

Goodhue County
Outside Agency Funding Request Form

| Budget | | Estimated 2026 | Estimated 2027 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| | Fees: | \$ 36,500 | \$ 37,500 |
| | Grants: | \$ 68,000 | \$ 69,000 |
| | State/Federal Funding: | | |
| | Other Revenue: | \$ 160,000 | \$ 163,000 |
| Total Revenues: | | \$ 264,500 | \$ 269,500 |
| Expenses | | | |
| | Salaries: | \$ 195,700 | \$ 196,700 |
| | Benefits: | \$ 6,800 | \$ 7,000 |
| | Professional Services: | \$ 10,900 | \$ 10,900 |
| | Services & Charges: | \$ 40,000 | \$ 41,000 |
| | Supplies & Materials: | \$ 68,000 | \$ 69,000 |
| | Other Expenses: | \$ 70,000 | \$ 71,000 |
| | Capital: | \$ 7,000 | \$ 7,000 |
| Total Expenses: | | \$ 398,400 | \$ 402,600 |
| Requested Funding From County: | | \$ 137,000 | \$ 140,000 |
| Number of Staff | 4 fulltime/ 2 partime | | |

Goodhue County History Center



1166 Oak Street
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
651-388-6024

May 28, 2025

Goodhue County Commissioners
509 W. 5th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Goodhue County Historical Society, I am pleased to submit our budget request for 2026 and 2027. This request reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening the organization's operations while thoughtfully building capacity for the future. As our Board of Directors and staff continue working in partnership to broaden our reach throughout Goodhue County, your support remains critical to our success.

We are requesting to maintain our current allocation of **\$137,000 for 2026**, with a modest **increase of \$3,000 for 2027**, bringing the total to **\$140,000**. This request is based on several key considerations:

1. **Grant Limitations on Administrative Costs**

While we have successfully secured a legacy grant to digitize, catalog, and rehouse 15,841 photos from our collection—now accessible through MNCollections—grant funding typically excludes administrative and overhead expenses. The digitization project has significantly improved internal efficiency and public access, yet sustaining this progress requires ongoing operational support beyond what grants allow.

2. **New Website**

Our recently launched website has increased our visibility, enhanced our professional image, and improved user engagement. This critical investment supports broader outreach and community connection.

3. **Program Growth**

We continue to expand programming that brings in new donors, members, volunteers, and visitors. Our new Oral History Program, launched in collaboration with the Red Wing Senior Center and the Frontenac Historical Preservation group, has already completed 30 oral histories.

4. **Education Initiatives**

With support from the Duff Endowment, we published *Making History in Minnesota: Red Wing and Its People Impact the State*, authored by Frederick L. Johnson. This publication adds meaningful educational value and local relevance to our offerings.

5. **Collections Stewardship and Exhibit Development**

Staff are actively working on exhibit updates to attract new and repeat visitors. Our current focus includes modernizing the immigration exhibit and Goodhue County Sesquicentennial Farmers Oral History Video Project by incorporating interactive technology to enhance visitor engagement. As grant funding rarely covers all exhibit-related costs, especially for infrastructure and maintenance, ongoing county support is essential.

6. City of Red Wing Facility Support

The City of Red Wing has generously invested in maintaining the History Center. We continue to collaborate with city staff on planning improvements under our lease agreement. Notable facility investments include:

These contributions underscore the City's commitment, and we are working to uphold our responsibilities for ongoing improvements.

2014 \$54,627.54

2015 \$59,429.22

2016 \$512,134 was budgeted for maintenance & capital improvements

2017 \$42,400 projected for maintenance

2016 capital improvement funds carried over to complete HVAC replacement, window replacement in old section, and storefront improvements -total of \$469,734

2018 \$266,457 projected (new roof planned)

2019 \$42,400 projected (no capital improvements planned)

2020 \$42,400 projected (no capital improvements planned)

2021 \$44,600 projected (no capital improvements planned)

2022 \$41,7000 projected (no capital improvements planned)

2023 \$41,205 projected (no capital improvements planned)

2024 \$ (projected capital improvement \$120,000 repair cornice.)

2025 \$42,105.00 (no capital improvement)

7. Maintaining Staffing Levels

Our Board remains committed to offering salaries that align with industry standards for Minnesota's local history museums. However, we currently provide limited benefits beyond disability and life insurance, making it difficult to compete for and retain top talent. To preserve the expertise of our dedicated staff, increased financial support is essential.

We are proud of the progress we've made and grateful for the partnerships that have opened new doors across Goodhue County. We invite you to visit the History Center to explore our latest exhibits and see firsthand the impact of your support.

Thank you for your continued investment in the 157-year legacy of preserving and sharing Goodhue County's history. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Robin Wipperling

Executive Director

director@goodhistory.org