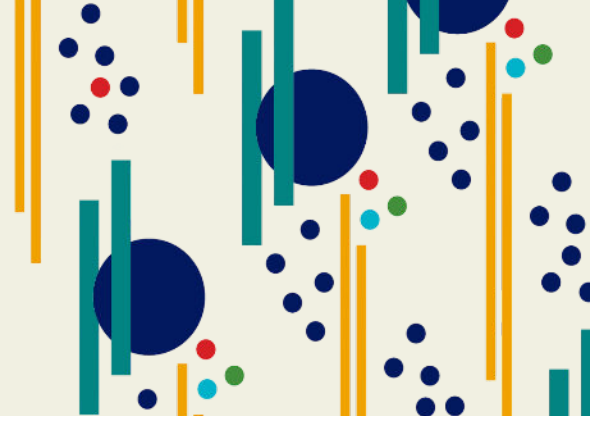


Rural Community Health Fund FAQ and Key Concepts



About the Rural Community Health Fund

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

A: The Rural Community Health Fund (RCHF) is a partnership between the Greater Fayette Community Foundation and St. David's Foundation to advance 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: RCHF 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, or Williamson County, Texas.

Eligibility and Application Process

Q4: Who is eligible to apply for funding?

A: Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofits in good standing; resident-led community networks partnering with a fiscal sponsor; collaboratives, coalitions, and partnerships partnered with a fiscal sponsor; and public charities as defined by Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code (e.g., churches, schools, hospitals, and government entities). 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@greaterfayette.com to discuss your eligibility.

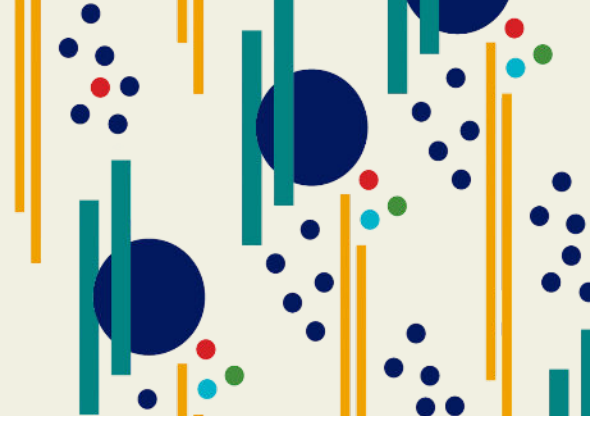
Organizational Budget Threshold: Applicants with total annual operating budgets over \$500,000 are not eligible for Community Impact Grant funding.

- Exceptions: the following applicants may be eligible when applying for a clearly defined, community-serving project or program:
 - Public school districts / ISDs
 - Churches or faith-based organizations
 - Organizations applying on behalf of a specific program or site with an annual budget under \$500,000

Jamie Lee Manning

Sr. Director of Community Impact
jlmanning@greaterfayette.com

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- Additional Guidance: Some larger organizations operate smaller, community-based programs or sites. These may be eligible if:
 - The specific program or site budget is under \$500,000
 - The program or site clearly aligns with the purpose of the fund
 - Applicants will be asked to confirm this information during the eligibility check. Responses may determine whether an application moves forward.

Q5: How much funding can be requested?

A: General grants may request up to \$50,000 (lesser amounts may be awarded based on the review process).

Q6: When is the application deadline?

A: The application portal opens on **June 1, 2026**, and closes at **5:00 PM on June 30, 2026**.

Contact and Support

Q7: How can I get assistance with my application?

