



OLA MAUI NUI GRANT

Frequently Asked Questions

The following answers address common questions raised during Maui United Way's Ola Maui Nui Grant information session. Applicants should also review the full Request for Proposals (RFP) and application instructions before submitting.

Eligibility and Program Alignment

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or operate under an eligible fiscal sponsor, serve residents of Maui, Moloka'i, or Lāna'i, and, if previously funded by Maui United Way, be in good standing with no outstanding reports.

2. Must a proposed program exclusively serve 2023 Maui wildfire survivors?

Not necessarily. Because the grant is funded through Maui Fire Disaster Relief funds, the application must clearly explain how the proposed work supports fire recovery, directly benefits fire-impacted people, or strengthens long-term disaster resilience in Maui County. General community services without a clear connection to disaster recovery or resilience are unlikely to be competitive.

3. Are programs serving Moloka'i, Lāna'i, or Hāna eligible?

Yes. Programs serving rural or underserved communities may apply. The application should clearly describe how the work supports disaster recovery or resilience, including how local services, community hubs, preparedness efforts, or support for displaced fire survivors strengthen Maui County's ability to respond to and recover from disasters.

4. Are current Mā'ona Food Security Grant recipients eligible to apply?

Yes. The Mā'ona Food Security and 'Ohana Mental Health grant programs now fall under the Ola Maui Nui Grant umbrella and will not be offered separately during this funding year. Current grantees may apply if they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements and are in good standing.

5. May a newly formed nonprofit apply?

Yes, if the organization has received its IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter and meets all other eligibility and application requirements. However, this is a competitive grant. Applicants with limited operating history should provide the strongest available evidence of leadership experience, community need, organizational readiness, partnerships, and capacity to carry out the proposed work.

Fiscal Sponsorship

6. Should a fiscally sponsored project apply through its own portal account or the fiscal sponsor's account?

The fiscally sponsored project should initially create or use its own account and submit the application for the proposed program. If the application is approved for funding, Maui United Way will coordinate the project and fiscal sponsor records in the grant portal.

7. What must be included in a fiscal sponsorship agreement?

A current, fully executed fiscal sponsorship agreement must be submitted with the application. It must identify both parties and the proposed project and describe financial oversight, reporting responsibilities, the sponsorship term, applicable fees, and authorized signatures. Applicants should review the RFP and the fiscal sponsorship question in the application for the complete requirements.

8. Does that fee count toward the grant's 15% administrative and indirect cost cap?

Yes. Fiscal sponsorship fees are considered administrative or indirect costs and count toward the grant's 15% administrative and indirect cost cap.

Funding and Budget

9. How much may an organization request?

The maximum request is \$100,000. Maui United Way may award less than the amount requested. All proposed expenses must be reasonable, necessary, tied to the proposed work, and incurred during the approved grant period.

10. May the request represent more than 20% of the total program budget?

Yes. The Ola Maui Nui Grant does not limit a request to 20% of the total program budget. The request may not exceed \$100,000, and the budget must clearly show how the requested funds relate to the proposed activities.

11. Are contractors considered administrative expenses?

Not when the contracted services are directly associated with delivering the proposed program. Program-related contractors should be identified as a separate budget line item, with their role and connection to the program clearly explained. Contractors performing general organizational or administrative functions may be treated as administrative expenses.

12. How should personnel expenses be presented?

Personnel expenses must be directly tied to the proposed program. Identify each position, explain the person's role in the program, and state the portion of time or cost that will be charged to the grant.

13. What limits apply to event and administrative costs?

Administrative costs may not exceed 15% of the total request. Applicants are encouraged to apply for comprehensive programmatic work rather than primarily event-based funding. Event costs included within a broader program should be clearly justified and should not exceed 10% of the organization's total request or award.

Financial and Application Documents

14. Are audited financial statements required?

No. If audited financial statements are unavailable, an organization may submit its most recent statement of financial position or balance sheet and statement of activities or profit-and-loss statement. Documents should be current and accurately reflect the organization's financial position.

15. Must all required attachments be submitted by the deadline?

Yes. An application is complete only when the online application and all required attachments have been submitted through the portal by the deadline. Applicants should begin early and confirm that each file is current, complete, and uploaded in the correct section.

Grant Portal

16. What should returning applicants do before creating a portal account?

Returning applicants and current grantees should contact Maui United Way before creating a new account. Your organization may already have an account in the new portal, and creating another account could result in duplicate organizational records.

17. Can more than one person work on an application?

Yes. Organizations may add users and use the portal's collaboration feature to provide view, edit, or submission access. Contact Maui United Way if you need help adding a user or managing access.

18. Can applicants preview the questions or save their work?

Yes. Applicants may preview the application questions before beginning, and the application saves progress so it does not need to be completed in one sitting. Maui United Way also plans to make a PDF of the application questions available as an additional planning resource.

Review and Reapplication

19. If an application is not funded, may the organization apply again?

Yes. An organization that is not selected may submit a new application in a future review cycle. Applicants will be able to refer to their prior submission, but should review and strengthen the application rather than resubmit it unchanged. Feedback is available upon request.

20. May an organization receive more than one Ola Maui Nui Grant award during FY27?

No. Organizations may submit one application per review cycle, but may receive only one Ola Maui Nui Grant award during FY27. Once funded, the organization is not eligible to apply in a later cycle during the same fiscal year.

21. What makes an application competitive?

Strong applications clearly connect the identified need, proposed activities, measurable outcomes, organizational capacity, and budget. Use plain language, explain organization- or field-specific terms, and provide enough detail for reviewers who may not be familiar with your work.

22. Will applicants receive reviewer feedback if they are not selected?

Feedback will not be sent automatically, but it will be available upon request after funding decisions are issued.

Special Circumstances

The following situations depend on an applicant's specific circumstances. Contact Maui United Way before submitting so the Impact Team can confirm the appropriate approach.

23. What should an organization submit if it is not required to file an IRS Form 990?

Contact Maui United Way and explain the organization's filing status. The Impact Team will confirm which documentation should be submitted in place of the Form 990.

24. May grant funds temporarily cover expenses that another reimbursement-based grant will later repay?

No. Ola Maui Nui Grant funds may not be used as bridge financing or as a temporary advance for expenses that are expected to be reimbursed by another grant or funding source. Proposed expenses must be charged only to the appropriate funding source and may not be paid or reimbursed twice.

25. How can an applicant ask whether a specific program or activity is eligible?

Email grants@mauiunitedway.org with a brief description of the organization, proposed activities, intended participants, geographic service area, and connection to fire recovery or disaster resilience. Maui United Way can clarify eligibility and alignment but cannot guarantee funding or develop the application on an applicant's behalf.

Contact and Resources

General grant questions	grants@mauiunitedway.org
Grant portal	https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=mauiunited

Reminder	Review the current RFP and portal instructions for complete requirements and deadlines.
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