



Maui
UNITED WAY

**OLA
MAUI NUI
GRANT**

Application Guide and Question Preview

Use this guide to review the application questions, prepare narrative responses, and gather required attachments before entering the online portal. Applications must be submitted through Maui United Way's grant portal; this document is not an application form.

Application Timeline

Application window	Review	Decision	Grant period
Sept. 1-Oct. 31, 2026	November	December	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2027
Nov. 1, 2026-Jan. 31, 2027	February	March	Apr. 1, 2027-Mar. 31, 2028
Feb. 1-Mar. 31, 2027	April	May	June 1, 2027-May 31, 2028

Organizations will be notified after each cycle's review process.

Before You Apply Eligibility Checklist

- ☐ The applicant is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or operates under an eligible fiscal sponsor.
- ☐ The proposed program serves residents of Maui County: Maui, Moloka'i, and/or Lāna'i.
- ☐ If previously funded by Maui United Way, the organization is in good standing and has submitted all required reports.
- ☐ The organization has a current Certificate of Vendor Compliance from Hawai'i Compliance Express and will maintain it throughout the grant period.
- ☐ The organization has active registration with the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, Tax & Charities Division, when applicable.
- ☐ The application and every required attachment will be complete and submitted by the applicable deadline.

Meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding. Applications are reviewed competitively for alignment, effectiveness, experience and capacity, and financial clarity and sustainability.

1 Project Information

Project Name*

Character limit: 100

Amount Requested*

Character limit: 20

Estimated Project Start Date*

For the September 1-October 31 application window, grant timelines begin January 1, 2027.

Character limit: 10

Estimated Project End Date*

Character limit: 10

Primary Target Population*

Choices: Keiki/Youth (ages 0-18) | Adults (19-65) | Kūpuna (65+) | Families

Secondary Target Population(s)

Choices: Keiki/Youth (ages 0-18) | Adults (19-65) | Kūpuna (65+) | Families

2 Focus Area

Choose the one focus area with which your program most closely aligns.

Community Recovery and Stabilization	Disaster preparedness and relief; unmet services or needs; case management; access to emergency recovery resources.
Financial Security	Emergency financial assistance; housing stability; access to essential resources such as SNAP, transportation, and WIC.
Food Resiliency	Agricultural resilience; food accessibility; strengthening local food systems.
Healthy Community	Mental health and health care services; domestic violence support; rehabilitation support; culturally grounded healing; arts and culture education or engagement.

3 Narrative Questions

Program Summary (30%)*

- The community need your program addresses.
- How your program serves fire-impacted community members, if applicable.
- How your program contributes to Maui County’s long-term disaster recovery and resiliency.
- Key program activities, services, and implementation plan.

Character limit: 3,000

Program Effectiveness (30%)*

- Provide 2-4 measurable outcomes from the past year that demonstrate program effectiveness. For a new program, provide detailed projected outcomes. Include data where available.
- Explain the impact the program intends to achieve for service users.
- Describe the program’s broader community benefit.
- Explain how the organization uses partnerships and collaboration to maximize effectiveness.

Character limit: 3,000

Example: Percentage of clients achieving housing stability, increased income, or improved health outcomes.

Experience and Capacity (20%)*

Describe the qualifications and experience of the key staff and leadership who will implement the program.

- Relevant expertise in the program focus area.
- How the program and services have evolved to address changing community needs.
- Capacity to implement the proposed program.

Character limit: 3,000

4 Budget and Financial Sustainability (20%)

Financial Sustainability Strategy*

Describe your organization's financial sustainability strategy, including funding from other sources.

- Current active grants other than Maui United Way funding.
- Government funding.
- Revenue diversification efforts.

Character limit: 1,000

Has your organization been funded by Maui United Way in the last three years?*

Choices: Yes | No

Previous MUW Funding

If yes, list the grant name, amount, and year for each Maui United Way grant received during the last three years.

Character limit: 1,000

5 Fiscal Sponsorship

Is your agency fiscally sponsored?*

Choices: Yes, and will provide documentation | No

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

If yes, upload a current, fully executed agreement that:

- Identifies the fiscal sponsor, sponsored organization, and proposed project.
- Confirms that the project aligns with the fiscal sponsor's charitable mission.
- Describes responsibility for receiving, overseeing, and reporting on grant funds.
- Includes the agreement term, administrative fees, and authorized signatures.

Required for fiscally sponsored applicants | File size limit: 2 MB

Fiscal Sponsorship Board Approval

Upload documentation of the fiscal sponsor board’s resolution authorizing the sponsorship.

Required for fiscally sponsored applicants | File size limit: 2 MB

6 Organizational and Program Budget

Current Annual Operating Budget*

Enter the organization’s total annual operating budget for the most recently completed fiscal year, including all sources of revenue.

Character limit: 20

Agency-Wide Operating Budget*

Upload the organization’s current fiscal-year operating budget. It should reflect overall operations, not only the proposed program.

File size limit: 5 MB

Budget Narrative*

- Explain in detail how the grant funding will be used.
- Justify the proposed budget allocations.
- State whether the funding will add new services or supplement funding to maintain current service levels.

Character limit: 3,000

Budget Proposal*

Complete and upload Maui United Way’s budget template for the requested funds.

One file only | Excel only | File size limit: 1 MB

7 Required Eligibility Documents

☐	501(c)(3) Determination Letter*	File size limit: 1 MB
☐	Agency Audit or Financial Statements*	Most recent audit; if unavailable, the most recently completed fiscal year’s Balance Sheet and Income Statement/Profit & Loss. One PDF only

		File size limit: 5 MB
☐	IRS Form 990 and All Schedules Current Year*	Submit the complete Form 990 or 990-EZ. Form 990-N filers should submit the IRS filing confirmation. File size limit: 2 MB
☐	Certificate of Vendor Compliance*	Issued through Hawai'i Compliance Express within the last six months and maintained throughout the grant period. File size limit: 2 MB
☐	Current Board of Directors List*	File size limit: 1 MB
☐	High-Resolution Agency Logo*	File size limit: 2 MB

8 Contact Newsletter and Certification

Financial Point of Contact Name*

Provide the organization's primary financial contact.

Character limit: 100

Financial Point of Contact Email*

Character limit: 254

MUW Newsletter*

Would you like to receive email updates from Maui United Way?

Choices: Yes | No

Certification*

By typing your full name, you certify that the application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge. False, misleading, or incomplete information may result in denial of funding or other appropriate action.

Character limit: 50

Ready to Submit

- Start early and allow time to gather every required attachment.
- Confirm that each uploaded file is current, complete, and placed in the correct portal field.
- Review character limits before pasting narrative responses into the application.
- Submit the complete application through the portal by the applicable cycle deadline.
- For questions, contact grants@mauiunitedway.org before the deadline.

Grant portal: [Open Maui United Way's Grant Portal](#)

Applicant tutorial: [View the Foundant Applicant Tutorial](#)

The online application and current Request for Proposals are the controlling sources if information in this guide is updated.