

2026 Optimist Impact Grant

*Sponsored by the Bismarck Optimist Club
Bismarck, ND*

Optimist Mission

By providing hope and a positive vision, Optimists are dedicated to supporting the youth of our community. The Optimist Club of Bismarck, founded in 1971, conducts positive service projects in our community aimed at providing a helping hand and opportunities to youth. Our Optimist Club members help empower young people to be the best that they can be.

Optimist Impact Grant

The Optimist Impact Grant awards a \$5,000 grant each year for a qualifying project or initiative that makes a direct or lasting impact on the youth of Bismarck-Mandan. Any local nonprofit groups and organizations are eligible to submit an application. **Requests for funding must be for a specific project-based initiative, and awarded grant money should not go toward operating expenses** (rent, salaries, utilities, etc). The application must provide details on how the grant funds will be utilized within the calendar year of being awarded, along with providing a timeline to the Bismarck Optimist Club which includes updates and notification of final completion, and the budget/bids for the project or initiative relating to this submittal. The nonprofit must report progress of the project/initiative to the Optimist Club Board of Directors by February, 2027, and also 12 months after grant is awarded, if necessary. Former award recipients cannot apply again for 5 years.

Required: Please complete this section below along with application and additional requirements which can be found under the portfolio check list. All grant applications must be postmarked by July 5, 2026. Applications will be reviewed and the recipient announced in September, 2026.

Nonprofit Group or Organization: _____ EIN#: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Title: _____

Contact Email: _____ # of youth impacted by project: _____

Mission and history of nonprofit, including any emphasis on support for youth.

Project/Initiative Title:

1. Summary and Plan for Implementation of Your Project: (Additional sheets may be used.

Please add photos if
possible.)

2. What goals for your project are you hoping to achieve through this grant?:

3. Explain the short and/or long-term impact or benefit your project/initiative will bring to local youth:

4. How does this project/initiative align with the Optimist's Creed (see below):

5. Provide a detailed budget and timeline for the project:

(attach bids/quotes/spreadsheets, etc.)

6. Will there be other matching funds for this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Will there be opportunity for recognition for the Optimist Club as part of your project?

8. How did you hear about the Optimist Impact Grant?

Additional requirements:

1. Attach **letter of authorization and support** from nonprofit's Board of Directors.
2. **Testimonial:** Submit a detailed example of a youth member of our community who has been impacted by the nonprofit, including details on how the nonprofit supported that particular youth.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself ...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

1. Completed Application
2. Budget
3. Timeline
4. Letter of Authorization from Board of Directors
5. Testimonial

Applications must be postmarked/emailed to NO LATER than July 5, 2026.

**Please submit portfolio by mail or email to: optimistimpact@gmail.com
Optimist Club of Bismarck
c/o Optimist Impact Grant
P.O. Box 511
Bismarck, ND 58502**

Questions may be directed to Jillian Lagasse, Optimist Impact Grant coordinator, at optimistimpact@gmail.com.