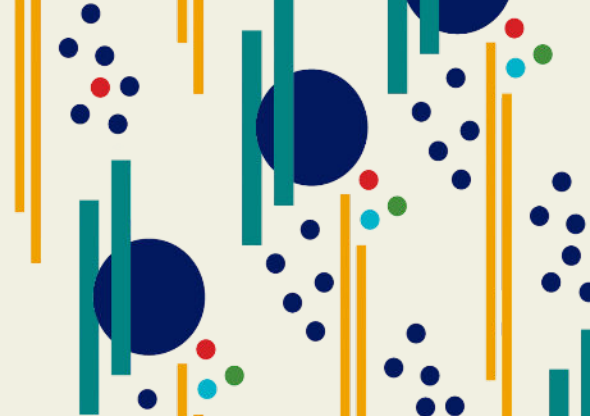
A: Foundation staff are available to answer questions regarding strategic priorities, grant opportunities, and the application process.

- **Application Guide:** See the attachment Application Addendum for an overview of required questions and guidelines to complete your application.
- **Office Hours:** Schedule an appointment with the Senior Director of Community Impact to discuss your proposal. Office hours will be posted on social media in early May 2026.
- **Workshops:** Five in-person sessions and one webinar to provide applicant guidance.
 - June 2, 2026 | Fayette County
 - Fayette Public Library: 855 S Jefferson St, La Grange, TX 78945
 - 10:00 - 11:30 AM
 - June 2 2026 | Hays County
 - 5:00 - 6:30 PM
 - Abundant Life Christian Church: 251 Uhland Road, Suite 120, San Marcos, Texas
 - June 3, 2026 | Williamson County
 - 10:00 - 11:30 AM
 - Carver Center in Georgetown: 1200 W 17th St, Georgetown, TX 78626
 - June 3, 2026 | Bastrop County
 - 5:00 - 6:30 PM
 - Elgin Council Chambers/Civic Center: 404 N Main Street Elgin, TX 78621

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- June 4, 2026 | Caldwell County
 - 10:00-11:30 AM
 - Resurrection Life Church: 3460 County Line Road, P.O 54, Dale, Texas 78616
- **GFCF Website:** <https://greaterfayette.com/rchf/>
- **Contact Information:**
 - Jamie Lee Manning, Senior Director of Community Impact: jlmanning@greaterfayette.com
 - Ashleigh Parks, Senior Director of Community Engagement: ashleigh@greaterfayette.com
 - Susannah Mikulin, CEO: susannah@greaterfayette.com

Q8: Who can I contact for more information?

A: For questions about eligibility or the application process, contact **Jamie Lee Manning, Senior Director of Community Impact**, at jlmanning@greaterfayette.com.

Key Concepts and Definitions

Capacity Building

The process of developing and strengthening the skills, 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

Focused on supporting the rural parts of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson counties, including city-based organizations that extend services to rural communities. These communities were selected based on factors such as community readiness, existing momentum, health needs assessments, health rankings, and community input from field visits and listening sessions. (Source: St. David's Foundation)

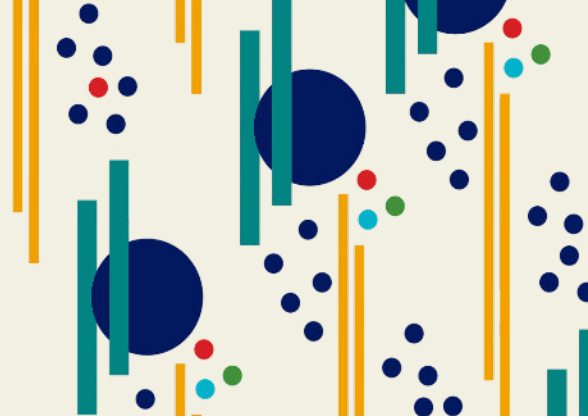
Historically Marginalized Populations

Groups that have experienced systemic exclusion or disadvantage, including people of color, individuals living in generational poverty, religious minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and women. (Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

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Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

The nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes — including the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the broader forces shaping daily life. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Participatory Philanthropy

An approach that shifts traditional foundation-led decision-making by involving community members with lived expertise to make decisions about grantmaking strategies and processes. (Source: Center for Effective Philanthropy)

Participatory Grantmaking

A structured process within participatory philanthropy where community members directly decide how grants are distributed. (Source: Center for Effective Philanthropy)

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