



Maui Strong Funding Opportunity

Request for Proposals: Cultural and Historical Preservation & Revitalization

Online Application Opens: February 27, 2026

Online Application Deadline: April 3, 2026 4:00 p.m. HST **UPDATED as of 03/26/2026**

Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to support non-governmental, community-driven initiatives that advance the restoration, preservation, documentation, and perpetuation of Lahaina's cultural and historic resources impacted by the 2023 wildfires.

When conducting a scan of Lahaina's cultural and historic landmarks, we see a variety of needs emerging within the context of a shared understanding of the cultural significance of spaces and places, the status of damage and potential restoration, and the mounting obstacles of historical preservation post-fire. This funding seeks to support the community's efforts to uplift the histories and cultures that represent Lahaina's past, present, and future.

Program applicants should consider how their projects and activities are uplifting the recovery of the impacted region, how cultural and historical programs and projects support individual and collective healing, and what efforts can be supported to recover or revitalize significant histories that can and should be preserved at this time.

All applications received will be shared with the Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative members.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Funded activities include:

- **Cultural and Historic Site Restoration**
 - Restoration, stabilization, or preservation of culturally or historically significant sites, landscapes, or structures not otherwise fully funded by government programs or insurance.
 - Culturally appropriate interim or temporary interventions that enable future restoration.
- **Cultural Practices and Perpetuation**
 - Revitalization and continuation of cultural practices, traditions, language, and customary knowledge connected to Lahaina.
 - Support for cultural practitioners, 'ike holders, and community educators engaged in Lahaina-based work.



- Placed-based cultural programs that support collective recovery and reconnection for Maui's community.
- **Documentation and Preservation**
 - Community-led documentation of oral histories, 'ike kūpuna, cultural landscapes, archives, and historical records affected by the fires.
 - Digitization or preservation of materials at risk of loss.
- **Community-Led Planning and Stewardship**
 - Cultural planning, visioning, or stewardship efforts that inform long-term recovery and responsible future use of Lahaina's cultural and historic places.
 - Capacity-building for local organizations to serve as long-term cultural stewards.
- **Education and Public Understanding**
 - Culturally grounded education, interpretation, or public engagement efforts that deepen understanding of Lahaina's history and significance.
 - Memorializing the 2023 fires through programs that prioritize art in public places or programs that document the recovery activities.
 - Innovative programs that support access to historical and cultural resources, activities, or practices that are aligned to the recovery.

Funding Parameters and Non-Supplantation

- Grant funds may not be used to supplant or replace government funding, insurance proceeds, or legally required mitigation, repair, or compliance activities.
- Applicants must clearly describe how proposed activities complement or fill gaps not addressed by federal, state, or county programs.
- Projects should demonstrate coordination, where appropriate, with relevant public agencies while remaining community driven.

Priority Considerations

Preference may be given to proposals that:

- Are Native Hawaiian-led or deeply rooted in Lahaina-based communities.
- Are operated by Maui-based organizations with experience serving the target community or organizations partnering with Maui-based organization(s).
- Demonstrate meaningful community engagement and consent.
- Reflect cultural protocols and respect for wahi pana.
- Build long-term community capacity and stewardship.
- Leverage additional funding or in-kind support without dependency on uncertain public funds.
- Provide collaborative opportunities for community-led projects/programs.
 - Nonprofits should seek opportunities to coordinate with community groups that are not eligible or may have less capacity to apply for and/or manage a grant award.



Out of Scope

The following are areas of focus that will not be funded under this program:

- Programs that are not focused on moving recovery forward for the places in Lahaina impacted by the fires.
- Projects that are offered as standard programming or general operations of an organization; programs outside of recovery efforts.

Expected Recovery Outcomes

Funded projects should contribute to:

- Preservation and revitalization of Lahaina's cultural identity and historical legacy.
- Strengthened community leadership and cultural continuity.
- Responsible, culturally grounded recovery that benefits present and future generations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted categories:

- Organizational Capacity and Recent Experience (20%)
- Program Design, Outreach and Timeline (20%)
- Coordination and Partnerships (15%)
- Implementation Plan and Impact Evaluation (25%)
- Budget and Program Financial Sustainability (15%)
- Overall Alignment with RFP Priorities (5%)

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Organizations that are not a 501(c)(3) public charity must apply with a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) public charity.
- A nonprofit may submit only one application for its organization.
- Organizations must be in good standing with HCF and have all report requirements up to date.
- Grant funds may not be used for: re-granting (i.e., redistribution of these funds to other organizations or individuals); endowments; for the benefit of specific individuals; major capital improvements including capital campaigns, construction or renovations (minor capital improvements required to implement programs are allowable); or activities that promote religious beliefs.

