

Grant Guidelines

These guidelines describe the strategic priorities and application process for the Fayette Community Foundation's Rural Community Health Fund, a partnership with the St. David's Foundation.

Fayette Community Foundation has partnered with St. David's Foundation to advance health equity through investment and action in our shared rural service area in Central Texas. Advancing health equity includes building and strengthening the capacity of our rural communities and equipping them with tools and resources to promote health and well-being across the lifespan.

The Rural Community Health Fund is designed to invest in the people and places of rural central Texas. The ultimate goal is to uplift vulnerable and marginalized rural communities, nurturing the capacity needed to create conditions where all residents can thrive and achieve wellness.

This fund is driven by a desire and commitment to collectively address the enduring impacts of trauma resulting from historic and systemic racism, poverty, and inequitable access to opportunities based on identity and location. It focuses on supporting those facing the greatest barriers to health and well-being.

Please note that the Fund's focus is on nonprofit capacity building, community empowerment, belonging and well-being. The Fund cannot make grants to organizations or community efforts specifically seeking to influence legislation, contribute to political campaigns, or to support political candidates.

Fund Goals

1. Unleash the potential of rural communities in central Texas to make transformative changes that improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of people by supporting mission-driven organizations and networks of residents to improve policies, practices, and alignment of resources to address one or more of the social determinants of health.
2. Build the capacity of people including formal and informal leaders within communities and organizations to collaborate and find solutions to pressing health and quality of life issues in their communities.

Strategic Priorities

The Rural Community Health Fund prioritizes five strategies to advance health equity. Grants will be available to support each of these strategies.

Engage and Empower Residents – Grants designed to bring residents together to build relationships with each other, learn new skills, and take action on resident-identified and led projects designed to improve health and wellbeing, create greater sustained connection among community members, and build new relationships around a common vision or goal in neighborhoods and communities. Grant funds could be used to help residents build a social network, learn new skills such as how to manage a project, recruit community members to participate in a project, work collaboratively to implement a project, or collect stories of how the project impacted others. Residents would be expected to be supported to take action on issues of importance to their neighborhood or community.

Build Community Leadership Capacity – Grants designed to identify and support emerging community leaders and/or help experienced leaders learn how to support novice leaders. Leadership in a community context is different from leadership in an organizational context – leadership in community requires different skills, values, and behaviors. Grants would support activities, workshops, training, and experiential learning for a cohort of leaders that strengthens a community's leadership capacity.

Strategic Innovations for Rural Communities – Grants designed to support the identification and pilot-testing of novel processes, practices, system-level modifications, and innovations in improving community health and wellbeing. Grants would not support existing programs without significant modifications or adjustments to increase the likelihood that community health and wellbeing would be improved. An innovation could be the creation or introduction of new ways of helping residents to improve their health and wellbeing.

Nonprofit Organizational Capacity Building or New Nonprofit Formation – Grants to support organizational capacity building for existing or new organizations led by rural or historically-marginalized leaders seeking to form as 501(c3) charitable nonprofits working in areas of health and wellness. Start-up funding can include compensation for new leaders in the first year of organizational formation. Existing and newly forming nonprofits can request funds for board development, strategic planning, financial literacy, fund development, succession planning, program development, financial audits, or other areas of organizational need. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment.

Participatory Grantmaking Funds for Resident-Led Networks – Grants to resident-led networks that wish to create a pool of dollars to activate and move residents to action by providing network members

with start-up funding to test or experiment with projects that may improve the health and wellbeing of residents. Participatory Grantmaking places the decision for how the pool of funds will be distributed into the hands of residents. Note: Funds to secure technical assistance for networks to implement participatory grantmaking also can be requested in this grant opportunity.

Terms & Award

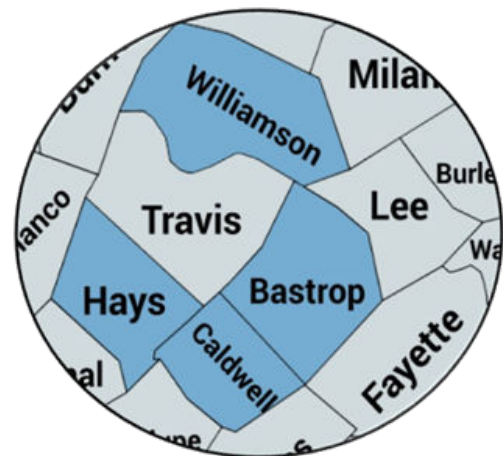
Grants are awarded for 12-month terms with a maximum amount of up to \$25,000 awarded per grant. Lesser amounts may be awarded based upon the proposal review process with the minimum amount awarded of \$1000. Participatory Grantmaking Funds for Resident-Led Community Networks will have a 6–9-month term with a maximum amount of up to \$5,000 awarded per grant. Applicants may apply for as many of these grant opportunities as they wish. However, an applicant can only receive one grant from the Fund per grant cycle.

