



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Maui Strong Funding Opportunity

Request for Proposals: Local Food Security and Resilience

Application Opens: January 16, 2026

Application Deadline: February 13, 2026, 4:00pm

Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to support wildfire recovery on Maui by strengthening food security for individuals and families impacted by the August 2023 wildfires and by rebuilding a more resilient local food system.

This funding is intended to address both immediate recovery needs and longer-term resilience, recognizing that food insecurity following the wildfires is driven not only by food availability, but also by displacement, loss of income, supply chain disruptions, and reduced access to culturally appropriate and locally sourced food.

Given the Maui Food Bank's significant capacity for large-scale food purchasing and emergency distribution, this RFP prioritizes complementary recovery strategies that extend beyond emergency food supply and support community stabilization and long-term food system recovery. These strategies may include, but are not limited to, purchasing equipment, sub-granting programs, personnel costs, training programs, convenings, matching funds, and other activities aligned to the priority areas.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation, through the Maui Strong Fund, supported early emergency feeding coordination conversations in 2024 through a partnership with Common Ground Collective. The product of these convenings was the [Maui Emergency Feeding Taskforce 2024 Report](#), which set the table for the County's own [Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan](#).

Applicants are encouraged to align programming to these documents as they have already noted Maui's feeding gaps, areas of focus for the future of resilience building, and key partners that are engaged in the environment of food resilience and recovery-related food access.

All applications received will be shared with Kaiser Permanente and Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative members.

Priority Focus Areas



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Proposals must clearly demonstrate a direct connection to wildfire recovery and may address one or more of the following areas:

1. Recovery-Focused Food Access for Wildfire-Impacted Households
 - Community-based food access programs serving displaced residents, fire survivors, and households experiencing ongoing recovery-related hardship.
 - Culturally appropriate food initiatives, including fresh, locally produced food.
 - Programs that address barriers to access such as transportation, housing displacement, or loss of cooking facilities.
2. Restoration of Local Food Production & Livelihoods
 - Support for farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food producers impacted by the wildfires.
 - Replacement or repair of lost equipment, infrastructure, or capacity essential to food production and distribution.
 - Workforce recovery and stabilization within the local food system.
3. Food System Recovery & Disaster Resilience
 - Projects that strengthen Maui's food system to withstand future disasters.
 - Climate-resilient and disaster-prepared food production, storage, and distribution models.
 - Reduction of reliance on imported food as part of long-term recovery.
4. Coordination, Partnerships & Systems-Level Recovery
 - Cross-sector partnerships that improve coordination among food system actors during recovery.
 - Shared infrastructure or collaborative models that increase efficiency and equity.
 - Planning, data, or systems improvements that enhance disaster preparedness for future emergencies.

Out of Scope

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

- Proposals that focus primarily on large-scale emergency food purchasing or general food distribution are discouraged unless they clearly demonstrate:
 - A specific wildfire recovery gap not currently addressed by existing providers, and
 - How the proposed work complements, rather than duplicates, the Maui Food Bank's existing capacity.
- Proposals with the following activities:
 - Hot meals preparation/distribution;
 - Meal card distribution;
 - Funding for individuals or for-profits without community benefit;
- Programs or organizations without a history of effectiveness



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- Proposals from nonprofits that have limited-to-no experience with food security programming or projects.
- Proposals that are seeking full funding from the Maui Strong Fund.
- Proposals seeking acquisition of real property.

Expected Recovery Outcomes

Funded projects should demonstrate measurable outcomes related to wildfire recovery, such as:

- Improved food security for wildfire-impacted individuals and families
- Recovered or strengthened local food production and livelihoods.
- Increased resilience of Maui's food system to future disasters.
- Reduced long-term dependence on emergency food assistance.

Collaboration

- Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other recovery partners on program implementation, including Maui Food Bank, local food producers, nonprofits, and community organizations, where such partnerships enhance recovery outcomes and ensure efficient use of resources.
- 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.

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%)

GRANT AWARD

- Grant awards are expected to range between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 for up to a two-year period depending on the scope of work, program reach, and organizational capacity.
- Larger awards may be considered for organizations or collaboratives showing overwhelming community support and impact related to food security for Maui's resiliency and recovery needs.
- The maximum cumulative distribution of awards for this program is at least \$3,000,000.00.



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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 account 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.

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
- If you are using a fiscal sponsor, please be sure that they complete their organization profile including the certification requirement prior to the Funding Opportunity Application Deadline.

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).



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- 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 = 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:** (*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*) 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*)
 - **Organizational Capacity:** (*Maximum 2,500 characters*): Relevant experience and past performance.
 - **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.



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- **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 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.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Partnership letters/MOUs (if available).
- Maps of program locations (if applicable)
- Reports or Summaries of Recent Programming
- Biographies of key program staff and/or implementation partners

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 webinar on **Friday, January 23, 2026, 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/webinar/register/WN_zO-LoZylSGimGHzoYrGtOA

DEADLINE

Application Close Date: February 13, 2026

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 in late March or early April 2026.



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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>.