



**Hawai'i Community Foundation  
Maui Strong Fund  
Interim & Long-Term Housing Letter of Interest (LOI)**

For applicants requesting responding to the 2026 Interim & Long-Term Housing application, please submit an LOI through HCF's Open Funding Opportunities. Starting the LOI draft will prompt the three questions below; these questions will automatically move over to the full application but will not be open for editing once invited to the full application.

1. **Organization Description** -- Describe the mission of the organization/program. What is the organization's experience with disaster relief, housing, or related fields, including any past projects or case studies that demonstrate your expertise. 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.)
  
2. **Program Overview & Timeline** -- Please give an overview of your request for funding including:
  - Key program activities that align with the issue or problem the effort will solve or support
  - the strategy for implementation of funds
  - any partnerships or collaborations that have helped to support and inform the effort
  - the funding sources (secured or pending sources, including government and private sources) and/or in-kind support for the effort
  - the timeline of activities, from start to completion
  
3. **Expected Results** -- Detail a plan for how you will evaluate the success of the project, including metrics for measuring the impact on the affected population and the long-term sustainability of the solution. Measures should be specific and quantifiable.

Applications submitting an LOI for Interim & Long-term Housing projects and programs should refer to the attached titled, Maui Strong Funding Opportunity: Interim & Long-Term Housing. No attachments will be accepted during the LOI process.

HCF will receive submissions through the LOI process between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. After HCF reviews the submitted LOI, HCF may invite the applicant to submit a full application for consideration. Invitations are expected to go out in near August 3<sup>rd</sup> for a full application opportunity. The deadline for those invite-only applications will be early September 2026. Funding decisions will be finalized near December 2026.

## RESOURCES

HCF Staff will host an information session on Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. To register for this call, please use the link below. Please note that attendees can submit questions through the chat and the session will be recorded.

**Register Here:** <https://hcf-hawaii.org.zoom.us/j/90258491234>

If you have any questions, please contact HCF by email at [info@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:info@hcf-hawaii.org).



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Maui Strong Funding Opportunity

Interim & Long-Term Housing

**Online LOI Application Opens: June 15, 2026, 12:00 pm HST**

**Online LOI Application Deadline: July 2, 2026, 4:00 pm HST**

**Invite Only Application Notification: August 3, 2026, 12:00 pm HST**

**Invite Only Application Deadline: September 8, 2026, 4:00 pm HST**

## 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. In response to the need for wildfire survivor housing, HCF seeks innovative, cost-effective, and scalable solutions to address the immediate and long-term housing needs of displaced individuals and families. Our goal is to partner with qualified organizations or entities that can deliver permanent housing solutions for wildfire survivors.

Maui Strong Fund grants will align with coordinated, collaborative, and data-informed needs that are responsive and appropriate for the recovery efforts.

HCF is committed to serving households who face the greatest barriers to recovery, including individuals and families who are not eligible for, or not fully served by, federal, state, or county housing programs. Proposals should clearly identify the target population and demonstrate how proposed solutions address gaps in publicly available housing resources and assistance. HCF encourages proposals that align housing solutions with recovery workforce needs, including housing for essential workers and individuals critical to Maui's long-term economic and community recovery.

In addition, HCF seeks to maximize the impact of Maui Strong Fund resources by prioritizing proposals that leverage additional funding and partnerships. Respondents should describe how Maui Strong Fund support will catalyze, align with, or unlock other public and private funding sources to scale impact and achieve long-term housing outcomes.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to solicit proposals from qualified organizations capable of designing, developing, and implementing disaster housing solutions to meet the needs of wildfire survivors. HCF seeks a variety of housing types, including long-term permanent housing that can be rapidly deployed, meet County of Maui building code, incorporate wildfire mitigation strategies and adaptable to various environmental conditions. The housing solutions must address the following needs:

- Long-term, resilient housing that can withstand future disasters;
- Energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable designs;

- Consideration for accessibility, cultural appropriateness, and family-oriented spaces;
- Housing stability across tenure types, including both homeowners and renters;
- Pathways from interim to permanent housing, particularly for households with limited access to publicly funded housing programs.

