



Grant Overview Webinar

2025 Rural Health Small Grants

Today's Presenters



DR. AARON WERNHAM
CEO
Presenter



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Operations Manager
Q&A Host



MARIA SWOBODA
Grant Administrator
Host & Presenter



Webinar Goals & Agenda

Webinar Goals

- ✓ **Describe** the funding opportunity.
- ✓ **Explain** the timeline and application process.
- ✓ **Answer** your questions.

Agenda

- ▶ **1:05 pm – 1:40 pm**
 - MTHF Overview
 - Grant Overview & Eligibility
 - Selection Criteria
 - Application Process
- ▶ **1:40 pm – 2:00 pm.**
 - Q&A Session



MTHF Overview



Organization Overview



- ▶ The Montana Healthcare Foundation is a 501 (c)3 private foundation that makes strategic investments to improve health in Montana.
- ▶ We provide funding, leadership, and expertise to help communities tackle Montana's most important health problems.
- ▶ We are a permanent resource for the state. We manage our trust investments sustainably, making grants and grant-related investments of roughly 5% of the value of our trust each year.



Strategic Initiatives

We do the bulk of our work in ten strategic initiatives:

- 1. Strengthening American Indian Health Services**
- 2. Reducing American Indian Health Disparities**
- 3. Behavioral Health Continuum of Care**
- 4. Integrated Behavioral Health**
- 5. The Meadowlark Initiative®**
- 6. School-Based Health Initiative**
- 7. Medicaid and Health Policy**
- 8. Housing is Health Care**
- 9. Healthy Montana Communities**
- 10. Grant Application Assistance**

We also make grants through an annual Call for Proposals, which is our largest open funding opportunity.



Overview & Eligibility





Rural Health Small Grants Overview

This is a new grant opportunity for organizations located in and serving rural Montana. Through a simplified application, rural Montana organizations can apply for grants to help address a health issue in their community.

Timeline

- ▶ Opportunity Opens: **March 1, 2025**
- ▶ First Review Funding Decisions: **June 15**
- ▶ Opportunity Closes: **September 1**
- ▶ Second Review Funding Decisions: **September 15**
- ▶ Grant Amount: up to \$10,000
- ▶ Grant Term: up to one year



Applicant Eligibility

The rural grant opportunity is open only to organizations that are based in the rural community they serve. **We define rural Montana as any community outside of the seven urban hubs (Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell, Helena, and Butte).**

Rural organizations that are eligible to apply for funding include:

- Tax-exempt organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (excluding those classified as private foundations or any type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization under Section 509(a) of the code).
- Tax-exempt educational institutions.
- State, tribal, or local government agencies.

Organizations with fiscal sponsors are eligible for funding, provided the fiscal sponsor is one of the above eligible organization types.



Applicant Eligibility FAQs

Is an organization with a satellite location in rural Montana eligible?

No. The organization's primary location and service area must be a rural Montana community.

Is an organization that primarily serves a rural Montana community but is physically located in an urban hub eligible?

No. The organization must be physically located in a rural Montana community.

Why? The Rural Health Small Grants are intended to be a low-barrier opportunity for small, rural organizations that may have fewer staff and resources, making it difficult to compete for larger grants. We therefore give preference to projects from organizations that are based in the rural community they serve.

Please contact us with specific questions about your eligibility.



Applicant Eligibility FAQs

Are organizations that have 501c3 IRS applications submitted and pending approval eligible?

Yes. However, the application will be rejected if IRS approval has not been received by the time that we are due to make a funding decision.