Eligibility to Apply

The Rural Community Health Fund is designed to build community capacity and stimulate community innovations that may lead to improvements in health & wellbeing for residents in the St. David's Foundation's non-metro counties, specifically Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and eastern Williamson County.

Applicants for funding from the Rural Community Health Fund must be located (physical address) in one of these four non-metro counties (see blue shaded counties on map) **OR** provide programming, services, or supports to residents **in at least one** of the non-metro counties. Organizations must be tax-exempt under IRS Section 501(c)3, and in good standing in the state in which they are incorporated.

New or emerging organizations, coalitions, resident-led community networks, and other collaborative efforts without approved tax-exempt status may apply through a tax-exempt organization that meets the foundation's eligibility criteria and can, and is willing to, serve as a fiscal sponsor to receive the grant funds.



The following entities are **eligible** to receive funding:

- Nonprofits with a tax-exempt status as a 501(c)3 charitable organization

- Resident-led community networks partnering with a 501(c3) charitable organization that will serve as the fiscal sponsor on behalf of the network. The network must have established a leadership team of residents who will oversee and be accountable to the fiscal sponsor for the use of funds.
- **Collaboratives, Coalitions, Partnerships:** Collaboratives, coalitions, and partnerships with at least one member organized as a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit must submit their application through the nonprofit organization on behalf of the collaborative, coalition, or partnership. The nonprofit will serve as the grantee representing the collaborative, coalition, or partnership. Fiscal sponsors will be required to submit their 501(c)(3) designation, organizational budget, and recent 990 form. The remainder of the application will be representative of the work of the collaborative, coalition, or partnership and not the work of each individual member.
- **Community Networks:** Applicants that are organized as community networks (or other non-organizational configuration) will be required to partner with a fiscal sponsor to submit the grant application on their behalf. It is the responsibility of the network to secure an agreement with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is willing to serve as the fiscal sponsor for the network to receive grant funds. If you believe you may need a fiscal sponsor to be eligible to receive grant funds please contact the Foundation to discuss your circumstances.

Non-Discrimination

Applicants will be asked to read and agree to a non-discrimination policy to confirm that your organization or fiscal sponsor has a stated clause that includes race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other consideration made unlawful by applicable law, encompassing both employment practices and provision of services.

Fund Timetable

The Rural Community Health Fund has established one annual grant cycle. Each annual grant cycle has a timetable for receiving and reviewing applications and executing grant agreements. The following dates have been established for the 2024-2025 grant cycle.

2024 Rural Community Health Fund Grant Guidelines

Fund Activity	2024-25 Grant Cycle
Grant Guidelines posted on FCF website	February 19, 2024
Applications Accepted	March 1 - April 15, 2024
Application Review/Decision	May 1- May 31, 2024
Applicants Notified	June 15, 2024
Grant Agreements Prepared	June 22 - July 21, 2024
Grant Agreements Executed	No later than July 21, 2024
Grant Term Begins	August 15, 2024
Grant Term Ends	August 14, 2025

Foundation staff are available to answer questions about the Rural Community Health Fund, the 2024 strategic priorities and grant opportunities, and the application process. Other help includes:

