink Dasher Board Grant Will Help...

Funding for new ice rink dasher boards would directly strengthen one of the community's most important winter recreation facilities. Ice rinks in small Montana towns serve as vital community hubs where residents of all ages gather for hockey, skating, youth programs, and community events.

Upgrading the dasher boards would:

Improve safety for youth hockey players and recreational skaters.

Allow the rink to host more organized programs and events, including youth hockey leagues, school activities, and community skating nights.

Provide a healthy winter recreation outlet for local youth, reducing barriers to participation in sports and outdoor activity.

Strengthen community connections by maintaining a shared gathering space that brings residents together during the winter season.

By improving this facility, the grant would help ensure that Three Forks continues to provide safe, affordable, and accessible recreation opportunities, supporting both youth development and the overall quality of life in this small rural community.

Please describe how your project design (including community engagement) and project execution plan actively fosters inclusion, taking into consideration the lived experiences, abilities, and needs of all community members.

Community-Driven Planning and Participatory Design

From the earliest stages of development, this project prioritizes community engagement and participatory design to ensure the facility reflects the needs, values, and experiences of the people who will use it. By actively involving community members in the planning process, the project seeks to create a space that is welcoming, accessible, and responsive to the diverse population it serves.

Engagement efforts will include outreach to a broad range of stakeholders, including local residents, youth, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Their perspectives will help guide decisions related to design, accessibility, programming, and overall facility use.

Key engagement strategies include:

Public meetings and listening sessions with residents of Three Forks.

Stakeholder consultations with youth sports organizations, families, recreation advocates, and community leaders.

Community surveys and open feedback channels to ensure participation from individuals who may not attend in-person meetings.

Partnerships with local organizations and municipal leaders to ensure diverse representation in the planning process.

Through this inclusive approach, the project ensures that the facility is shaped by authentic community priorities rather than assumptions. Community participation helps align the design with local culture, recreational needs, and accessibility considerations.

Equally important, this collaborative planning process fosters community ownership, civic trust, and long-term stewardship. By engaging residents as partners in the project, the rink will emerge not only as a recreational facility but also as a shared community asset and gathering place that reflects the identity and aspirations of the Three Forks region

Please provide three (3) specific ways in which you intend for this project to benefit your community. Additionally, how could this project be modeled and/or scaled for other non-profits or local municipal governments to adopt and implement?

1. Expanding Access to Recreation and Youth Development

This project will create a safe, accessible recreational space that supports physical activity, youth development, and overall community wellness. The rink will provide opportunities for skating, youth hockey, learn-to-skate instruction, and recreational leagues, helping residents of all ages stay active during the winter months. In a growing rural community like Three Forks, the facility will offer structured activities that encourage teamwork, confidence, and skill development for young people while also providing inclusive recreation for families, seniors, and individuals of varying abilities.

2. Strengthening Community Connection and Social Well-Being

The rink will serve as a welcoming gathering place where residents can connect through sports, events, and shared experiences. Accessible community recreation spaces are especially important in rural areas, where opportunities for social engagement may be limited. Through open skating sessions, youth programs, school partnerships, and community events, the facility will help strengthen relationships among residents, foster civic pride, and create a space where people from different generations can come together.

3. Supporting Local Economic Activity and Community Vitality

The project will contribute to the vitality of the Three Forks community by drawing visitors to the area for games, tournaments, and special events. Increased visitation can support local businesses, including restaurants, lodging providers, and retail shops. In addition, the rink will create opportunities for local employment, volunteer involvement, and partnerships with community organizations, helping to strengthen the local economy while improving quality of life for residents.

Model for Replication and Scalability

The project is designed to serve as a practical model for other small and rural communities seeking to expand recreational infrastructure. Its planning process emphasizes community-driven design, strong collaboration with local organizations and municipal partners, and diversified funding strategies that combine grants, private donations, and local support.

By documenting key elements of the project—including community engagement efforts, partnership development, operational planning, and funding approaches—the initiative will provide a framework that other nonprofit organizations and municipal governments can adapt to their own communities. This model demonstrates how rural communities can work collaboratively to develop sustainable recreational facilities that support health, strengthen community connections, and enhance long-term resilience.

Please provide a timeline for your project. Note when the different stages/elements of your project will be executed, if selected.

