

2026

# Community Grants FAQ's

## How does WCCF define "Basic Needs" for the 2026 cycle?

For this specific grant cycle, we are prioritizing essential safety-net services that provide the "floor" of support for vulnerable residents. This includes:

- **Food Security:** Food banks, pantries, and meal delivery programs.
- **Housing & Shelter:** Emergency shelters, transitional housing, and rent/utility assistance to prevent homelessness for those in unstable situations.
- **Physical & Mental Health:** Primary care clinics, crisis intervention, and essential medication assistance.
- **Safety:** Domestic violence advocacy and emergency childcare for families in crisis.

## Does my organization qualify if we focus on "Quality of Life" programs?

While WCCF values arts, culture, and general community enrichment, our 2026 priority is strictly focused on stabilizing essential safety-net services impacted by recent funding shifts. If your program does not directly provide food, shelter, health, or safety services to vulnerable populations, it may not be competitive for this funding. Program staff may direct you to other WCCF processes, if applicable.

## Can our organization apply if we received a 2025 Community Grant Award?

Yes, your organization may apply for a 2026 Community Grant if you received funding from the 2025 Community Grant cycle. Keep in mind, that this year's process is limited to organizations serving basic needs to provide essential safety-net services (see above) for vulnerable populations (see below).

## What does "Vulnerable Populations" mean?

- Individuals and families living below the federal poverty line.
- Uninsured or underinsured individuals.
- Immigrant/migrant/mixed status individuals and families.
- Seniors on fixed incomes.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

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## Can these funds be used for "General Operating Support"?

Yes. Recognizing that federal and state cuts often hit the "backbone" of an organization, we will consider requests for general operating support, provided your organization's primary mission is the delivery of the basic needs listed above.

## What can "Bridge Funding" support, and how long will it cover a gap in funding?

For this grant opportunity, "Bridge Funding" may be used to cover necessary operational expenses while an organization awaits the receipt of governmental or other confirmed funding.

To request funds for bridging purposes, the incoming funding must already be formally awarded or legally committed. Additionally, Bridge Funding must be expended within the organization's current calendar or fiscal year and cannot be repurposed to cover other expenses that may occur.

## What are some examples of Capacity-building technology or Structural Transformation needs that would qualify for funding?

Eligible capacity-building technologies may include data or Customer Relationship Management, program evaluation, or case management software. Structural transformation support may include consultants for mergers and restructuring, as well as exploring or facilitating shared back-office models to increase efficiency and sustainability. These are just a few examples of what this funding may cover.

## If we missed the May 15th LOI deadline, can we still apply?

Absolutely. May 15 is the first Letter of Interest (LOI) deadline for review to determine eligibility for the full application. The final deadline to submit your LOI is June 12, 2026, and the final deadline to submit a full application (if your organization is moved forward) is July 17, 2026, by 5:00 pm.

[Submit an LOI](#)