Ola Maui Nui Grant – Cycle 2

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY27

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ola Maui Nui is Maui United Way's competitive grant program supporting long-term disaster recovery and community resilience across Maui County. The grant funds programs that respond to the impacts of the 2023 Maui wildfires or a more recent disaster, including programs that address service gaps or community needs that emerged or became more urgent after the disaster.

Applicants should explain how the disaster affected the people or communities they serve, what their program will do in response, and how the work will help those communities recover, maintain stability, or better withstand future disasters.

Maui United Way will offer three funding cycles this fiscal year. These fall, winter, and spring cycles are part of a move toward a regular quarterly schedule so nonprofits can plan ahead for funding opportunities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Fiscally sponsored organizations
- Organizations serving Maui, Molokai, and/or Lānaʻi
- Organizations must maintain active charitable registration with the State of Hawaiʻi Department of the Attorney General, Tax & Charities Division, when applicable.
- 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 programs that help Maui County residents and communities prepare for disasters, navigate recovery, and address unmet disaster-related needs. This includes efforts that improve access to emergency resources and strengthen coordination among organizations serving affected communities.

Examples may include:

- Disaster preparedness education, training, and community response planning
- Case management and long-term recovery navigation
- Assistance for households with unmet disaster-related needs
- Community resource hubs and other efforts that improve access to emergency and recovery services

2. Financial Security

Supports programs that help individuals and families regain or maintain financial stability after a disaster. This includes immediate financial assistance and longer-term services that help households secure stable housing, access essential resources, or rebuild income.

Examples may include:

- Emergency financial assistance for disaster-related needs
- Housing stabilization, homelessness prevention, and housing navigation
- Workforce development, job training, and employment readiness
- Improving access to essential resources such as SNAP, WIC, and transportation

3. Food Resiliency

Supports programs that improve access to affordable food and strengthen Maui County's local food systems. This includes efforts that address food access gaps after a disaster and help local producers, distributors, and communities maintain a reliable food supply during future disruptions.

Examples may include:

- Food distribution programs in disaster-affected or underserved communities
- Support for local farmers and producers to restore or strengthen food production
- Food storage, processing, and distribution capacity that helps maintain access during disruptions
- Emergency food planning and preparedness

4. Healthy Community

Supports programs that address physical, mental, emotional, cultural, or social needs connected

to disaster recovery. This includes efforts that restore access to care, respond to needs that increased after a disaster, or create opportunities for healing and connection in affected communities.

Examples may include:

- Mental and behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, and domestic violence survivor support that address disaster-related needs
- Health care access programs that address gaps made worse by a disaster
- Arts and culturally grounded healing programs that support recovery, connection, and belonging in disaster-affected communities

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 for program service providers
- 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:

- Agency-wide Operating Budget
- Program Budget Proposal
- 501c3 Determination Letter
- Most recent audited financial statements - *If an audit is not available, please provide your financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, including a Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* ***and*** *Statement of Activities (Income Statement/Profit & Loss)*
- IRS Form 990 and All Schedules – Current Year - *Organizations that file Form 990-EZ should attach the complete return. Organizations that file Form 990-N (e-Postcard) should attach a copy of the IRS filing confirmation*
- Certificate of Vendor Compliance issued through Hawai'i Compliance Express within the last six-months

- Current Board of Directors List
- Agency Logo

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Sections	Criteria
Focus Area Alignment	Overall alignment with RFP funding priorities
Program Summary - (35%)	Community need, program design, implementation plan, and long-term community resiliency alignment
Program Outcomes & Community Impact - (30%)	Outcomes, community benefit and partnerships
Organizational Experience & Capacity - (15%)	Leadership, staffing, and implementation ability
Financial Strategy & Budget Justification - (20%)	Realistic budget, appropriate oversight, and diversified funding

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	11/16/2026 – 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 (with all required documents) 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

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**.