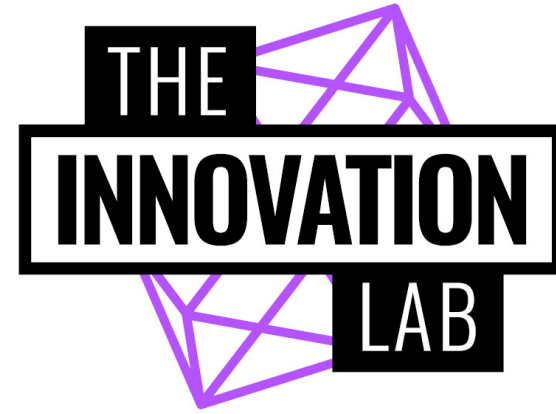




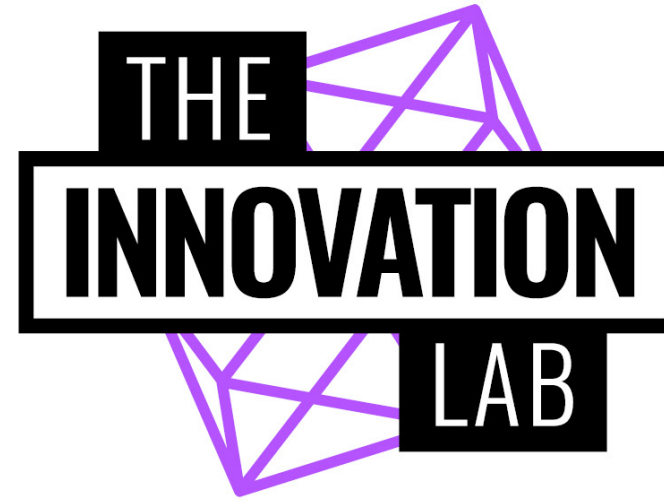
---

# Gift of Innovation Grant Program



Jennifer Faley

Community Impact Specialist  
Dupaco Credit Union



Eric Dregne

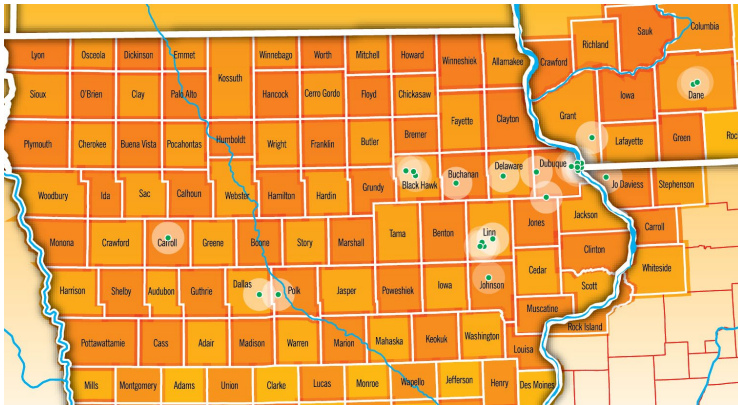
Director  
The Innovation Lab

# Dupaco Credit Union

Dupaco is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative.

Vision is to build a brighter community for all by empowering people and strengthening communities.

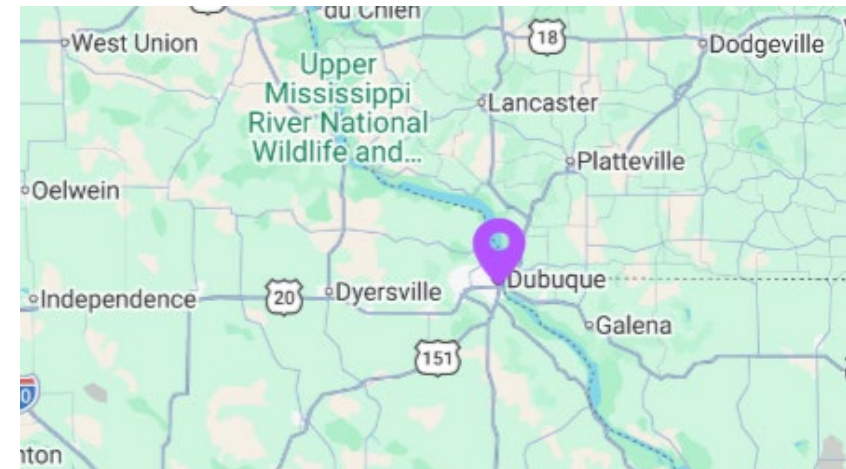
We invest in what strengthens our communities and the nonprofits that make this work possible.



# The Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab is a coworking space that's fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Eastern Iowa.

This includes coworking spaces, innovation services, meeting spaces, and team-building activities. Everything we do helps non-profits launch, grow, and remain competitive.



# Presentation Goals

---

- Explore what is involved with each innovation session
- Provide examples of how innovation sessions can be of use to find solutions
- Explain where to find program details

# Key Points of Program

---

We invest in what strengthens our communities—affordable housing, upskilling, and small business development—while also supporting the nonprofits that make this work possible.

Gift of Innovation is **NOT limited** to nonprofits doing work in Dupaco's three focus areas. It's designed to help all nonprofits in our communities grow and thrive—by offering opportunities to build skills, spark new ideas, and strengthen their impact.

Gift of Innovation is **NOT a monetary award**.

Must be an active 501c3 Public Charity and reside/operate in Dupaco's charter area.

# Full-day Session



This process enables teams to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, collaboratively develop 2–3 highly actionable strategies, and dive deep into crafting detailed implementation plans.

This is a perfect way to conduct a concise, innovation driven session to create new ideas & an action plan to drive a program, marketing, or operational strategy.

