



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA
The National Leadership Honor Society

Maurice A. Clay Leadership
Development Initiative Grants

Overview

- [Clay Grants](#) are offered to circles to support new leadership development programs
 - *A circle must have submitted an [Annual Report](#) for the previous year to be qualified to apply this year*
- Program must take place between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, 2026
- Circles may request between \$100 and \$1,000 – average funded is \$500
- Application due Oct. 10; winners announced mid-November
- National Awards Committee reviews and selects





2026 Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grant Application


DESCRIPTION

Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grants are awarded to circles that seek funding to provide leadership and personal development opportunities on their campus through innovative, engaging, and collaborative programming. **Every year, OΔK provides ten or more grants, averaging \$500, to help develop leadership programs on these campuses.**



2026 Maurice A. Clay Leadership Development Initiative Grant Application

Submit by: Friday, October 10, 2025 11:59 PM

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[Log In to Apply](#)

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/2026claygrant>

Review the application process [here](#).



What is the committee looking for?

- Leadership development focus
- Furthers circle engagement with the campus and/or community
- Supports new programs or enhances existing programs
- Evidence of collaboration with leaders across campus and with the community
- Detailed plans, including a budget and evaluation plan
- Well-written application
- [See tips here](#)



Tips for a strong application (1/2)

- Applications should be developed collaboratively.
- Leadership development should be the primary focus.
- Assume the review committee knows NOTHING about your program, and fully explain as if you are talking with someone who has never stepped foot on your campus.
- Clearly explain how the funds will be spent.
 - *Clay funds cannot be used to make a donation or to purchase items that will be donated to non-profits.*



Tips for a strong application (2/2)

- Consider the longevity of the proposed program.
- How much of your circle will be engaged in this event?
 - *OΔK will not fund others' events without members contributing to the planning, execution, and evaluation.*
- Fully explain – maximize the available word count.
- Make the best use of your available resources on campus
 - *Partnerships should be secured before submitting the grant application.*
- Cannot ask for funding to support National Initiation Fees.



Questions?

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