



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Maui Strong Funding Opportunity

Mental Health: Community Wellness & Wellbeing

Online Application Opens: October 14, 2024

Online Application Deadline: November 8, 2024

OVERVIEW

The Maui Strong Fund is providing financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the devastating Maui wildfires. Maui Strong Fund grants under this program will align with HCF's four-phase approach to disaster response: risk reduction and disaster readiness, rapid relief and response, recovery and stabilization, and rebuilding resilience.

Mental Health Data Related to the Maui Wildfires:

The Maui Wildfire Exposure Study (Maui WES) conducted by the University of Hawai'i from 2023 through present, has an on-going health study of fire survivors and has provided preliminary results based on feedback from participants. When measured on the "Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale Revised," 48.6% of respondents measured as "normal", 41.1% were noted as having depressive symptoms, and 10.3% recorded highly depressive symptoms. When measured on symptoms of anxiety, 32% had mild anxiety, 15.7% had moderate anxiety, and 12.9% had signs of severe anxiety—39.4% recorded minimal anxiety. The Maui WES process measured the impact of mental and emotional symptoms on participant's daily activities and results showed that 55.7% found it somewhat difficult, 11.6% very difficult, and 6.2% extremely difficult—26.5% reported no difficulty at all.

A recent study by the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, "Maui Together Wildfire Assessment 2024," provides insight into the mental health crisis with feedback provided by 1,105 fire-impacted individuals. The report shares that the experience of recovery has taken a toll on survivors particularly noting that 59% have moved at least three times and 33% have moved four or more times. Nearly 58% of these respondents saying the uncertainty of the future and housing (40%) are the hardest things to face since the fires, closely followed by the difficulty of navigating the system (30%) and the emotional and mental impacts (32%) of the losses they have faced. About 64% of fire survivors note that they have noticed a deterioration of their mental health over the last year with a general concern for there not being enough providers.

Considering this data, this funding opportunity is meeting a community priority of increasing access to mental health resources to support the recovery of households and individuals directly affected by the Maui fires of August 2023. Program priority areas are a reflection of feedback from the State of Hawai'i Office of Wellness and Resilience as well as consistent feedback from community members, providers, agencies, and nonprofit organizations that have

been active in the disaster recovery efforts over the last 14 months. HCF supports a mental health approach that engages healing and wellbeing that is community centered. This funding opportunity seeks to uplift the offering of a spectrum of activities, services and treatment to address mental health needs. Activities shall be accessible and relatable to those seeking resources. Programs seeking funds should fall into these noted priority areas. Priority areas include:

- Kupuna Events / Kupuna Transportation
- Group Therapy - Kāne/Wahine/'Ōpio/Keiki/'Ohana Groups
- Cultural/'Āina-based Programming
- First Responder and Educator Peer Support Activities
- Groups and Individual Counseling in Central/South Maui- There are currently lots of free services offered at the Lāhaina Behavioral Health Center, but many survivors currently reside in Central Maui
- Childcare (0-5) provided by nonprofits
- Events focused on the social benefits of community connections for fire-affected households and individuals
- Programs coordinating/contracting professional mental health provider services at community events
- Pro-social events for young children and/or school-aged youth – evenings and weekend events to gather
- Youth-focused interventions
- Programs focused on supporting individuals and organizations who have been directly engaged in the recovery efforts
- Training programs for psychological first aid, mental health first aid, and/or suicide prevention work
- Wellness and therapeutic treatments that provide proven health benefits, particularly post-trauma health benefits

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing are eligible to apply.
- Non-501(c)(3) organizations must have an existing 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as fiscal sponsor, and submitted projects must be charitable in nature.
- Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must not have any outstanding HCF grant reports. Applicants with outstanding grant reports will be administratively denied.
- Grants may not be used for the following:
 - Endowments
 - Major capital endowments, including major capital campaigns
 - Activities that promote religious beliefs

GRANT AWARD

- Applicants that can demonstrate alignment with the program criteria and scope of work can apply for grant funds up to \$100,000.
- The maximum distribution of awards for this program is \$3,000,000.00.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Application must support recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires.
- Application must align with the current phase of HCF's four-phase disaster approach – Phase 3, Recovery & Stabilization.
- Application addresses a critical need or will fulfill an urgent demand for the Maui community that is supported by current data.
- Application describes a clear strategy and plan to address the wellness and well-being needs for the Maui community. Provide evidence, research-based or promising practice data where appropriate.
- Application aligns with one or more priority areas listed in the funding opportunity.
- Application articulates clear and measurable impact and outcomes.
- Application budget is reasonable and realistic given the scope of activities and proposed impact.
- Applicant can describe the organization's experience as well as the staff's capacity and expertise to implement on the proposed project or program.
- Applicant can describe the organization's recent experience or past performance with managing grant funds.
- Applicant can articulate a clear and effective outreach process to ensure target audience has access to the program/resource.
- Applicant can demonstrate a partnership, collaboration, or network approach to supporting the Maui community. This includes on-going or prior disaster recovery work.
- Applicant has sought and/or secured other sources of funding, including government and private funds.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application

