

Normal Township Grant Proposal

Applicant: Prairie Pride Coalition

Promoting LGBTQ+ Eldercare Awareness, Services, and Education

August 14, 2026

Many people in the LGBTQ+ community who came of age during and since the 1969 Stonewall Inn riots have been able to live openly and enjoy a level of equity that previous generations did not experience. Many of these individuals are now approaching or have already entered their golden years, and while the 57 years since Stonewall have brought about significant advances, many of our LGBTQ+ elders face uncertainty around senior care and services where they can continue to be recognized, included, understood, and honored.

The Project

Prairie Pride Coalition, in partnership with local, state, and national organizations, will establish a program to provide education and raise awareness about the unique needs and challenges facing our LGBTQ+ senior population. The program will be delivered via half-day workshops for senior center staff, senior nursing care professionals, healthcare providers whose patients include LGBTQ+ seniors, and anyone who works with and/or serves members of the LGBTQ+ senior population.

Our partners on this project will include SAGECare, a national organization that promotes through online and in-person training cultural competency around LGBTQ+ aging. Since 1978, SAGECare has led the way in advocating for policies, services, and resources that empower LGBTQ+ elders to live openly and authentically. SAGECare's dedicated team members work nationally and globally to protect rights, build health and longevity, and preserve the vibrancy of our LGBTQ+ community as we age.

A second partner will be PrideLinc, a program offered by the Area Agency for Aging for Lincolnland (AgeLinc). Since 1974 AgeLinc has been helping older adults and their families who are navigating issues involving senior care. PrideLinc includes in its offerings OUTSafe: The LGBTQ+ Older Adult Violence Prevention Program. The training is an introductory course, meant to provide stepping-stone continued education on violence prevention and improved competency on LGBTQ+ relations. It emphasizes treating these seniors with respect and dignity, regardless of their status, and offers insight into how best to show that respect to LGBTQ+ seniors who face being the targets of violence and abuse. Providers will learn more about inclusive language and will be charged with ensuring confidentiality of the seniors they engage with, because they might fear speaking up or speaking out without that necessary trust.

Expected Outcomes

Attendees would gain knowledge, awareness, and the tools to successfully support LGBTQ+ seniors by providing an environment and services that ensure they are honored, heard, and served in a caring, equitable way.

Funding Request

We are requesting \$3,000 for the workshop which would be offered three times in 2027. The funding would be used to cover costs with securing facilitators from PrideLinc and SAGECare. Other costs would include room rental, any printed materials, and refreshments available at the workshop sessions.

Normal Township Resolution to Establish Child Care Assistance Fund at the Y.W.C.A McLean County

Dated September 22nd, 2026

Whereas, Normal Township faces a known and ongoing child care crisis; and

Whereas, Under **60 ILCS 85-13** Normal Township may directly expend funds or enter into agreements with other governmental entities, non-profits, or for-profits to provide services, including day care; and

Whereas, The Normal Township Board recognizes one of a township's core responsibilities to be providing a safety net for residents in need including rent, utilities, food, medical care, basic maintenance needs, plus connecting residents to resources such as job training;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

Normal Township will expend \$5,000 in General Town Funds to the Y.W.C.A of McLean County to establish the Normal Township Child Care Scholarship.

Be it further resolved that:

Those eligible to apply for the scholarship must meet all Y.W.C.A eligibility requirements, be residents of Normal township, and be enrolled in an apprenticeship program through the Y.W.C.A. or a local accredited trades or certificate program, and unable to access or qualify for other programs for childcare assistance.

Be it finally resolved that:

Normal Township will provide an initial one-time funding of \$5,000 dollars to this scholarship fund. The fund should have a public link to accept private donations as well. The Y.W.C.A should also provide reports at least twice per year showing how the scholarship fund has been used and what the community impact has been.

Normal Township Supervisor

Normal Township Clerk



To: Normal Township

From: Mark Adams, President of Bloomington-Normal CLT Inc.

