



Ola Maui Nui Grant

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY27

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ola Maui Nui is Maui United Way's new competitive grant program that aims to continue to rebuild resilient systems in the wake of the 2023 Maui wildfires. The grant is designed to strengthen Maui County through strategic investments that improve community resilience, expand access to essential resources, and build long-term community well-being.

This fiscal year, the grant program will include three funding cycles—fall, winter, and spring. Maui United Way is moving toward a consistent quarterly cycle to streamline grantmaking and create a more predictable process for distributing funds.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Fiscally sponsored organizations
- Organizations serving Maui, Molokai, and/or Lānaʻi
- Organizations in good standing with Maui United Way (if previously funded)

FUNDING FOCUS AREAS

The Ola Maui Nui Grant supports programs, services, and initiatives that strengthen the well-being, stability, and long-term resilience of Maui County communities. Applicants must demonstrate clear alignment with at least one of the following funding focus areas:

1. Community Recovery & Stabilization

Supports communities and households preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters, emergencies, and other significant disruptions. Priority may be given to efforts that address unmet needs, strengthen coordination, and build long-term community resilience.

Examples may include:

- Disaster preparedness, response, and recovery
- Case management and long-term recovery navigation
- Support for households with unmet disaster-related needs
- Community preparedness education and training

2. Financial Security

Supports individuals and families in achieving greater financial stability and maintaining access to housing, employment, and essential resources. Funding may support both immediate assistance and longer-term strategies that help households move toward economic security.

Examples may include:

- Emergency financial assistance
- Rental, mortgage, utility, or housing stabilization support
- Homelessness prevention and housing navigation
- Workforce development, job training, and employment readiness
- Financial literacy, coaching, and benefits navigation
- Access to essential resources that reduce barriers to employment and stability

3. Food Resiliency

Supports reliable and equitable access to nutritious food while strengthening Maui County's local food systems. Priority may be given to efforts that increase local capacity, improve food access in underserved communities, and strengthen preparedness for future disruptions.

Examples may include:

- Food distribution and nutrition-access programs
- Agricultural resilience and support for local farmers and producers
- Food production, processing, storage, and distribution infrastructure
- Food rescue and waste-reduction initiatives
- Community gardens, farms, and culturally relevant food programs
- Emergency food preparedness and disaster-resilient food systems

4. Healthy Community

Supports the physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and social well-being of Maui County residents. This focus area recognizes that health is strengthened through access to care, safe and supportive environments, cultural connection, creative expression, and opportunities for healing.

Examples may include:

- Mental and behavioral health services
- Health care access, prevention, education, and wellness programs
- Domestic violence prevention, intervention, and survivor support
- Substance use treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation services
- Culturally grounded and place-based healing practices
- Arts, cultural, and creative programs that promote healing, connection, belonging, and community well-being

FUNDING AVAILABILITY & PARAMETERS

- Maui United Way anticipates investing up to **\$2.7 million** through the Ola Maui Nui Grant in FY27.
- Organizations may submit **one application per review cycle and may receive only one Ola Maui Nui Grant award during FY27**. Organizations that are not selected for funding may reapply in a future review cycle.
- The maximum grant request is **\$100,000 per application**.
- Funding decisions will be made through three competitive review cycles during the fiscal year.
- Administrative and indirect costs may not exceed **15% of the total grant request**.
- Expenses must be reasonable, necessary, and directly connected to the proposed work.
- Funding may only be used for expenses incurred during the approved grant period.
- Maui United Way may award less than the amount requested.
- All awards are subject to the availability of funds. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Eligible Uses of Funds

- Program materials, supplies and direct service costs
- Personnel and contracted service expenses directly associated with implementing or delivering the proposed program.
- Equipment and technology necessary for program delivery
- Training and professional development
- Organizational capacity building
- Evaluation and data collection
- Emergency or direct financial assistance
- Community events aligned with a funding focus area
- Administrative and indirect costs, up to 15% of the grant request

Ineligible Uses of Funds

- Lobbying, political campaigns or partisan activities
- Purchase of land or real property
- New construction or major capital improvements
- Payment of organizational debt, loans, fines or penalties
- Fundraising activities
- Endowments or reserve funds
- Religious instruction or proselytizing
- Alcohol, personal expenses or costs unrelated to the approved proposal
- Expenses incurred outside the approved grant period
- Costs already paid by another funding source

Minor repairs, facility modifications or equipment purchases directly related to the proposed work may be considered with prior approval from Maui United Way.

Documents Required to Apply:

- 501c3 Determination Letter
- Most recent audited financial statements
- IRS Form 990 and All Schedules – Current Year
- Current Certificate of Vendor Compliance (State of Hawaii DCCA)

- Board of Directors List
- Agency-wide Operating Budget
- Program Budget Proposal
- Agency Logo

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Sections	Criteria
Focus Area Alignment	Overall alignment with RFP funding priorities
Program Summary	Community need, program design and outreach (30%)
Program Effectiveness	Outcomes, partnerships, and community benefit (30%)
Organizational Experience & Capacity	Leadership, staffing, and implementation ability (20%)
Financial Clarity & Sustainability	Realistic budget, appropriate oversight, and diversified funding (20%)

FUNDING TIMELINE

Cycle	Application Window	Review	Decision	Grant Period
1	9/1/2026 – 10/31/2026	November 2026	December 2026	1/1/2027 – 12/31/2027
2	11/1/2026 – 1/31/2027	February 2027	March 2027	4/1/2027 – 3/31/2028
3	2/1/2027 – 3/31/2027	April 2027	May 2027	6/1/2027 – 5/31/2028

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Funded organizations will submit:

- Midterm Progress Report
- Final Report
- Program outputs and outcomes
- Financial expenditures
- Mission moment(s) and photographs

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application

Applications must be submitted online through [Maui United Way's Grants Portal](#).

Maui United Way recently transitioned to a new Grants Portal. Previously funded organizations have already been registered in the new system. Please enter your

credentials and log in. If you do not know our password, please use the **"Forgot your Password?"** link to reset your password.

If you aren't sure if your organization is already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact our Grant Administrator, Jane Leek, at jane@mauiunitedway.org to receive your username. New organizations may [create an account here](#).

We encourage applicants to access the portal well before the deadline to become familiar with the system, application requirements, and submission process.

Instructions

- Only complete and timely applications will be accepted.
- The online application has fillable boxes with character limits. The character counts in MS Word may not match the character counts in the application. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure your text fits the space provided.

FISCAL SPONSORS

Organizations applying under a fiscal sponsor must submit a current, fully executed fiscal sponsorship agreement. The agreement must identify both parties and the proposed project; confirm that the project aligns with the fiscal sponsor's charitable mission; and describe the fiscal sponsor's responsibility for receiving, overseeing and reporting on grant funds. It must also include the agreement term, any administrative fees, authorized signatures, and documentation of board approval.

Required Documentation to be uploaded to the application:

- Resolution by fiscal sponsor's board of directors authorizing fiscal sponsorship
- Executed Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

RESOURCES

MUW Staff will host a webinar on **Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 10:00am-11:00am.**

To register for this webinar, please use the link below. Please note that attendees can submit questions through the chat and an FAQ document will be created.

Register Here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8FSI-PiBT56OwkPXUGLxTA#/registration>

DEADLINE

Cycle 1 Application Close Date: October 31, 2026

Cycle 2 Application Close Date: January 31, 2027

Cycle 3 Application Close Date: March 31, 2027

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact our **Impact Team** at grants@mauiunitedway.org.