In January 2022, the Hawai'i Community Foundation transitioned to a new online application platform for grant seeking organizations. New users may register for a Grants Portal account here: https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp. Registered users may log in to their account to submit an application. For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at <http://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/ticket>.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Only complete 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.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

A critical component of the grant application is the Organization Profile. Every applicant organization or fiscal sponsor organization must maintain updated financial documents in the Organization Profile. The documents can be uploaded at any time but must be current at the time a grant is submitted. Note that the system requests updated profiles every 6 months. If fiscal documents are not up to date, the application may be administratively denied. Information needed to complete your organization's profile includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (not required if previously applied to the Foundation or if applying through a fiscal sponsor)
- Number of full-time and part-time staff and regular volunteers
- Organization Mission
- Service Location(s)
- Types of services provided (including age, gender, and target populations served)
- Financial Statements
 - Annual Operating budget for current year
 - Income statement (or profit/loss statement) for the most recently completed fiscal year (FY2023 or FY2023-2024)
 - Balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year
 - Audited financial statements are preferred but not required
 - Local units of national organizations must submit local unit financial information
- Board of Directors List

Non-501(c)(3) organizations must have an organization profile to submit an application. Please use placeholder documents indicating that you do not have the requested files and post them in lieu of any documents you may not have copies of.

APPLICATION

The application consists of 4 tabs. Information needed to complete your application includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Program Overview:**
 - Provide general information and characteristics about the program or service you provide, including program title, duration, area of interest, and program location(s).
 - If you have a fiscal sponsor, you will be asked to identify your fiscal sponsor. Please note, your fiscal sponsor must first be registered in the Grants Portal prior to submitting your application.

- **Program Information:**
 - **Organization Description** (*Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page*): Describe the mission of the organization/program. What is the organization's experience implementing this program or service? What staff capabilities does the organization have to conduct the proposed work? What geographic area (Lahaina/Kihei/Kula) will the organization serve? (ex. # of people served; # of events held; types & amounts of resources provided; etc.)
 - **Executive Summary** (*Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page*): Provide a brief and concise summary of the applicant's proposed program or service. This executive summary may be used for different purposes, including external communications, to describe the program should a grant be awarded.
 - **Problem or Opportunity** (*Maximum 3,000 characters = ¾ page*): Describe the need or opportunity the organization will address and why this is critical. Describe the target audience and how that community has informed the need for this program. Are similar programs operating at other organizations? If so, how might this program differ? Must include appropriate data, evidence, or strategies that strengthen these statements.
 - **Program Activities & Timeline:** (*Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page*) Describe the activities that will be completed to address the need/opportunity. Explain why the organization chose this approach or strategy. Provide a program timeline. Please describe any partners or networks the organization is engaged within these efforts.
 - **Expected Results:** (*Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page*) Describe what the organization hopes to achieve and the metrics to measure the effectiveness of the program. Results should be quantifiable and specific.
 - **Additional Grant Request:** If you were awarded a grant from the Maui Strong Fund in the past, please indicate the purpose of the previous grant, the outcomes/results achieved, and how this request differs or builds on the previous grant awarded. (*Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page*)
 - **Areas of Disaster Approach** (check all that apply) – risk reduction and disaster readiness, rapid relief and response, recovery and stabilization, and rebuilding resilience.
 - **Population Served** (check all that apply) - Disabled Persons, Elders, Immigrants, Children/Youth, Animal Care, High-Risk and/or Underserved Populations.
- **Budget:** Provide the total program budget, amount requested through this application, and upload a copy of the program's budget, showing income and expenses, indicating sources of income that are pending and secured. A downloadable Program Budget Form template is available in the Resources section in the Grants Portal in the Maui Strong Fund folder. Please click the plus sign on the top right if you do not see the document listed.
- **Supporting Documents & Certification:** Upload any additional required documents as listed in the application guidelines.

FISCAL SPONSORS

- Resolution by fiscal sponsor's board of directors authorizing fiscal sponsorship
- Fiscal sponsor's agreement form

Sample forms can be found at:

<http://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/grants/fiscal-sponsor-materials>

- Fiscal sponsor's IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter

DEADLINE

HCF staff will review applications through November with a tiered review process. Applicants who meet criteria for consideration of funding may be asked to present their proposals to a panel of HCF staff and subject matter experts. Decisions should be announced late November 2024.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact mauistrong@hcf-hawaii.org.

For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at <http://hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/ticket>.