



2026 “Growing Good” Annual Nonprofit Grants Program

Since 2013, Bayou Community Foundation has **awarded 336 annual grants totaling over \$3 million** to qualified nonprofits serving Lafourche, Terrebonne and Grand Isle as part of the Foundation’s annual competitive Grants Program.

In 2026, BCF’s “Growing Good” Nonprofit Grants Program will continue to fund impactful nonprofits and nonprofit programs that fill critical needs in our service area identified in our Community Needs Assessment.

All grant applications are submitted and managed through BCF’s online [grants portal](#). **The deadline to apply to the 2026 “Growing Good” Annual Nonprofit Grants Program is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, 2026.** Applicants are encouraged to visit the portal for account login instructions and to access the application process before March 11.

After evaluations by the Grants Committee of initial grant requests received in this first phase of the program, selected applicants will be invited to participate in the next phase of the application process in May.

Important Dates:

- **Initial Grant Requests (LOI Phase) opens Wednesday, January 28, 2026.**
- **Deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, 2026.**
- **Applicants invited to next application phase will be notified in May.**
- **Grants will be awarded in August 2026.**
- **Grant Funding Period is August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027.**

Bayou Community Foundation is pleased to announce three grant tiers for our 2026 “Growing Good” Nonprofit Grants Program:

- **Growing Impact Grants**
*Grants of **up to \$30,000** awarded to fund the continuation and expansion of critical nonprofit programs.*

- **Growing Capacity Grants**
*Grants of **up to \$10,000** awarded to fund operations and infrastructure to strengthen local nonprofits.*
- **Growing Innovation Grants**
*Grants of **up to \$30,000** awarded to fund new, innovative and collaborative programs to fill critical community needs.*

Bayou Community Foundation reserves the right to award grants in all or some of these grant tiers, depending on applications received and funding available, with no minimum number of grants or minimum funding amount of grants to be awarded.

Grant Tier Descriptions:

Growing Impact Grants

Growing Impact Grants **support the continuation and expansion of established, high-impact nonprofit programs** that address critical community needs, including those identified in Bayou Community Foundation’s Community Needs Assessment.

Grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded to organizations with programs in operation for at least one year by the date of BCF’s initial grant request deadline and have demonstrated meaningful impact on the communities or populations served. **Funding is intended to support programs with a strong likelihood of broad community benefits and outcomes that extend beyond the grant period.**

Grant requests **may not exceed 50% of the total program budget** and may include costs directly necessary for program delivery, such as equipment, supplies, limited administrative support and other direct program expenses.

Growing Capacity Grants

Growing Capacity Grants **strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations whose core mission addresses critical community needs** identified in Bayou Community Foundation’s Community Needs Assessment. These grants are **designed to build organizational capacity and infrastructure**, so nonprofits are better equipped to deliver essential programs and services that fill critical needs.

Grants of up to \$10,000 may be awarded to eligible organizations that have been in operation as federally approved 501c(3) organizations for at least one year by the date of BCF’s initial grant request deadline and can demonstrate meaningful impact on the

communities or populations they serve. Grant requests **may not exceed 50% of the organization's operating budget.**

Funding may be used for short-term investments that strengthen administrative and organizational systems for long-term success, including staff, strategic planning, facility improvements, equipment and other indirect costs or capital expenditures. **Applicants will be asked to provide a plan for sustainability beyond the BCF grant period.**

Special consideration may be given to organizations with annual operating budgets under \$100,000.

Growing Innovation Grants

Growing Innovation Grants **support the launch of new programs that address critical community needs**, including those identified in Bayou Community Foundation's Community Needs Assessment. These grants **fund innovative and collaborative ideas** that respond to recognized community-wide needs, with **special consideration given to efforts that engage multiple nonprofit partners.**

Grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded to support **programs that are newly launched, in development, or have been in operation for less than one year** at the time of the initial 2026 grant request. Applicants must demonstrate a clear understanding of the community need being addressed and articulate the anticipated impact of the proposed program. Eligible applicants must be in operation as a federally approved 501c(3) organization for at least one year at the time of the initial 2026 grant request.

Grant requests **may not exceed 75% of the program budget** and **may not exceed 50% of the applying organization's total operating budget.**

Applicants will be asked to describe a plan for long-term sustainability beyond the BCF grant period.

Grant Request Timeline:

The 2026 "Growing Good" Nonprofit Grants Program includes a two-phase application process that is managed through BCF's online grants portal:

Phase 1: Letters of Intent (LOI), January 28 - March 11, 2026

Initial grant requests are accepted on BCF's online grants portal through 5:00 p.m. CST on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Following this initial Letter of Intent (LOI) phase, selected organizations will be invited to participate in the second phase of the application process.