Project Timeline: Dasher Board Installation

Month 1:

Grant Award and Project Mobilization

1. Execute grant agreement and finalize project budget
2. Confirm purchase order for dasher boards and materials
3. Coordinate delivery schedule with supplier and installation team
4. Final site readiness check

Month 2:

Delivery and Installation

1. Receive delivery of dasher board system
2. Install dasher boards and anchoring hardware
3. Conduct safety and structural checks during installation

Month 3:

Project Completion

1. Address any minor adjustments or finishing work
2. Prepare rink for community use and programming
3. Submit project completion documentation to grant funder

Project Completion:

The installation process is expected to be completed within approximately 8–12 weeks following receipt of grant funding, allowing the facility to open quickly for community recreation.

Select the amount of time you expect will be needed to complete your T-Mobile Hometown Grant Project, if selected, starting from the time at which grant funds would be disbursed (June 1, 2026).

1 to 3 months

T-Mobile Hometown Grants award up to \$50,000 for qualifying projects. How much funding are you requesting for your project?

27491

Does your project need more than \$50,000 to be completed? No

Please provide an itemized budget using this budget template, below.

Click here to view and download the Hometown Grants Budget Template. When you see the template, *create a copy of the document,* add your project budget details, and save the document on your device. Then, upload your finished budget document in the next application question field, where prompted to upload a budget. IMPORTANT: Refer to the listed eligible and ineligible grant uses at the top of this form to ensure that ALL of the expenses that the T-Mobile Hometown Grant would cover are eligible grant uses. Make sure to include labor costs in your budget. If your project requires more than \$50,000, indicate which parts of the project would be covered by the T-Mobile Hometown Grant, if selected, and where the funding for the other parts of the project would come from. If you have a line item that would be funded by multiple sources, please include the item on multiple budget lines, noting the funding amount and funding source for each component. If you have any questions about using this document, please contact TMobileGrant@mainstreet.org.

Upload your project budget here, using the template above.

[Budget_Document_Complete.xlsx](#)

I certify that I have checked reviewed the list of eligible and ineligible grant uses at the top of this form, and all budget line items to be covered by the T-Mobile grant are eligible grant uses.

Please upload up to five letters of support for your project. We encourage applicants to include letters of support from a variety of key partners throughout the community. For example, you might choose to include letters from community organizations, local government agencies, schools, hospitals, local business partners, community members, etc. that demonstrate community alignment, engagement, and consensus for your proposed project. If your organization does not own the site, one of your letters of support must come from the owner of the site confirming these permissions and expressing support for this project.

[Letter_of_Support_be_Ready_Performance.pdf](#)

[Letter_of_Support_Kelton_Jenson.pdf](#)

[Letter_of_Support_Coach_Carr.pdf](#)

[Letter_of_Support_Three_Forks_Voice.pdf](#)

Optional: Are there any additional items that you would like the review committee to consider as a part of your application? (Examples: additional project renderings, maps, news articles, artist biographies, etc.)

[Quote_for_Dasher_Boards.png](#)

[Current_Site.png](#)

[Three_Forks_Voice_News.pdf](#)

If you are awarded a grant, you will be required to submit a progress report 6 months into the implementation period and a final grant report at the end of the 12-month project implementation period. Both reports will be completed as fillable forms, emailed to you by the program staff. Will you be able to submit the progress report and final report, if awarded a grant?

Additional Information This information is for tracking purposes and does not impact the scoring of your application.

Which best describes your organization's affiliation with the Main Street network? Please note: This grant program is open both to organizations that are part of the Main Street network, as well as organizations that are not.

I'm not sure.

How did you hear about the T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program?

Other

How did you hear about the T-Mobile Hometown Grants Program: If "Other," please specify.

Edward Smith, Executive Vice President and Chief Public Policy Officer at T-Mobile, personally recommended that we pursue the T-Mobile Hometown Grant opportunity. We had the opportunity to connect at an event for the nonprofit Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation, an organization we are both involved with that serves combat veterans. During our conversation, we discussed the Three Forks outdoor ice rink project and its impact on youth recreation, community wellness, and rural quality of life. Mr. Smith recognized the alignment between this project and T-Mobile's commitment to supporting small towns and community-driven initiatives. He encouraged us to apply, noting the project's strong community backing and its potential to create lasting impact.

By checking this box, you verify that you are 18 years or older. checked

By checking this box, you agree that all the information you've provided is accurate, that you're allowed to share this information and your submitted materials with T-Mobile and Main Street America (MSA), and that, if selected to receive a grant, T-Mobile and MSA can use this information and any submitted materials in connection with the program (including marketing and publicity efforts for the program). checked

Main Street America sends out emails with resources and information to help support locally led community and economic development efforts in downtown districts. Would you like to opt into these emails? Yes