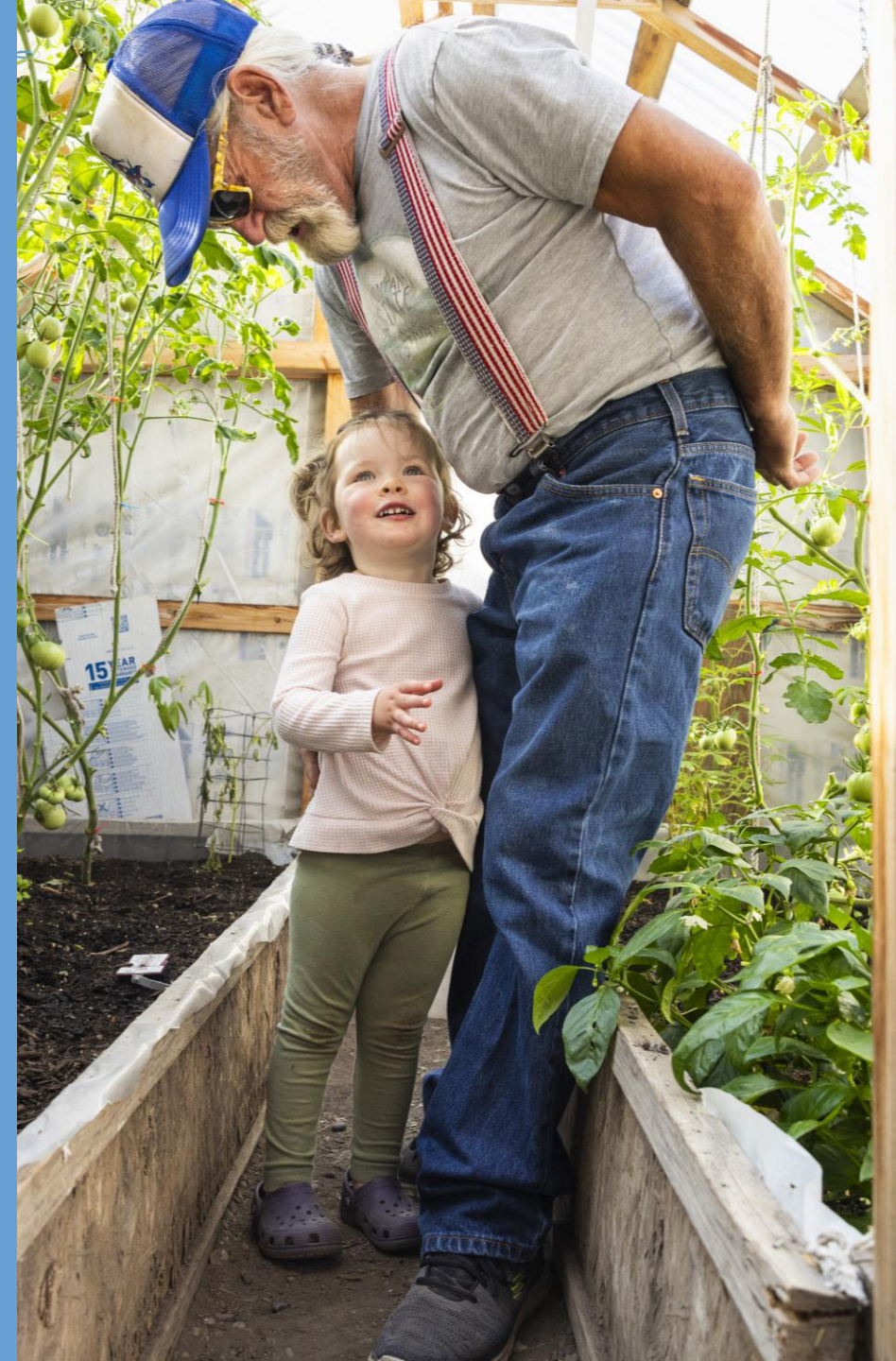
Is an independent rural Montana nonprofit still eligible if it is part of a chain or network of nonprofits that operate outside of Montana?

Yes, if the rural Montana nonprofit is governed by a board based in the community where it's located, and the funding is restricted to that organization.

Keeping with the intention of this opportunity, we may give preference to projects from organizations that are not under the umbrella or network of a larger entity.



Selection Criteria





Overview

Communities face many challenges that impact health. We encourage projects that support work addressing a broad range of issues. Projects may focus on any health-related issue, for example mental health, housing, food, child or elder care, public health, or cultural connection.