RE: Notice of Grant Funding Availability for Normal Township Social Services

Date: August 20, 2026

The Bloomington-Normal Community Land Trust is a newly-certified 501c(3) non-profit organization that is operated by a board of directors and was established in July 2023. BNCLT's mission is to retain and grow the Bloomington-Normal community by providing affordable and varied housing through a land trust founded on equity, sustainability, and resiliency. Our goal is to acquire and rehabilitate single-family homes and sell the home but lease the land to a household earning 60-100% of the Area Median Income. As of August 2026, BNCLT has just purchased our first home and is now in the process of rehabilitation and seeking an owner for the property.

The Bloomington-Normal Community Land Trust is requesting \$4,000 from the Normal Township grant opportunity to be used over the period of November 1 to July 31, 2027.

BNCLT's PO Box is #21 at the Town of Normal's post office, and the residential address associated with the organization is 1605 Whitmer Court, Bloomington, IL 61704. Mark Adams, Board President of BNCLT, is the primary contact for this grant application. Attached to the email submission will be the IRS letter exempting proof of our 501c3 status.

As for officers, BNCLT's Board President is Mark Adams, Vice President is George Chissell, Treasurer is Joe Johnston, and Secretary is Tanner Starr. In addition to the four officers, our board of directors includes Matthew Burgess (Bloomington) Emily Bollinger (Normal), Noah Tang (Bloomington), Zachary Carlson (Bloomington), Kelby Cumpston (Bloomington), and Jenna Kearns (Bloomington).

BNCLT serves two purposes: Rehabilitation of existing single-family homes in Bloomington-Normal based on a land trust model, and facilitation of the Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP), which offers senior and disabled homeowners access to free, volunteer-based home maintenance services. CHIP volunteer events occur once every three months, but can fluctuate based on needs and funds available. By opening our volunteer labor services to senior and/or disabled residents in the community, we further promote good land stewardship beyond the walls of the BNCLT homes. BNCLT requires financial assistance for the hardware, building materials and equipment needed to complete our quarterly CHIP, as prior CHIP's have been funded primarily through BNCLT's general fund. Since we are a grassroots organization, we have limited access to funding and capital, which is required to fulfill our mission and annual goals. A copy of BNCLT's Two-Year Business Plan will be attached to the email submission for this grant application. The CHIP's are exclusively for senior citizens, disabled individuals and veterans residing in Bloomington-Normal. For the period selected between November 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027, our goal is to focus all CHIP projects for the Town of Normal residents,

YouthBuild McLean County
Wrap Around Services and Professional Certifications

Name of Organization: YBMC, dba YouthBuild McLean County
360 Wylie Drive Suite 360, Wylie Drive
Contact for the grant: Tracey Polson , Executive Director

Mission Statement:

To build, develop, inspire and challenge educationally and economically disadvantaged students to make the difference in their community.

1. Mission Alignment & Need Statement

YouthBuild McLean County (YBMC) is a local youth development organization operating in the Town of Normal that directly advances the mission of Normal Township by serving low-income youth and educationally at-risk young adults ages 16–24. The majority of youth entering YBMC come from low-income families and bring significant trauma and personal barriers that previously disrupted their traditional educational journeys. Over half of YBMC's enrolled student population originates directly from the McLean County Unit #5 school district.

Statistics show that high school dropouts face severe long-term economic hardships, underemployment, and generational poverty. Traditional school pathways often lack the specialized wrap-around supports and targeted vocational training required to re-engage these students. YBMC addresses this clearly defined community need by pairing accredited high school diploma completion with industry-recognized vocational certifications and holistic wrap-around engagement, removing systemic barriers to build self-sustaining, community-minded young adults.

2. Impact and Outcomes

Through the **Vocational Certification & Youth Wrap-Around Transition Support Initiative**, YBMC will utilize \$10,000 in township support to serve 150 youth, consisting of 75 active enrollees and 75 graduates in follow-up programming. The primary goal of this initiative is to expand immediate employability by providing all 75 active students with industry-recognized OSHA training and First Aid & CPR certifications. Additionally, students interested in healthcare careers will receive specialized instruction designed to prepare them directly for post-secondary CNA certification programs. Students in the Construction vocation will receive nationally recognized NCCER certification.

