



## Hughes Investments Vibrancy Initiative 2026 Elevate Upstate Grant Process FAQ

The purpose of the Elevate Upstate Grants is to identify and provide initial funding support for community-based programs that promote community and economic vibrancy in the 10 Upstate counties.

### 1. How many grants are available?

- a. Annually, three grants will be awarded for up to \$5,000 each, at least one of which will be designated for a project to occur at Bridgeway Station.

### 2. What types of organizations are eligible?

- a. Neighborhood associations, civic or community-based organizations, non-profit organizations or local governments that are committed to developing and implementing programs designed to increase local vibrancy

### 3. What types of grants are funded?

- a. Festivals, events, public art, park improvements and more. The project should create a sense of place or vibrancy in your community.
- b. Among the elements the committee will consider are:
  - i. Impact – Projects should address a community need, have a positive impact on community vibrancy, and help create a sense of place.
  - ii. Need – Will this project address a long-term community need/issue?
  - iii. Ability to Implement – How does the organization plan to implement the project and do they have the capacity (staff, volunteers, partners, time) to do so?
  - iv. Sustainability – It is important for the project to have some permanence and be renewable.
  - v. Availability of Additional Funding – If the overall budget exceeds the EU funding, what are the plans for generating that additional funding?
  - vi. Interactive – The project will have some element of interactivity included.
  - vii. Efficiency – The project will be implementable within 12 months and will use funds efficiently.
  - viii. Public – The project will be open and accessible by the public.

### 4. How do I know if I'm eligible?

- a. The organization must be located and do work within the following 10 counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, or Union.
- b. Past grant winners (and applicants) are eligible to apply, but the project must be new and different than the one previously funded or applied for.

### 5. What is the process?

- a. Complete the full grant application and send all required documents to [info@tenatthetop.org](mailto:info@tenatthetop.org) by Friday, September 11, 2026.
- b. All applicants will be notified by TATT whether they are a finalist.
- c. Finalists will submit a PowerPoint presentation (no more than 5 slides) to [info@tenatthetop.org](mailto:info@tenatthetop.org) by Wednesday, November 4, 2026.
- d. Finalists will present their projects at TATT's annual Celebrating Successes Event on November 18, 2026.

**6. Where can I find examples of previously funded projects?**

- a. Visit our website at <https://tenatthetop.org/hughes-investments-elevate-upstate-grants-initiative/> to see previous winners and brief descriptions of their projects.

**7. When does my project have to take place to be eligible?**

- a. All projects should be implemented within 12 months of receiving EUG funding, with the option of extending the implementation window to 18 months if deemed necessary by the committee.

**8. How do I turn in my application?**

- a. Visit our website to complete the application online via Google forms. All documents should be uploaded here.
- b. Once the application and documents are received, you will receive confirmation from Lena Dunham.

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