



**THE
WASHINGTON
HOME**

A Charitable Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Who does The Washington Home (the Foundation) serve?

The Foundation provides funding for programs and projects in the Washington, D.C. area that serve older adults (aged 60+), as well as programs and projects that support adults with a critical illness, and their caregivers.

In what geographic area does the Foundation make grants?

The Foundation funds 501(c)3 organizations located in Washington, D.C. Currently, it does not fund organizations outside of the Washington, D.C. area.

How do I know if my organization is eligible to apply for funding from the Foundation?

To be eligible to apply for funding, an organization must be: 1) designated as a 501(c)3; 2) located in Washington, D.C.; and 3) serve older adults (aged 60+) or adults with a critical illness.

What are the Foundation's funding priorities?

The Foundation funds programs and projects that support older adults in five priority areas: caregiver relief, critically ill, food insecurity, social isolation, and sponsorship/memberships.

- (1) **Caregiver Relief** – caregivers provide important support to care recipients who are aging in place or facing a critical illness (cancer, dementia, etc.). Caregivers can include both family members and professionals such as certified nursing assistants and home health aides. The Foundation supports projects that focus on the needs of both the caregiver and their care recipient.

Examples of programs and projects funded for caregiver relief include: providing home health aides/certified nursing assistants (CNAs) for supplemental support, training and education for professional caregivers, caregiver support groups, program equipment, art supplies, and field trips for participants of adult daycare centers.

- (2) **Critically Ill** – people who are critically ill face life-threatening conditions that can lead to physical impairments, cognitive impairments, and disabilities. Critical illness conditions can run the gamut from cancer and heart disease to dementia and stroke. The Foundation supports programs and projects that focus on the provision of direct care services, improving health outcomes for older adults, end-of-life care, and building the workforce needed to care for older adults.

Examples of programs and projects funded include: startup costs for the first Geriatric Career Builders' Apprenticeship Program in Washington, D.C., hospice and palliative care fellowships, nursing scholarships, hospice care and resources, cancer patient support-funds, end-of-life education and awareness, and a geriatric surgery pilot program.

- (3) **Food Insecurity** – this condition affects thousands of older adults throughout Washington, D.C., and millions more nationwide. The Foundation supports programs and projects that focus on increasing access to food as well as improving the quality of food available to older adults.

Examples of programs and projects funded include: delivering meals to homebound older adults, expanding the distribution capacity of food programs, increasing access to fresh produce, sharing nutrition education, and providing community-based cooking demonstrations.

- (4) **Social Isolation** – This condition is defined by a lack of relationships with others and having little-to-no social support or contact. The Foundation supports virtual and in-person programs that focus on reducing social isolation among older adults through recreational activities involving the arts, physical activity, technology, and more.

Examples of projects funded include: swimming programs for older adults, senior wellness center activities and equipment, volunteering, and technology training/support.

- (5) **Sponsorships & Memberships** – While not direct care, this support is vital for organizations to help nurture stability and expansion of programs. The Foundation provides a limited number of sponsorships and memberships for eligible organizations.

Examples of projects funded include: resources for fundraising events and smaller-scale programmatic initiatives.

What does the Foundation consider when making grants?

Evaluation criteria to approve grant applications include:

- The team can start or grow well-conceived programs/organizations;
- The application proposes innovative solutions to improve the quality, accessibility, and/or delivery of programs and services for older adults and the critically ill in the Washinton, D.C. area;
- The team can replicate and scale successful programs and services from its own or other jurisdictions;
- The application proposes ways to build organizational capacity to enhance sustainability and/or improve service delivery (e.g., commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion); and
- The proposed program or project leverage resources, whether human or financial (e.g., revenue, partnerships, matching, or aligned funds).

Are there any programs that The Foundation does not fund?

The Washington Home does not:

- Give to endowment funds;
- Fund lobbying or political activities;
- Make grants to individuals;
- Fund programs that provide gift cards;
- Provide funds to private foundations unless for a particular grant purpose;
- Replace government funding; or
- Fund religious activities, although secular health programs provided by a religious institution, or its affiliate(s) may qualify.

Does the Foundation have an open call for grant applications or is it by invitation-only?

Traditionally, the Foundation has provided funding through invitation-only. However, in 2024 TWH began hosting an open-call grant application process. All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply. More information on the grants timeline can be found on the website at TheWashingtonHome.org/Apply.

If an organization has been declined for a grant, when can it re-apply?

All applicants are eligible to re-apply during each open-call grant cycle.

Can a prospective grantee submit more than one application during a grant round?

Prospective grantees are encouraged to submit one application per grant round. Within each application, prospective grantees may select more than one priority area of focus and use the goals section in the application to further explain the expected impact as it relates to each priority area.

Can prospective grantees collaborate on a joint application?

Yes, and collaboration is highly encouraged to meet the needs of the area's older adult population more deeply.

Can grantees submit a multi-year proposal?

Yes, particularly if the first year is a pilot with plans to scale the work in future years of the grant.

What is the grant funding range?

The Foundation traditionally approves proposals ranging from \$50,000.00–\$300,000.00.

If an organization received a grant/sponsorship in the past, when can it reapply?

Former grantees are eligible to reapply during each open-call grant cycle.

Does the Foundation allow indirect cost in the grant proposals?

Yes, applicants are allowed to submit proposals that include indirect costs of up to 10% of the total grant request.

What is “sustainability” and how can applicants show that a program or project is sustainable?

Sustainability means that an organization has the necessary infrastructure and resources in place to ensure that the program or project objectives can be met beyond the grant award. Prospective grantees are encouraged to consider the short and long-term goals of a program/project and identify a variety of strategies to foster a sustainable program that can accomplish its goals. Strategies can include collaborating with another organization doing the same work, developing greater capacity for reimbursement, attaining, and leveraging other donors, and/or creating a fee-for-service model.

How does The Foundation review each application?

The grant team takes a comprehensive look at each application. During the review process, the following is evaluated:

- The organization is in full compliance and good standing with relevant state, federal, and county regulations;
- The financial sustainability of the organization (e.g., regular independent audits, Directors and Officers [D&O] insurance, etc.);
- The quality, completeness, and comprehensiveness of the application;
- Compliance with grant guidelines and agreement in current and previous cycles;
- Feasibility of the proposed program or project, and the organization's ability to implement it;
- The applicant has attended a TWH grantee training with The Washington Home (TWH) staff and hosted a virtual TWH visit if it's a first-time applicant;
- The amount of funding requested, and that the allocation of the funds aligns with TWH guidelines; and
- The program or project addresses one of TWH's key priority areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit TheWashingtonHome.org or contact a member of the foundation staff.

Thank you for all you do to support our area's older adult community.