

CAN Prevention Grant Program

Funding Opportunity for *Kaua'i, O'ahu, Hawai'i Island Programs*



Online Application Deadline: Friday, September 5, 2025, 4:00 p.m. HST

BACKGROUND

The Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund was established to ensure that Hawai'i's keiki reach their full potential, developing into healthy, productive, and caring individuals through the advancement of community-based family strengthening programs. By promoting healthy relationships and environments, thriving and safe communities can be created for Hawai'i's children, and their children to follow.

The Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund (HCTF) was founded in 1993 by state legislation, Chapter 350B of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, creating a public-private partnership between the Department of Health and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF). The purpose of the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect (CAN), and for the development of programs for children to increase their ability to form healthy relationships, and to avoid and cope with dangerous situations.

HCF incorporated recommendations from the HCTF Coalition, HCTC Advisory Committee, and HCTF Advisory Board, along with federal guidance, to ensure its grantmaking remains relevant and aligned with national child abuse and neglect prevention strategies.

OVERVIEW

This multi-year (3-year) funding opportunity seeks to support programs that advance child abuse and neglect prevention efforts in Hawai'i through culturally responsive, community-driven approaches.

Funding priorities include:

- **Prenatal to five programming** to strengthen protective factors in early childhood.
- **Sexual abuse prevention for elementary school-aged keiki**, ensuring that young children and their families develop the knowledge and skills to foster safe and healthy relationships.
- **Systems change efforts** that influence public norms, policies, and institutional practices to prevent child abuse and neglect at a broader level.

Target Population: Families with children ages 0-5 years old; children in elementary school who have experienced or at risk of experiencing sexual abuse; high-risk populations, and rural or remote communities.

Application Deadline: Online applications are due by September 5, 2025, at 4 pm HST.

Grant Range: Up to \$165,000 (\$55,000 per year for three years) depending on the availability of funds.

Project Period: January 2026 – January 2029

CAN Prevention Framework

All programs should align with the [Child Abuse & Neglect \(CAN\) Prevention Framework](#), a public health approach to preventing child maltreatment by creating safe, nurturing environments and protective, equitable systems. This approach is structured around five key pillars that form a strong foundation for child and family well-being:

1. Commitment: Leaders make child safety and well-being a top priority.
2. Supports and Services: All families have equitable access to quality supports and services that empower them to create safe, stable, and nurturing families.
3. Communities: Families live in safe and supportive communities where they can thrive.
4. Policy: Laws, policies, and budgets support and are responsive to families.
5. Coordination: Systems and organizations collaborate and cooperate in planning and implementing a data-driven comprehensive continuum of prevention services.

Sexual Violence Prevention

According to the [2023 Child Abuse and Neglect In Hawai'i Report](#), elementary-aged children are at high risk of child abuse and neglect, with the median age of child victims being seven years old. Sexual abuse is among the top four types of maltreatment in confirmed cases of child abuse. Given that a large portion of these victims belong to vulnerable populations, such as Native Hawaiian/Part Native Hawaiian, prevention efforts targeting this demographic are essential. The high rates of abuse, particularly among younger children, emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive programs to prevent and address sexual abuse in early education settings.

Protective Factors

The effects of abuse and neglect on children persist beyond their youth. Children who were victims of maltreatment can suffer lifelong physical, psychological, and behavioral effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that child maltreatment in one generation can be associated with child maltreatment in the next, but the cycle can be interrupted. All programs should incorporate and emphasize at least two [Protective Factors](#) identified by The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSPP) in implementation.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Desired Program Elements/Criteria

Programs should:

- Serve families with children in Hawai'i, preferably ages 0 to 5; or
 - serve elementary school-aged children at risk of or experiencing sexual abuse/violence; or
 - efforts support child abuse and neglect prevention aimed at helping keiki and 'ohana within Hawai'i on a broader, system change level.

- Demonstrate that the organization and key personnel have the knowledge and experience working with the proposed community and the ability to successfully carry out the program.
- Describe the problem or opportunity using relevant data that reflects the needs of the population served and the community context.
- Prioritize rural, remote, underserved, or other high-risk populations identified through key data.
- Demonstrates how the program contributes to preventing child abuse and neglect at a systemic level by shifting public norms, influencing policies, or improving institutional practices.
- Provide mental health, behavioral health, or substance abuse services to families.
- Implement culturally responsive programming that considers ethnicity, gender identity, and diverse 'ohana structures.
- Incorporate or develop at least two Protective Factors identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) for child abuse and neglect prevention and system change efforts.
- Align with the Hawai'i CAN Prevention Framework, clearly identifying which framework components the program supports.
- Allow flexibility to adapt programming as new information emerges about community needs.
- Use evidence-informed evaluation methods to document effectiveness, where possible.
- Articulate a clear and logical relationship between proposed activities and the intended outcomes.
- Present a realistic and adequate program budget to support implementation over three years.
- *While not required, it is encouraged to demonstrate a commitment to ongoing collaboration and shared action with other organizations to achieve program goals and amplify impact.*

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, the applicant:

- Must be a nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or a program with a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status;
- Must be based in the State of Hawai'i and providing services to local communities, and have done so for the last two years;
- Must be current on all grant reporting requirements with HCF.