YBMC aims for an 85% or higher pass rate across all certification tracks. Beyond classroom training, funding will support wrap-around barrier reduction such as transportation passes, state ID fees, exam costs, and required work gear, ensuring that personal and financial hardship does not prevent students from attending or earning credentials. For the 75 graduates, YBMC will provide continuous outreach, peer mentorship, and career counseling over a 12-month post-graduation window to drive an 80% or higher placement rate in self-sustaining employment, post-secondary education, or trade apprenticeships. Progress toward these goals



Community Health Care Clinic

900 Franklin

Normal, IL 61761

Primary Contact: Theresa Lage

Grant Request: \$20,000.00

Mission & Vision Statements

- Mission: Our free clinic provides quality healthcare to the medically underserved adults of McLean County.
- Vision: Accessible healthcare for our community.

Detailed description of why grant funds are needed and how they will be used.

We seek funding to support the CHCC Dental Clinic which offers **free** acute, restorative and preventative dental services to CHCC patients.

CHCC is funded solely by grants and donations, and we continually seek creative ways to sustain our programs. We operate the Dental Clinic with just one paid staff member who serves as both Dental Coordinator and Dental Hygienist. She oversees all daily operations, including patient care, cleanings, evaluations, endless patient education, scheduling patients and scheduling of volunteer dentists, and coordination of ICC dental hygiene students. Seven dentists volunteer their time.

The dedication of our Dental Coordinator is extraordinary. She routinely adjusts her hours to match patient and volunteer dentist availability—arriving early or staying late without overtime—so that patients with demanding, inflexible work schedules can still access care. Her service-minded leadership ensures that CHCC's dental program remains efficient, compassionate, and accessible.

This request is especially urgent as demand for dental care continues to rise. The loss of Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program, the erosion of Medicaid coverage, and the increasing cost of marketplace insurance have left more adults without affordable dental care. CHCC is already the medical home for 450 uninsured and underinsured patients, and these coverage gaps are only growing.

The Normal Township support of this program is not simply an investment in dental clinic operations—it is an investment in the health, dignity, and stability of our most vulnerable neighbors. With your help, access to essential dental care in McLean County will not shrink but grow to meet the increasing need.

NORMAL TOWNSHIP 2026 Monetary Grant Application

1. The Bloomington-Normal Achievement Foundation (BNAF) is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2021 to provide scholarships, capacity building and programmatic support, advocacy, and resource alignment for the Bloomington-Normal community. Our vision is a Bloomington-Normal community where every resident is empowered to lead a healthy, productive life.

Normal Township has partnered with BNAF for the past two grant cycles, and that investment has reached Normal residents directly. In 2026 alone, nine graduating seniors from Normal Community, Normal West, and University High received \$16,400 in BNAF scholarships, and 50 local seniors received complimentary holiday haircuts and grooming kits. With no paid staff, every dollar BNAF receives goes straight to the students, families, and seniors we serve.

Contact Information

Bloomington-Normal Achievement Foundation
1701 E. Empire Street, Suite 360, #146
Bloomington, Illinois 61704
Rasheed Merritt, President
bnachievpres@gmail.com
Stevenson Nicholson Communication Coordinator
NCPPOLEMARCH25@gmail.com
Web site: b-naf.org

2. Mission Statement

The mission of the Bloomington-Normal Achievement Foundation (BNAF) is to enhance community member success by promoting health and well-being through community engagement, education, and scholarship, with a focus on underserved youth and senior citizens.

This mission directly serves the populations Normal Township prioritizes: young people, low-income individuals and families, and senior citizens.

3. Legal Form of Entity and IRS Tax-Exempt Status

- **Legal Entity Name:** Bloomington-Normal Achievement Foundation
- **Legal Form:** Nonprofit corporation, tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3); public charity status 509(a)(2)
- **EIN:** 86-1635653