GRANT AWARD

- The award ceiling for general program requests is \$250,000 and the ceiling for capital requests is \$750,000.00. A total of \$5 million is available through this RFP.



- Multi-year requests are allowed but should not exceed 3 years and should have leveraged support planned for each year of requested funding.
- Grant awards are expected to vary in size and duration depending on the scope of work, program reach, and organizational capacity.
- Size of program request should be proportionate to the capacity and experience of the applicant and its partners.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application

Applications can be submitted online via the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Grants Portal: https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Applicants must log in to their account to apply; new users must register for an account. We recommend that you do not wait until the last moment to submit your application as you may experience technical difficulties. Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be accepted; this includes completion of Organization Profiles and associated fiscal sponsorship documents, if applicable.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Both new and returning users must certify and submit the organization profile prior to submission of the application; re-certification is required every six months. *Organization operating budgets must be updated to the current year at the time of application. Financials should be updated and completed as soon as they come available.*

The Organizational Profile consists of five tabs: *Organization Information, Contact Information, Budget, Board and Certification*. To submit your organization profile, you must complete all required fields marked with an asterisk on each tab.

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, 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** (*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/Kīhei/Kula) will the organization serve? (ex. # of people served; # of events held; types & amounts of resources provided; etc.)

- **Program Summary (Executive Summary)** (Maximum 2,500 characters = $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 = $\frac{3}{4}$ 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: :** (Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page) Describe the detailed activities and timeline 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) Please describe the measurable and strategic impact and results that will be achieved. 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 = $\frac{3}{4}$ page)
- **Organizational Capacity:** (Maximum 2,500 characters): Relevant experience and past performance in this program/project area.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** (Maximum 2,500 characters): Existing and planned partnerships, MOUs, and community engagement. Specify any collaborative or cohort driven efforts and the roles of each participating organization. Letters from all implementation-related partners should be included as supplemental documentation.
- **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, High-Risk, Underserved Populations, and Others.
- **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, and other relevant budget details. 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 the additional documents as applicable:
 - Partnership letters/MOUs (if applicable)
 - Maps of program locations (if applicable)
 - Reports or Summaries of Recent Programming
 - Biographies of key program staff and/or implementation partners
 - Fiscal Sponsor documents (if applicable) – see below for more information

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

HCF Staff will host a Zoom Information Session on **Friday, March 6, from 12:30pm-1:30pm**. To register for this webinar, please use the link below. Please note that attendees can submit questions through the chat and an FAQ document will be created.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/G0PRNfySRnmvyWyo2WPmhg>

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Application Close Date: March 27, 2026

HCF staff will review applications through 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 in June 2026.



Decision notifications will be sent by email to the applicant, applicant’s Chief Staff or Volunteer, and if applicable, the Fiscal Sponsor contact in the HCF Grants Portal. The decision letter will be attached to the email and available in the Grants Portal under My Application Tracker in the Active or Historical tabs.

TIMELINE/KEY DATES

Description	Date
Application Release	02/27/2026
Virtual Information Session*	03/06/2026, 12:30-1:30pm
Application Deadline	03/27,2026, 4:00pm
Anticipated Notification Time Frame	June 2026
Grant Start & End Date	Programs should start in June/July 2026. The end dates will be noted in the award letters. Some programs may have multi-year awards.

**To register for the virtual information session, please click this link.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Tips for Applicants

- How-to videos, the Applicant User Guide and support tickets can be found on our [website](#).
- Tool tips can be found throughout the portal. These boxes indicate exactly what information you should provide.
- Use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox on a computer for the best user experience.
- The online application has fillable boxes with character limits that may not match character counts in MS word. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure all text is complete.
- If you have an existing organization profile and fields are not editable, please click “Update Profile”. This will move your org profile to draft and allow you to make edits. Click “Submit” to move it back to active status.