Engages 12-50 stakeholders

Delivered in-person or virtually

Helps create 2-3 “winning” ideas AND an implementation plan

# Two-day Session



A full innovation process that results in innovation-driven strategic plans.

Most nonprofits know strategic plans are important but are often let down by the traditional process and static plans they produce.

This session delivers a fresh, effective way to conduct strategic planning that puts organizational innovation at the center.

Engages 6-40 stakeholders

Delivered in-person or virtually

Results in highly actionable ideas  
AND strategic plan with clear  
implementation steps

# One-year Capacity Builder



During the one-year process, we'll deliver a tailored combination of services to help you look under the hood to help you build a more sustainable organization.

We'll map out a process with the nonprofit at the start of the program.

Engages 6-40 stakeholders

Delivered in-person or virtually

One-on-one coaching and strategy discussions  
to track progress, provide support, and address new opportunities

Goal setting with the board and key stakeholders  
establish clear and measurable milestones

Group innovation sessions  
identify barriers, generate new ideas, engage diverse perspectives, and  
empower stakeholders to execute plan

Business development sessions  
identify and improve factors impacting business model and financial health

# A Case Study in Imagining a New Future & Organizational Impact



## THE CHALLENGE

For years, Habitat for Humanity of Dubuque & Jackson County has helped families achieve affordable homeownership and build stronger futures. With a significant pocket neighborhood development project on the horizon and growing housing needs across the region, the organization saw an opportunity to imagine a larger role in addressing affordable housing challenges.

# A Case Study in Removing Barriers to Growth and Impact



## THE CHALLENGE

Since 1932, the Dubuque Rescue Mission has served individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness in the Dubuque community. As needs evolved and resources fluctuated, the organization recognized an opportunity to reassess how its work aligned with available capacity. Leadership looked for ways to focus programs more effectively while engaging new partners and supporters in imagining a best-practice approach to serving under-housed and unhoused individuals.

# A Case Study in Strategy for Managed Organizational Growth



## THE CHALLENGE

The Community Support Network (CSN) had been serving over 150 developmentally disabled adults in Madison, WI, through enrichment and employment support services. But like many small nonprofits, CSN was stretched thin, staff were overextended, and leadership was under pressure. Then COVID-19 nearly shut the organization down entirely.

CSN weathered the storm and emerged intact. Now operating with a smaller team and serving fewer clients, the organization is ready to rebuild, with a focus on deeper partnerships, higher-quality services, and stable funding to support sustainable, intentional growth.

# Evaluation Criteria

---

- Grantmaking preference will be given to organizations that operate in the cities where Dupaco maintains a [physical branch office](#).
- Organizational readiness and capacity to participate in innovation sessions
- Level of impact the session would have on the organization and their service to individuals and the community
- Organization's stated needs fit well with the proposed process and expected outcomes of session.
- Quality of the application (clearly stated, feasible, and appropriately focused detailing how the session would impact their organization)

# www.Dupaco.com/community



## Gift of Innovation Grant Program

**Application period:** Oct. 1-Nov. 12, 2026

Dupaco's Gift of Innovation, powered by The Innovation Lab, is a grant program that offers innovation sessions for nonprofit organizations. It's all about boosting nonprofits' operations and capacity, ultimately helping the communities and people they serve.

[See guidelines](#)

Have questions? Email us at [grants@dupaco.com](mailto:grants@dupaco.com).

Made possible by Dupaco Credit Union.



GIFT OF INNOVATION

## Looking for Solutions for Your Nonprofit?

Dupaco's Gift of Innovation is a grant program that offers innovation sessions for eligible nonprofit organizations to grow operations and capacity.



**Application period:** Oct. 1–Nov. 12, 2026

## Innovation's Key for Nonprofits to Flourish

Dupaco's Gift of Innovation, powered by The Innovation Lab, is offering a variety of innovation sessions for nonprofit organizations (up to \$40,000 in value). It's all about boosting your operations and capacity, ultimately helping the communities and people you serve.

Instead of a traditional monetary award, this grant provides a range of innovation sessions: from 1-day sessions to a full year of capacity-building services.

The grant is designed to help nonprofits overcome resource constraints that may limit their potential, and each innovation session is tailored to meet the unique needs of the nonprofit. Innovation sessions can help organizations with challenges such as strategic planning, process development, financial sustainability and business model improvements.

# Application Preview

Dupaco Grant + Sponsorship

Log In ▾

← Back to Main Menu

Program Info

Intake

Application

Gift of Innovation

## Program Info

Welcome to Dupaco's Grant and Sponsorship site, provided by NextZen, a WizeHive system.

**The Gift of Innovation is a grant program that offers innovation sessions for nonprofit organizations.**

Applications will only be accepted during this timeframe: October 3 - November 15, 2024 (11:59 p.m.).

To be considered for a grant, an applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements and follow the application process:

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicant will be eligible to receive a grant if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicant must have an active 501(c)(3) status.
- Applicant must be 501(c)(3) public charity that is not a supporting organization or unit of state, local or federal government (e.g., public library, public university).
- Applicant resides and operates in Dupaco Credit Union's charter area:
  - Iowa: Any county
  - Illinois: Carroll, Jo Daviess, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside
  - Wisconsin: Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, Waukesha
- Applicant agrees to abide by the program award timeline.
- Applicant submits a completed application in accordance with the procedures.

**You are in Preview Mode**

All pages besides the Eligibility Check (if applicable) will be read-only while previewing. To apply to the program, click "Apply" in the top right corner of the page.

Apply

Got it

# Questions

---

Grant program details at [www.Dupaco.com/community](http://www.Dupaco.com/community)

Email us at [grants@dupaco.com](mailto:grants@dupaco.com)