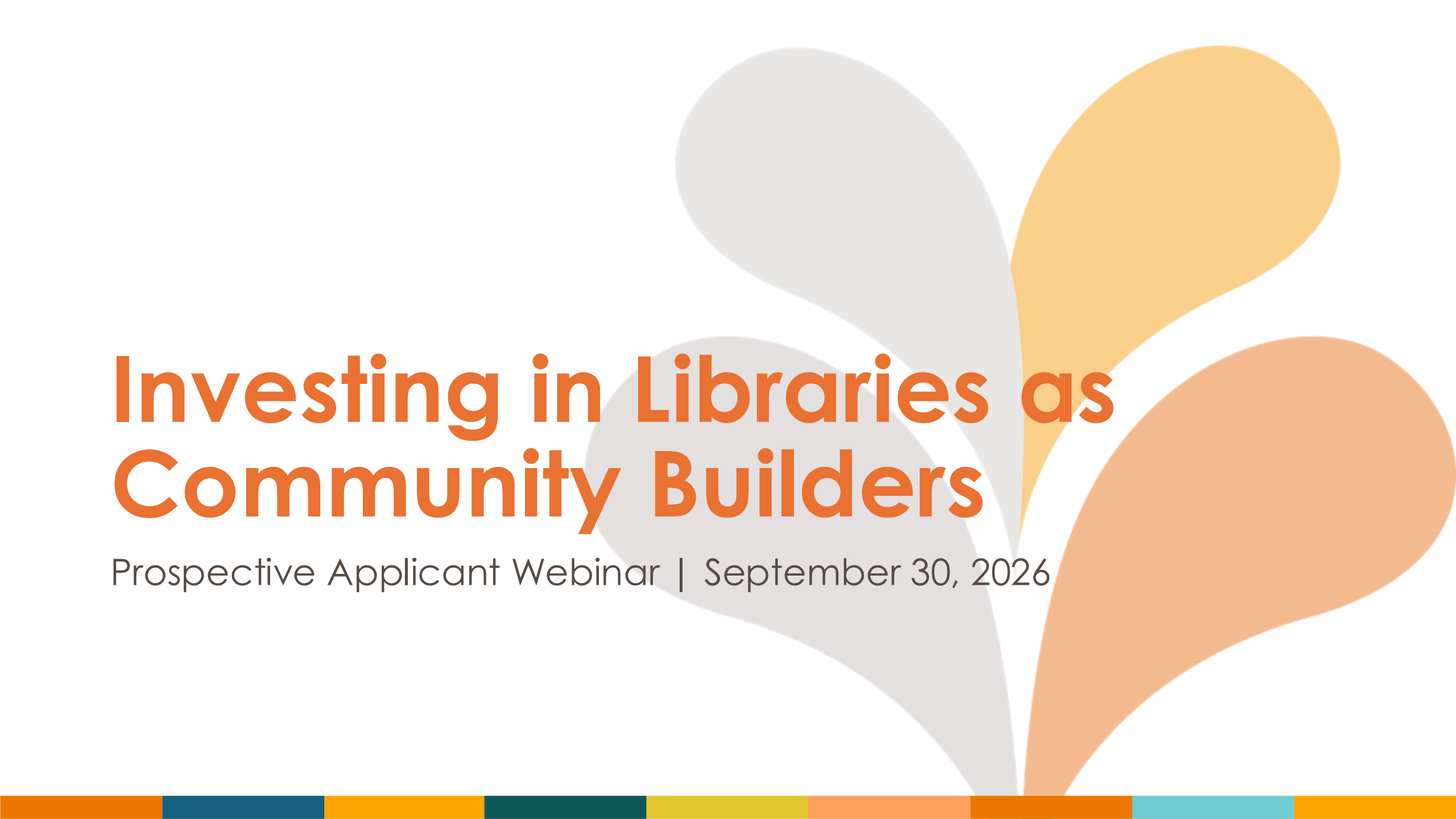




Investing in Libraries as Community Builders

Prospective Applicant Webinar | September 30, 2026



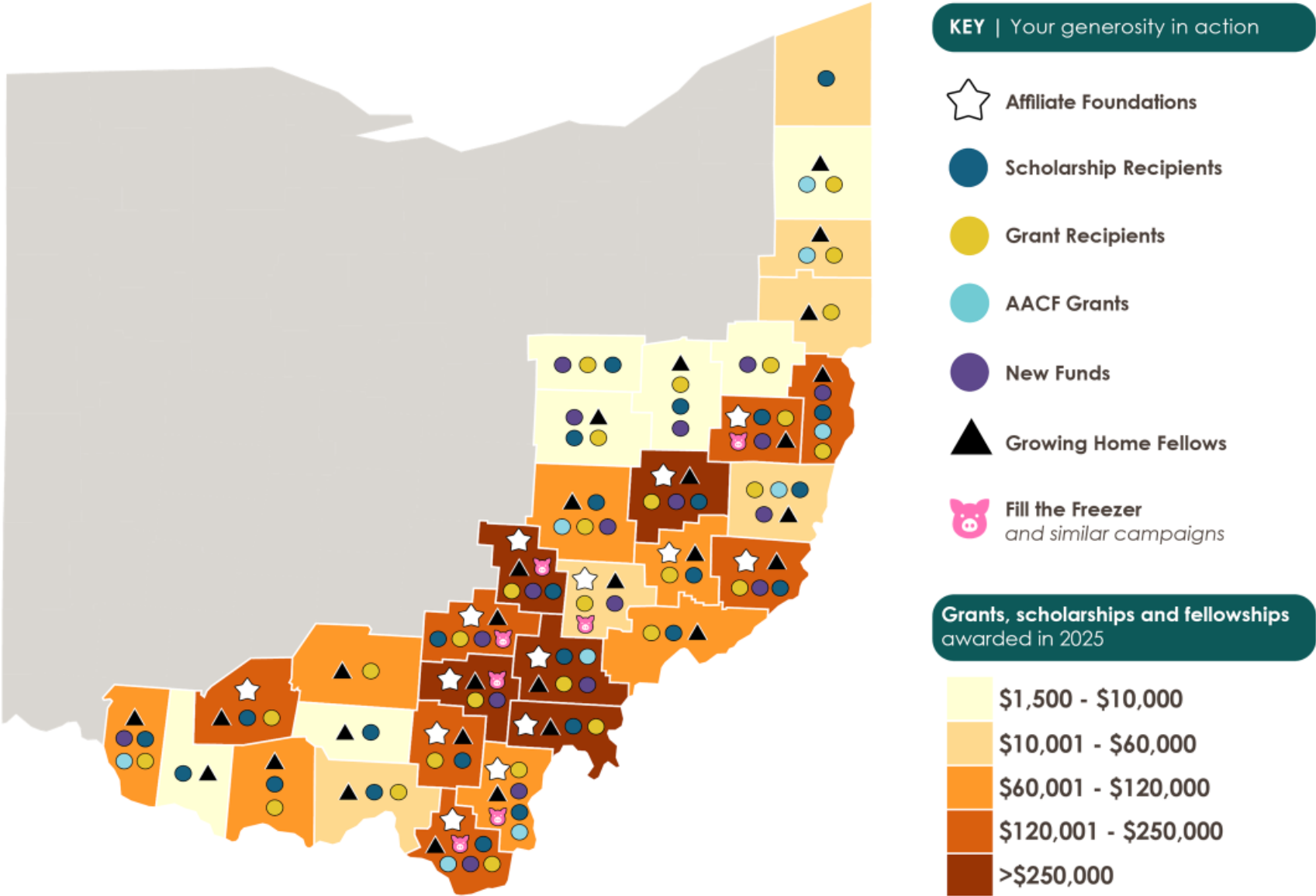
VISION

Flourishing people and flourishing communities, today and in perpetuity.

MISSION

Unleashing the collective potential within Appalachian Ohio by encouraging and supporting philanthropy.

2025 Impact Map | Foundation for Appalachian Ohio



The Opportunity

FAO, in partnership with the **Trust for Civic Life**, seeks to invest in **community building and civic health** through the region's public libraries by bringing residents together in meaningful ways, including through projects that forge deeper connections among community members and provide opportunities for residents to collaborate in solving challenges and creating new opportunities.

Funds will support libraries in implementing “civic experiments” which:

- Introduce entrepreneurial approaches to removing barriers that keep people from participating in their community;
- Repeatedly bring together a group of community members who have not been engaged with one another, the library or the community around a shared interest, goal or unmet need; or
- Integrate volunteer or community members as program leaders to expand capacity beyond staff.