- **Application Workshops** – Two 2 hour in-person group sessions and one 1-hour webinar Q&A session with Foundation staff and Fund consultants to ask questions and get a better understanding of the Fund’s strategic priorities and application process. All interested are welcome to attend any session in-person or virtual. Potential applicants may attend any session listed below in any county listed below regardless of your physical location. More event details on location will be posted on website and social media closer to the event date. The webinar recording will be made available for public access afterwards and posted on the FCF website.
 - February 1, 2024, from 10:00-11:00am (Informational Webinar; Location: Zoom Online)
 - March 6, 2024, 10:00-12:00pm (Bastrop County Location: TBA)
 - March 6, 2024, 2:00-4:00pm (Caldwell County Location: First Baptist Church)
 - March 7, 2024, 10:00-12:00pm (Hays County Location: San Marcos Library)
 - March 7, 2024, 2:00-4:00pm (East Williamson Location: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church)
- **Fayette Community Foundation website**
 - www.faycofoundation.com
 - Click on link for [Follow Rural Community Health Fund Facebook page for updates](#)
- **Foundation staff can be reached via email at**
 - Jamie Lee Manning, Public Initiatives Program Director
jlmanning@faycofoundation.com
 - Ashleigh Parks, Senior Director of Programs & Community Engagement
info@faycofoundation.com
 - Susannah Mikulin, CEO
susannah@faycofoundation.com

Application

Organizations choosing to submit a proposal will be able to access the online proposal application portal on **March 1, 2024, at 9:00am**. At that time, please point your browser to <https://www.faycofoundation.com/rchf>. **The deadline for submission is 5:00pm on April 15, 2024**. Grant terms are 12 months and begin August 15, 2024, for the 2024 grant cycle.

Applicants must submit their proposal in written electronic format using the FCF online application. The proposal requires responses to each of the following elements:

Organization Information

1. Are you a 501(c)(3) or public entity? If no, do you have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit? If you are not a 501(c)(3) and are interested in applying, you may still be eligible. Please contact Jamie Lee Manning at jlmanning@faycofoundation.com to discuss your eligibility status.
2. Area of population served- Please click each county that your organization is providing services:
 - Bastrop
 - Caldwell
 - East Williamson (Bartlett, Coupland, Granger, Taylor, and Thrall)
 - Hays
3. Project Name
4. Mission Statement- If using a Fiscal Sponsor, please submit that organization's mission statement
5. Organizational annual budget- If using a Fiscal Sponsor, please submit that organization's annual budget
6. Fiscal year start date
7. Fiscal year end date
8. Primary Organizational Contact

Primary Organizational Contact

If using a Fiscal Sponsor, please submit that organization's contact for this project

1. First & Last Name
2. Title
3. Organization Name
4. Phone Number

5. Email
6. Primary Contact

Equity Lens

1. Is this organization or project led by a person of a historically marginalized population?
2. What percentage of your board is from a rural or historically marginalized population?
3. What percentage of staff is a member of a rural or historically marginalized population?
4. What percentage of clients/patrons are members of a rural or historically marginalized community?
5. Nondiscrimination Statement

Project Details

Please select the primary impact areas your project will focus on.

1. Engage and Empower Residents
2. Build Community Leadership Capacity
3. Strategic Innovations for Rural Communities
4. Nonprofit Organizational Capacity Building or New Nonprofit Formation
5. Participatory Grantmaking Funds for Resident-Led Networks

Please explain below if you think your project focuses on more than one impact area.

Additional project details required:

1. Social Determinants of Health
2. Project Summary
3. Amount Requested
4. Total Project Budget Amount
5. Upload Project Budget
6. You may use the template below to complete the Project Budget
7. Project start date
8. Project end date
9. Does this project have additional resources? *Please note there is no expectation to have additional resources or revenue. If yes, please explain how this project has been supported and/or any plan for future support outside of this grant opportunity.

Project Objective

1. Who is your project designed to help? (Please include the demographic and geographic characteristics...)
2. Which percentage of your project will affect the rural and historically marginalized population?
3. How is your project meeting the unique needs of your community?
4. Estimated number of people served?
5. How does your project support (engage and uplift) community residents?

Measurable Outcomes

1. What are your project's outcomes?
2. How will you collect evidence that the outcomes were achieved?

Attachments

1. 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination
2. Most recent 990 form (If available)
3. Organizational Annual Board Approved Budget
4. List of Board Members or Committee Members (If your organization does not have a formal board of directors)

Please Note: Creativity is Encouraged! There will be a place to upload a supplemental video to enhance your application.

About the Foundation

The mission of the Fayette Community Foundation is to build stronger, safer, and more vibrant communities by providing a bridge that connects caring philanthropists to those in need. The Foundation is based in La Grange, Texas and is led by CEO Susannah Mikulin and a Board of Directors composed of 10 local leaders. FCF's vision is to produce positive and sustainable change for Fayette County and the surrounding communities within an 80-mile radius, which encompasses 36 counties, including SDF's five counties.