



THE LONGEST TABLE®

LONGEST TABLE GATHERING GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE:

Application Period Opens: April 17, 2026

Application Review Begins: May 8, 2026

Applications will be funded on a rolling basis until funds are expended

Events must take place between June 1, 2026, and September 30, 2026

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Longest Table is a growing movement built on a simple, powerful idea: sharing a meal. As our nation marks the 250th anniversary of its founding, this initiative offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on where we are today—both as a country and as a region—and to imagine the hopes and possibilities we hold for the future.

Longest Table gatherings transform public spaces into welcoming places of connection, where strangers become neighbors and neighbors become friends. By coming together around the table, participants are invited into conversation that fosters understanding, reduces isolation, and strengthens trust across communities.

Beginning in April 2026, Innovia is offering microgrants of up to \$2,500 to support community-led Longest Table events. These funds can be used for organizing costs such as tables and chairs, permits, promotional materials, and youth activities.

From small-town main streets to city blocks and campuses, The Longest Table creates shared experiences that spark dialogue and deepen a sense of belonging. As we mark this historic national milestone, these gatherings provide a local way to reflect, connect, and envision a stronger, more united future together.

Innovia will fund a minimum of 60 Longest Table events across Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Applications open April 17, with review beginning May 5. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted

Grant Awards: Up to \$2,500 per gathering

Grant Term: June 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

LONGEST TABLE GATHERINGS ARE:

- Free to attend – attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share if they are willing and able
- Welcoming to all community members interested in participating
- Designed to support conversations that foster curiosity, understanding, and mutual respect
- Spaces where everyone feels they belong and can contribute

Note: Longest Tables are not intended to be fundraising activities or events.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Serve communities within Innovia's 20-county service region
- Be one of the following:
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
 - Public agency or tribal government
 - Public school, college or university
 - Civic group or community-based organization with a clear fiscal sponsor
 - Informal neighborhood coalition or resident-led group with a fiscal sponsor or an eligible partner organization willing to receive and manage funds
 - Faith-based organizations – the gathering is open to all members of the community, not only members of the faith community. Additionally, participation in the gathering cannot require adherence to, or participation in, specific religious practices.

AWARD AMOUNTS

Applicants can request funding based on the following levels, depending on the size of group you estimate serving:

Up to \$750 for gatherings of 25 - 75 people

Up to \$1,500 for gatherings of 76 – 150 people

Up to \$2,500 for gatherings of more than 150 people

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS INCLUDE:

- Venue rental, permits, and insurance for streets, parks, community centers, or other shared spaces
- Tables, chairs, tents, and related rental equipment
- Accessibility accommodations (i.e. translation materials, ADA-compliant seating and restrooms, etc.)

- Event supplies (i.e. plates, cups, utensils, table coverings, name tags, etc.)
- Youth engagement activities (i.e. coloring sheets, crayons/colored pencils, etc.)
- Outreach and communications (i.e. flyers, neighborhood canvassing materials, social media promotion, etc.)
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages

INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS INCLUDE:

- Alcohol, cannabis, or tobacco products
- Large durable equipment or capital improvements
- Payment for back rent, debt service, or unrelated organizational deficits
- Gifts, incentives, or prizes not clearly tied to participation in the gathering

GRANTEES ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Design the event in alignment with the principles of [The Longest Table](#)
- Host at least one community meal with a realistic target for participation
- Conduct intentional outreach to reach a diverse cross-section of the community, including residents who may be less connected
- Ensure the event is welcoming, accessible, and free/low barrier
- Collect basic participant data and feedback (i.e. number of attendees, simple surveys, conversation prompts, etc.)
- Submit a brief final report including:
 - Description of the event and attendance
 - Reflections on what worked well and what could be improved
 - Evidence of impact on connection, trust, or neighborhood pride (brief narrative)
 - Photos of event

Grantees may also be invited to share their experience with other communities or at Innovia convenings.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Proposals will be reviewed by Innovia staff and/or community volunteers according to alignment with the Longest Table principles and commitment to building trust and community.

Reviewers will also look to ensure a broad geographic representation of Innovia's service area.

Applications will be funded on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Please plan to apply early.

NONDISCRIMINATION/ANTI-HATE POLICY

The Anti-Hate Policy at Innovia Foundation states: "Innovia Foundation will not make grants to organizations that Innovia knows, or has reason to believe, support or engage in hateful activities. "Activities that incite or engage in violence, intimidation, harassment, threats or defamation targeting an individual or group based on their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability."

Further, Innovia Foundation does not unlawfully discriminate regarding employees, volunteers, delivery of programs or services, or clients served based on age, religion/creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital

status, military or veteran status, pregnancy or genetic information. Applicants for Community Grant must adhere to similar anti-hate and nondiscrimination standards. You can read our Anti-Hate Policy [here](#).

QUESTIONS?

Contact Chelsie Hawley, Community Investment Program Officer:
Chawley@innovia.org or 509-343-5749