What is Civic Health?

The trust between residents, the strength of local institutions and the sense of shared belonging.

FAO believes that civic health is a key component of both community and individual flourishing, which is at the core of our vision for the region.

Civic health is determined by how connected people in a community are to each other, the affinity they have for where they live, and how well they work together to solve challenges and advance solutions that benefit the community as a whole.



About the Trust for Civic Life

Launched in 2024, the Trust for Civic Life is a new grantmaker bringing together 21 national foundations and philanthropists to strengthen civic culture in rural communities. Through its core Civic Hubs program and small grants funding for experimental projects, the Trust aims to invest \$50 million in communities by 2028, supporting local work that fosters trust, belonging, and civic participation. Learn more at trustforciviclelife.org.



Key Information

- A total of **\$250,000** is available to award
- Libraries can apply for **up to \$20,000**
- **Only one** application per public library or library system within Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties
- If libraries will be partnering with other organizations, the **library must be the primary applicant**
- Applications are available through FAO's Foundation Cloud Community Portal
- Proposals are due **Thursday, October 22 by 11:59 pm**
- **Grant period** for funded projects: January 1 - July 31, 2027
- **Final reporting** is due by August 30, 2027
- All funded projects **agree to participate in a virtual convening in Fall 2027** to share lessons learned



Key Dates

- **October 22, 2026:** Applications due by 11:59 pm
- **December 2026:** Awarded libraries announced
- **January 1, 2027:** Grant period begins
- **July 31, 2027:** Funded projects completed
- **August 30, 2027:** Final impact reports due
- **Fall 2027:** Virtual convening of funded libraries



What are we looking for?

What projects and approaches is your library working on? What have you been dreaming about for your community?

Initiatives can be brand new or build on those the library has been running for some time



What are we looking for?

Libraries might impact civic health through projects that:

- Engage populations typically not as engaged with (or through) the library
- Create repeated engagement with people to build a sense of community
- Encourage, promote and deepen existing work to encourage civic engagement
- Address library needs to better integrate into the community's civic landscape
- Reach groups (e.g., specific age groups, multigenerational, etc.) you've wanted to engage with programming you have not yet been able to implement

What are we looking for?

Libraries might impact civic health through projects that:

- Experiment with new ways of marketing programs, timing of when programs are offered and/or location of programming, etc.
- Partner with community members, interns and/or organizations to increase capacity for program delivery
- Respond to community feedback on programming needs, gaps or opportunities to connect
- Develop systems and processes for information gathering to guide community engagement

appalachianohio.org/grant/investing-in-libraries-as-community-builders-grants/

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FOUNDATION FOR APPALACHIAN OHIO

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GRANT

Investing in Libraries as Community Builders grants

FAO, in partnership with the Trust for Civic Life and in honor of America's 250th, is awarding grants that invest in Appalachian Ohio's public libraries as community builders and civic institutions.

“
A library outranks any other one thing a community can

www.AppalachianOhio.org/libraries

Foundation Cloud Community Portal

appalachianohio.spectrumportal.net/accounts/signin

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APPALACHIAN OHIO
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Sign In

If you are a **first-time or new user** of FAO's *Foundation Cloud Community Portal* you will need to create your account. **Please click the orange Register button on the bottom left-hand corner under the Sign-In button to create your account.**

Please note, this is a new system and is separate from FAO's Donor Central. You will need to register to create a new account. This includes grant and scholarship applicants as well as other users.

If you have previously registered with and used *Foundation Cloud Community Portal*, please use your previously created login information.

For Frequently Asked Questions about registering with and using the system as a **Grant Applicant**, please [CLICK HERE](#).

For Frequently Asked Questions about registering with and using the system as a **Scholarship Applicant**, please [CLICK HERE](#).

User ID (Email address)

kmorman@ffao.org

Password

Sign In

[REGISTER](#) / [SEND PASSWORD HINT](#) / [RESET PASSWORD](#)

Please contact FAO at 740.753.1111 with any questions.

Questions?



Contact Us

With questions about the opportunity:

Kelly Morman

kmorman@ffao.org

740.300.0751

With questions about the Portal:

Nikki Wood

nwood@ffao.org

740.300.0779

**THANK YOU
FOR JOINING!**