The strongest applications are for projects that will build relationships, fill unmet needs, and have impacts that last beyond the grant.



Selection Criteria

- **Importance:** The project addresses an issue that is important to health and well-being in your community.
- **Need:** The grant will fill a need that other available resources in the community have not met.
- **Partnerships:** The project is planned with and will be carried out with partners that are important to long-term success.
- **Sustaining Impacts:** The benefits of the project will continue beyond the grant term.
- **Community Involvement:** The project meets a need identified by the community it will serve, and the community will be involved in planning and implementation.

We Do Not Fund

- Individuals
- Capital campaigns
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Fundraising events
- Organizations that discriminate by reason of race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or political orientation
- Lobbying as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (IRC), section 4945(d)(1)
- Activities supporting political candidates or voter registration drives, as defined in IRC section 4945(d)(2)
- Medical research or research lacking a direct, targeted, and practical benefit to Montanan's health
- Organizations or foundations for redistribution of funds via sub-grants

Please note that our funds may not be used in any way that might supplant government funding of existing programs. All applicants must read our [Guidelines on Supplanting](#).



Restrictions on “Supplanting”

- ✗ State Law: Our grants may *NOT* be used by grantees to supplant government funding.
- ✗ Our Policy: Our funds may *NOT* be used to *supplant* other, non-government sources of funding either.
- ✓ You *MAY* use our funds to *supplement* government funding.

Supplant: *To supersede or replace.* You had or have government funding for an activity, and you use our funds to supersede or replace those funds. Not allowed!

Supplement: *To add to or augment funding.* You use our funds to accomplish some specific new outcomes and deliverables that could not be accomplished with current funding. Allowed!



Application Process



Letter of Interest



This grant opportunity is a two-step process. Applicants will first email info@mthf.org with the following information about the organization and the project:

- ▶ Organization name and tax ID number (or your fiscal sponsor's tax ID number if applicable)
- ▶ Physical location of your organization (street, city, state, zip code) and the geographic communities it serves (towns or counties)
- ▶ Brief, two-to-four sentence description of the project
- ▶ If applicable: links to your website, social media, or any existing materials about the organization or project (brochure, flyer, one-pager, etc)

Foundation staff will review this information, generally within 30 days.



Application Process

If your organization is eligible for funding and the project aligns with the foundation's funding goals, we will email an invitation to complete the full application in our grant management system.

Full applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applications received by June 1 will be reviewed in the first round, with decisions sent on June 15, and applications received after June 1 will be reviewed in the second round, with decisions sent on September 15. Applications not funded in the first round will remain in consideration in the second round.



Grant Management System

01.

Find the grant management system login link on the website

Manage Your Application

Log in to the grants management system to manage your grant application.

Login

02.

Login

Returning users enter your login credentials and then click "Login"

First time users click "Register Here"

Check browser settings and enable pop-ups if you receive an **"Incorrect Captcha Response"** error

Login

Email

Password

Login

Forgot Password?

New To The System?

Register Here



How to Apply

03.

Start Your Application

Open the application in the “My Applications and Grants” section.

04.

Fill Out Your Application

Click “Save Draft” frequently to save your work!

05.

Submit Your Application

Click “Submit” to send us your application.

You will receive a confirmation email from us within 24 hrs. of submitting your application.



Questions & Answers





Reminders

- ▶ Please type your questions directly into the Q&A feature.
- ▶ Please don't ask specific questions related to your project. Instead, try to frame your questions in a way that applies to a broad range of projects.
- ▶ If you don't have the chance to ask your question today, or if we don't answer it directly, please email or call us and we will respond as quickly as we can.
- ▶ As a reminder, this webinar is being recorded and will be archived and publicly available on our website.



Resources



2025 Rural Health Small Grant:

<https://mthf.org/grants/rural-health-small-grants/>



RHSG Application Questions:

<https://mthf.org/wp-content/uploads/Rural-Health-Small-Grant-Application-Questions.pdf>



Questions?

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Thank You!

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Website: mthf.org

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