

# 2024-2025 Rural Community Health Fund FAQ

**Q1:** What is the Fayette Community Foundation's Rural Community Health Fund?

**A:** The Rural Community Health Fund is a partnership between Fayette Community Foundation and St. David's Foundation aimed at advancing health equity in rural central Texas. It focuses on supporting nonprofit capacity building, community empowerment, belonging, and well-being.

**Q2:** What are the strategic priorities of the Rural Community Health Fund?

**A:** The fund prioritizes five strategies: engaging and empowering residents, building community leadership capacity, implementing strategic innovations for rural communities, supporting nonprofit organizational capacity building or new nonprofit formation, and participatory grantmaking funds for resident-led networks.

**Q3:** What geographic areas are eligible for funding?

**A:** Organizations must be located in or provide services to residents in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Eastern Williamson Counties.

## **Eligibility and Application Process:**

**Q4:** Who is eligible to apply for funding?

**A:** Distributions may only be granted to organizations which meet the requirements of a public charity as defined by 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code (i.e. churches, schools, hospitals, government entities, and publicly supported 501(c)(3) organizations, resident-led community networks partnering with a fiscal sponsor, collaboratives, coalitions, partnerships, and community networks partnered with a fiscal sponsor.

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](mailto:jlmanning@faycofoundation.com) to discuss your eligibility status.

**Q5:** How much funding can be requested?

**A:** Grants have a maximum amount of up to \$25,000 per grant, with lesser amounts possible based on the proposal review process. Participatory grantmaking funds for resident-led networks have a maximum amount of up to \$5,000 per grant.

**Q6:** When is the application deadline?

**A:** The application portal opens on March 1, 2024, and closes at 11:59 PM on April 15, 2024.

# 2024-2025 Rural Community Health Fund FAQ

## Contact and Support:

**Q7:** How can I get assistance with my application?

**A:** Foundation staff are available to answer questions and provide support. You can attend application workshops, contact staff via email, or visit the Fayette Community Foundation website and social media for updates and resources.

**Q8:** Who can I contact for more information?

**A:** For inquiries, you can reach out to Jamie Lee Manning, Public Initiatives Program Director, or Ashleigh Parks, Senior Director of Programs & Community Engagement via email. Contact details are provided on the foundation's website.

## KEY CONCEPTS

**Capacity Building:** the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world (Source:United Nations)

**Grassroots Organizing:** A bottom-up approach where local residents initiate and lead efforts to address community needs and create positive change, often without relying on external organizations or authorities. (Source:Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health)

**Rural:** those that are non-metro, our work prioritizes Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays counties, as well as the eastern part of Williamson County. These communities were identified using multiple criteria including, but not limited to, the following: Community readiness to engage in a community change effort; existing momentum to build on community capacity; Community Health Needs Assessment; County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; and community guidance gathered from field trips and listening sessions. (Source:St. David's Foundation)

**Historically-Marginalized Populations:** People of color; people living in poverty, particularly across generations; religious minorities; people with physical or mental disabilities; LGBTQ persons; and women. (Source:Robert Wood Johnson)

**Social Determinants Of Health:** the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## 2024-2025 Rural Community Health Fund FAQ

**Participatory Philanthropy**- a practice that explicitly includes the participation of community members (non-funders) with lived expertise in a relevant issue area. It shifts the usual power dynamics of foundation-led decision-making by inviting community members to make decisions in the grantmaking process and/or the foundation's broader strategy and planning work.

(Source:Center For Effective Philanthropy)

**Participatory Grantmaking:** an approach within participatory philanthropy, is a structured process through which community members with lived expertise make decisions about grants.

(Source:Center For Effective Philanthropy)