



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Michael Keany

Hawai'i Community Foundation

[mkeany@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:mkeany@hcf-hawaii.org)

(808) 542-6085

## **MAUI STRONG FUND AWARDS \$5 MILLION IN FINANCIAL AID FOR MAUI WILDFIRE SURVIVORS**

**This new grant provides up to \$25,000 in assistance per eligible household.**

**Kahului, Maui, HI** — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), through its Maui Strong Fund, has awarded \$5 million to Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) for a new program that will provide up to \$25,000 in financial support to 2023 Maui wildfire survivors to assist with housing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, home restoration, and healthcare costs. Applications are now open to the public and will remain available until funds are depleted.

Debbie Cabebe, chief executive officer at MEO, says, "The Maui Disaster Stabilization Grant Program aims to address critical gaps in the long-term recovery process for many families who are still struggling. Through this \$5 million grant from HCF's Maui Strong Fund, we were able to partner with Ho'ōla iā Mauiakama Disaster Long Term Recovery Group (Ho'ōla iā LTRG) to help wildfire victims who continue to struggle to meet their basic needs."

Case managers from Ho'ōla iā LTRG will assist each family through the application process and help to determine their unique areas of need. Applicants will be required to provide government identification, proof of residency and income, and supporting documents such as mortgage or lease agreements and other bills to verify financial need.

"Our case managers recognize that the road to recovery for our residents has been long and difficult, and they specialize in assisting applicants through the grant process," said Rhonda Alexander-Monkres, executive director of Ho'ōla iā LTRG. "We're grateful to have partners like HCF and MEO that understand that true recovery means helping families achieve stability, going beyond just basic, day-to-day survival."

Families in need are encouraged to apply by completing a "Disaster Case Management and Survivor Support" intake form at the Long Term Recovery Group website, <https://www.maulongtermrecovery.org/support>. Intake forms can also be completed in person

at the Lahaina Resource Center, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lahaina Gateway, 325 Keawe Street, Suite B102, Lahaina, HI 96761.

Once approved, payments will be issued directly to vendors providing services to affected households within 30 days.

“For nearly two years, we’ve walked alongside Maui’s wildfire survivors, inspired by their courage and resilience,” said Keanu Lau Hee, senior director of the Maui Recovery Effort at the Hawai’i Community Foundation. “This partnership with MEO and Ho’ōla iā LTRG is about rebuilding lives and nurturing hope for the future. We are deeply grateful to the donors of the Maui Strong Fund for making this lifeline possible.”

For more information on the Maui Strong Fund, visit:  
[hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund](https://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund)

###

### **About the Hawai’i Community Foundation**

The vision of the Hawai’i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai’i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-108-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state’s most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving freshwater resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai’i’s young children. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and their people. HCF works in communities across Hawai’i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2024, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai’i. We distributed over \$172 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,100 Hawai’i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [Hawaiicommunityfoundation.org](https://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

### **About Maui Economic Opportunity**

The mission of MEO is to strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, empowering them to reach their potential and enrich their lives. MEO is a nonprofit community action agency committed to helping people become stable and achieve economic security. MEO’s programs are constantly changing to meet the needs of the community. MEO works with more than 25 community partners to help people and change lives. All MEO programs are tangible translations of the Promise of Community Action. MEO has been “helping people...changing lives” for over 60 years. From transportation and early childhood education, to supporting small business development, MEO works in concert with the public and private sector. Learn more at [meoinc.org](https://meoinc.org).