Organizations can submit one application for this funding opportunity.

Grant Range

- Grant request for \$165,000 (\$55,000 per year for three years) will be considered. The grant term begins in January 2026 and ends in January 2029 (three years).
 - \$5,000 of the award per year will be dedicated to professional development opportunities for child abuse and neglect prevention and education for organization staff. *Please include this in your program budget.*
- HCTF funds may not be used for capital improvements, endowments, re-granting (i.e. redistribution of funds to other organizations), activities that promote religious beliefs, or for the benefit of specific individuals.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application

This application is available for online submission through the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Grants Portal. New users may register for an account here

https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp. Registered users may log in to their accounts to submit an application. Please give yourself adequate time before the submission deadline to access the system and familiarize yourself with the application process and requirements.

Please reference our Applicant User Guide for further instructions

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/file/2024/Applicant-User-Guide-8.8.24.pdf>.

Instructions

- Only complete 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.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

As part of the online application your organization profile must be certified prior to submission of grant applications and must be certified every 6 months. 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, part-time, or regular volunteer staff
- 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
 - 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

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 including program title, duration, area of interest, program location(s), ages and genders served, and the CHANGE sector(s) your program most closely aligns with.
 - For more information about the CHANGE framework, please visit our website <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/change>.
 - 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:** Describe the history, geographic reach, and mission of the organization/program. What is your organization's experience implementing this program and staff capabilities to conduct the proposed work?
(Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page)
 - **Problem or Opportunity:** Describe the need or opportunity you are trying to address within the subject area of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. Why is this critical, and how is your organization best fit to address it? Describe your target population and how your program identifies and serves them. Include relevant data or research that supports the need for these services in your target area.
(Maximum 3,000 characters = ¾ page)
 - **Program Activities:** Describe the activities your program will implement to address the identified need or opportunity. Explain why this approach was chosen and how your project aligns with the funding priorities. Identify and explain at least two Protective Factors your program incorporates and which components of the Hawai'i CAN Prevention Framework it supports. Provide a program timeline.
(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)
 - **Expected Results:** Describe the impact your organization seeks to achieve through this three-year funding opportunity. How many families, adults, and children (ages 0-5 or elementary school aged) do you intend to serve each year? Explain how the organization plans to track data and measure outcomes.
(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)
- **Budget:** Provide your total program budget and the amount requested through this application. Upload a copy of your program's budget, showing program expenses by fiscal year (all 2026-2029), and income for Year 1. Indicate sources of income that are pending or secured.

- *It is highly recommended to use the HCTF budget template in our Grant Portal's Resources → Additional Documents and Templates section.*
- *Include a line item that shows that \$5,000 will be budgeted for professional development related to CAN prevention and education. It's encouraged to note if there are specific events/plans for professional development (e.g. IVAT Hawai'i Summit, trauma-informed training, etc.)*
- **Supporting Documents & Certification:** Upload any additional required documents as listed in the application guidelines. If you are using a fiscal sponsor, please be sure that they certify your application prior to submission.
 - Optional: Upload a 5-minute or less audio or video recording to tell the story of your project. This recording may look like a staff member explaining the program/project and recording it on a video conference platform like Zoom, or a staff narrating the program while doing a brief virtual tour recorded with the built-in camera on your phone or device. We are not expecting edited, polished videos used for marketing or fundraising for your program. Acceptable formats are .wav, .mp4, .mov, .mp3, .wav, etc. Maximum file size is 2 GB per file.

FISCAL SPONSORS

- Please reference our [External User Guide](#) for more information regarding fiscal sponsorship.
- Fiscal sponsors must have an account in the portal. Their profile must include their IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter and up-to-date financial documents.
- Required Documentation to be uploaded to the application:
- Resolution by fiscal sponsor's board of directors authorizing fiscal sponsorship
- Fiscal sponsor's agreement form
- *Both forms can be found at:* <http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/grants/fiscal-sponsor-materials>
- Starting July 28, 2025, fiscal sponsors will be required to certify the application before it can be submitted by the applicant. To do so, the applicant must invite the fiscal sponsor to collaborate on the draft application. Please reference this [video](#) and our [External User Guide](#) on how to invite collaborators. The fiscal sponsor as a collaborator can then check the Fiscal Sponsor certification box under Supporting Documents & Certification.

RESOURCES

[Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund](#)
[Protective Factors](#)
[Child Abuse & Neglect \(CAN\) Prevention Framework](#)
[2023 Child Abuse and Neglect In Hawai'i Report](#)

KEY DATES

Description	Date
Application Release	August 1, 2025
Virtual Information Session	August 5, 2025 @ 12 pm Click here to register for this session.
Application Deadline	September 5, 2025
Grant Start Date	January 2026
Grantee Gatherings	Must attend at least 1 gathering a year
Grant End Date	January 2029

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Jarissa Lum at jlum@hcf-hawaii.org.

For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/web/support-tickets>.