

Rural Community Health Fund Application Guide

We're excited you're interested in applying for the Rural Community Health Fund (RCHF). This Application Preparation Guide is designed to help applicants gather the information, materials, and responses needed before starting the online application through the Greater Fayette Community Foundation.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to first review the Grant Guidelines and FAQ document before beginning an application.

Applications Open: June 1, 2026

Applications Close: June 30, 2026

Important Instructions

All proposals must be submitted through the GFCF online application system. This guide outlines the required questions, attachments, and materials needed to complete your submission. We encourage applicants to gather all required documents before beginning the application process.

Applicants are encouraged to prepare draft responses in advance before entering the online application system.

Please note: Before accessing the full application, all applicants will complete an Eligibility Checklist within the online portal. We strongly encourage organizations to review the eligibility requirements outlined in the Grant Guidelines before preparing application materials to ensure alignment with fund priorities and eligibility criteria.

If you have questions about eligibility, funding priorities, fiscal sponsorship, or the application process, please contact:

Jamie Lee Manning
Sr. Director of Community Impact
jlmanning@greaterfayette.com

We recognize that some applicants may be smaller grassroots or emerging organizations navigating grant applications for the first time, and we are happy to provide clarification and support throughout the process.

Jamie Lee Manning
Sr. Director of Community Impact
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Funding Information

- Counties Served: Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson Counties
- Focus on grassroots, community-based, and rural-serving organizations
- Organizations with annual operating budgets over \$500,000 are generally ineligible unless they meet specific eligibility exceptions outlined in the Grant Guidelines
- Fiscal sponsorship is encouraged

WHAT YOU'LL NEED BEFORE APPLYING

Organization Information

- Mission Statement
- Are you a 501(c)(3) or public entity? (If no, please contact Jamie Lee Manning to discuss eligibility.)
- Organizational Annual Budget
- Board or Leadership List
- Primary Contact Information (First & Last Name, Title, Organization Name, Phone Number, Email)

Financial Information

- Most recent IRS 990 Form (if applicable)
- Board-approved organizational budget (if available)
- Project budget

Project Information

- Project summary
- Funding request amount
- Target population and communities served
- Community need being addressed
- Expected outcomes

Funding Priority Areas

Applicants will select one primary funding priority that most closely aligns with their project. Please choose the area that best reflects the primary focus of your proposed work.

Priority Areas

- **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.
- **Build Community Leadership Capacity**
 - Grants designed to identify and support emerging community leaders and/or help experienced leaders learn how to support novice leaders.
- **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.
- **Nonprofit Organizational Capacity Building or New Nonprofit Formation**
 - Grants to support organizational capacity building for new or existing organizations led by rural or historically marginalized leaders seeking to form a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit working in areas of health and wellness.
- **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.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Organization Overview

- Are you a 501(c)(3) or public entity?
- Area of population served
- Project name (100 character limit)
- Mission statement (10,000 character limit)
- Organizational annual budget
- Fiscal year start date
- Fiscal year end date
- Fiscal sponsor information (if applicable)
- Primary organizational contact information

Equity Lens

- Is this organization or project led by a person of a historically marginalized population?
- What percentage of your board is from a rural or historically marginalized population?
- What percentage of staff is from a rural or historically marginalized population?
- What percentage of clients/patrons are members of a rural or historically marginalized community?

Historically Marginalized Populations

For the purposes of this application, historically marginalized populations include communities that have experienced systemic barriers, exclusion, or inequitable access to opportunity and resources. This may include people of color, individuals living in generational poverty, religious minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and other communities experiencing persistent inequities. (Adapted from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Project Overview

- Which priority area best aligns with your project. Select Only One?
- Please explain below if you think your project focuses on more than one impact area. (250 words or less)
- Social determinants of health addressed by the project
 - Economic Stability.
 - Education Access and Quality.
 - Health Care Access and Quality.
 - Neighborhood and Built Environment.
 - Social and Community Context.
- Project summary (250–500 words)
- Amount requested
- Total project budget
- Project start date
- Project end date

Project Objective

- Who is your project designed to help? Please include demographics and geographic characteristics. (250 words or less)
- Which percentage of your project will affect the rural and historically marginalized population?
- How is your project meeting the unique needs of your community? (250 words or less)
- Estimated number of people served
- How does your project support, engage, and uplift community residents? (250 words or less)

Outcomes & Learning

- What outcomes or changes do you hope to see as a result of this project? (250 words or less)
- How will you know if this project is making a difference? (250 words or less)

In 250 words or less, please describe how you will reflect on progress, gather feedback, or observe changes related to this project. This may include stories, participation, surveys, data, community feedback, or other indicators of impact.



Required Attachments

- IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter
- Most recent IRS 990 Form
- Organizational annual budget
- Project budget
- List of Board/Committee Members and Top Key Staff Members

Optional: Supplemental Video

Creativity is encouraged. Applicants may submit a short supplemental video (3 minutes or less) to help tell the story of their organization or project.

Videos may include:

- Introductions to your team
- Examples of impact
- Community stories
- Project overview
- Testimonials

Please provide a YouTube or Vimeo link within the application.

Project Budget Template Items:

Applicants may use their own project budget template or organize project expenses using the following categories:

Item	Anticipated Cost
Staff Salaries	
Benefits & taxes	
Training	
Programming	
Administrative/ Operating	
Development/ Marketing	
Consultant/ Contractor/ Collaborator	
Miscellaneous	
Total Anticipated Cost	