



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2016 FLEX Proposal Review Key Findings

In the spirit of reflection and learning, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) would like to share with you its key findings and observations gathered while reviewing this year's 2016 FLEX Grant proposals. We hope you will take this opportunity to celebrate the work you do for our community, and consider areas to focus and continue strengthening your organizations.

What We Were Looking For

The purpose of the FLEX Grants Program is to provide unrestricted support for high-performing nonprofits. Taking into consideration the size of the nonprofit organization, as determined by its operating budget, HCF recognized organizations that could:

For Nonprofits with Annual Operating Budgets of **\$250,000 and above**:

- demonstrate that it is meeting an important need and/or providing important services for the community;
- clearly articulate the results it is trying to achieve for the community;
- articulate a clear rationale for the strategies or activities that the organization has selected to serve its community;
- demonstrate a clear connection between what an organization is trying to achieve and the results that it is measuring;
- demonstrate that its services are high quality and have a positive impact on the community; and
- show it has the financial capacity to support continued programming and operations.

For Small Groups with Annual Operating Budgets of **less than \$250,000**:

- demonstrate that it provides an important service or activity in its community;
- articulate why its program is important for the community;
- describe the results of its program; and
- in addition to HCF support, access resources (financial or in kind) sufficient to carry out its programs, services, or activities.

We encourage all nonprofits to visit HCF's Resources for Nonprofits at:

<http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/learning/resources-for-nonprofits>.



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What We Found

373

proposals received
in response to the
2016 FLEX RFP

22

different primary mission
areas represented by the
nonprofit applicants

58%

were awarded a
2016 FLEX Grant

Nonprofits with
Operating Budgets
Over \$250,000

226

eligible proposals

70%

were awarded a
2016 FLEX Grant

Stronger at
measuring its results, and
assessing its community's
needs,
but could find ways to
improve how it
articulates what it has
achieved and how it knows it
has made a difference through
its programs and services.

Small Groups with
Operating Budgets
Less Than \$250,000

119

eligible proposals

50%

were awarded a
2016 FLEX

Stronger at
demonstrating its importance
to the community it serves, and
is more engaged and/or its
leadership is more
representative of its
community,
but could also find ways to
improve how it
captures what it has achieved
and how it knows it has made
a difference through its programs
and services.

Primary Mission Area
Key Findings

44%

of applicants identify
their work as Arts,
Culture, &
Humanities; Human
Services, and
Education

**Housing & Shelter;
and Health Care**

nonprofits were among the highest scoring applicants and
were the most effective at **articulating what they achieved
and how they knew they were making a difference** through
its programs and services.