Phase 2: Full Grant Application, May- July 2026

Organizations selected to participate in Phase 2 of the application process will be notified by May, via email, with submittal deadline for applications expected in June or July 2026. Organizations not selected to move on to the second phase will be notified as well.

Grants awarded in August 2026. Grant funding period: August 1, 2026 - July 31, 2027.

Grant Application Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, grant applicants:

- Federally approved tax-exempt 501c3 nonprofit organizations and other tax-exempt public education/government institutions in good standing serving residents of Lafourche Parish, Terrebonne Parish, and/or Grand Isle are eligible to apply. "Good standing" means that the IRS currently acknowledges the organization as tax exempt, and state registration is current.
- Must be operational with services provided in Lafourche, Terrebonne and/or Grand Isle for at least one full year by March 11, 2026.
- Must serve residents of Lafourche Parish, Terrebonne Parish and/or Grand Isle, Louisiana. Grants will not be awarded to serve residents outside of these areas.
- Must have staff and/or volunteers working within Lafourche, Terrebonne and/or Grand Isle; local program management; local leadership in the form of a board of directors or advisory committee; and local financial support. In the case of a national, statewide or regional organization, the grant request may only support the local efforts; no portion of the grant application should support the national, state or regional entity.

Only one grant request will be accepted from each organization in one year (based on Employer Identification Number).

What We Fund

The "Growing Good" Nonprofit Grants Program funds organizations and programs that address the following critical community needs:

- Housing
- Behavioral Health Services and Access to Health Care
- Food Security
- Youth Development and Education
- Essential services that support the safety, stability and well-being of vulnerable and under-resourced individuals and households
- Nonprofit collaboration and integrated community resources

Grants will not fund:

- Capital or operational debt reduction
- Political campaigns or activities
- Re-granting programs
- Religious activities
- Fund-raising events
- Endowments
- Scholarships
- Payments to individuals
- Scientific/medical research
- Programs serving only members of private clubs/organizations/institutions
- Expenses or activities incurred before grant approval

Know Before You Apply

- This is a competitive grants program, with applications evaluated and grants recommended by Grants Committee with approval of Board of Directors.
- Each applicant may apply for only one grant per year.
- Bayou Community Foundation reserves the right to award grants in all or some of these grant tiers, depending on applications received and funding available, with no minimum number of grants or minimum funding amount for grant awards.
- Beginning with grants awarded in 2026, grants will be limited to three consecutive years per organization.
- Applicants may receive partial funding for their request. Applicants are encouraged to thoughtfully consider the amount requested and develop a budget rationale that accurately corresponds with the proposed project. Applicants will be required to submit an itemized budget
- Mid-Year and end-of-year reports will be required of all grantees.

Requests from Food Banks, Pantries and other Food Distribution Programs

Food banks, pantries and other nonprofit organizations applying for a grant to fund food distribution programs will be asked to answer additional questions on the Initial Grant Request form (LOI) and Full Application.

Special consideration will be given to applicants that:

- Are a partner agency of a regional or national food distribution network that provides donated food; and/or regularly receive donated food from local retailer(s) or other donated food sources;
- Utilize an income qualification system; and
- Utilize a system to manage and monitor distribution to clients.

If the funding request is for product purchases, applicants will be asked to explain why/what additional food purchases are needed beyond the donated product, and the gap that this grant funding will fill to meet the needs of the clients served.

BCF will also consider funding requests for infrastructure to support the administration of food distribution programs, such as storage solutions, equipment, refrigeration units, technology or other resources or systems that enhance their capacity to distribute food efficiently and effectively as part of our “Growing Capacity” grant tier.

This process is designed to support local food banks, pantries and other organizations working to address food insecurity and fill critical gaps in food distribution, while also promoting partnerships, maximizing current resources, and strengthening the overall effectiveness of the food distribution network in our region.

Application Review Considerations

This is a competitive grants program. Grantees selected, the number of grants awarded, and grant amount awarded to each recipient are at the discretion of the Bayou Community Foundation Grants Committee and Board of Directors, and dependent on BCF funds available.

Grant evaluations and decisions are based on merit and completeness of request/application, critical need addressed, population served, overall impact of grant, demonstrated funding need, and justification of grant budget, among other considerations. An organization's BCF grant funding history and previous grant reports may also be considered by the grants committee during evaluation.

Special Consideration may be given to applicants that rely primarily on local charitable donations and grants for funding, as compared to millages, dedicated tax revenue, or government appropriations.

Grant Making Nondiscrimination Policy

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex and gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, pregnancy, veteran status, military obligations, marital or parental status, political affiliation, or any other improper criterion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the Bayou Community Foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the Bayou Community Foundation.

By Submitting a proposal, you give the Bayou Community Foundation permission to share your application details with other interested individual donors who are interested in funding or co-funding with the Foundation.

For more information or questions, contact Community Impact Officer Kati Lee at (985) 219-0048 or Kati@BayouCF.org