Respondents should provide detailed proposals that address one or more of the following areas:

- **Permanent Housing:** Proposals should provide innovative and cost-effective permanent housing solutions that can be built quickly but are durable and resilient to future disasters. The solutions must comply with local building codes and incorporate disaster-resistant features.
- **Renter-Focused Housing Solutions:** Proposals should include strategies to support renter households, including the development or preservation of affordable rental housing, master leasing approaches, tenant stabilization efforts, or other models that enable displaced renters to secure long-term housing options.
- **Housing Resources:** Proposals should provide solutions that support the return of households to their property through resources and support services that provide cost-saving benefits and improve the likelihood of rebuild.
- **Transition from Interim to Permanent Housing:** Proposals should outline programs, partnerships, and service models that support individuals and families from interim housing into permanent housing. This may include housing navigation, financial assistance, landlord engagement, or coordinate placement strategies.
- **Workforce-Aligned Housing Solutions:** Proposals may include models that support essential workforce populations, particularly where housing access is a barrier to maintaining critical services and advancing long-term recovery;
- **Logistics and Deployment:** A strategy for the transportation, delivery, and on-site construction of housing units, with considerations for difficult terrain or access to affected areas.
- **Cost and Sustainability:** Proposals should also describe any leveraged funding sources and how Maui Strong Fund resources will be used to maximize overall investment along long-term sustainability.
- **Community Engagement:** Proposals should detail how they will engage with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that housing solutions meet the cultural, social, and economic needs of the affected population.

#### **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

#### **OUT OF SCOPE**

- Temporary or interim housing solutions, including shelters, short-term lodging, or transitional housing intended for occupancy less than 2 years;
- Land acquisition or real estate purchase;
- Standalone planning activities that do not include a clear path to implementation;
- Standalone research, feasibility studies, or assessments without direct implementation outcomes;
- General operating support not directly tied to the proposed housing solution or program;
- Projects that duplicate or are fully fundable through existing federal, state, or county programs, unless clearly demonstrating a service gap or addressing populations not eligible for those resources;
- Market-rate housing developments that do not demonstrate affordability for wildfire-impacted households;
- Applications that lack a clear pathway to permanent housing outcomes, including proposals that do not address long-term occupancy, affordability, or sustainability;
- Projects without a defined implementation timeline or measurable outcomes aligned with recovery priorities;
- Speculative or early-stage concepts without demonstrated feasibility, site control, or development readiness;
- Projects with unresolved permitting or regulatory barriers that would significantly delay implementation;
- Capital campaigns or funds intended to raise future funding, rather than deploy capital directly into housing solutions.

#### **GRANT AWARD**

- Applicants that can demonstrate alignment with the program criteria and scope of work can apply for grant funds up to \$5,000,000.00.
- The maximum cumulative distribution of awards for this funding opportunity is \$10,000,000.00.
- Some proposed programs may be deferred to other funding opportunities should they align with recovery efforts better suited for a future timeline of implementation.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- Application must support recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires.
- Application addresses a critical need or will fulfill demand for the Maui community.
- Application articulates clear and measurable impacts and outcomes.
- Applicant clearly identifies and serves populations who are not eligible for or are underserved by federal, state, or county programs.
- Applicant can describe the organization's recent experience or past performance with managing grant funds.
- Applicant can demonstrate a partnership, collaboration, or network approach to supporting the Maui community.
- Applicant has sought and/or secured other sources of funding, including government and private funds.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the proposed solution's technical soundness and ability to meet the project's objectives.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the proposed solution to meet the defined housing needs of the community.
- Applicants must show the ability to deliver a high-quality solution within a reasonable and competitive budget.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the creativity and uniqueness of the proposed solution in addressing housing challenges.
- Applicants will be evaluated on their experience, expertise, and ability to execute the project successfully.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the environmental and economic sustainability of the proposed housing solutions.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the extent to which the proposal incorporates community involvement and local knowledge.
- Additional consideration will be given to proposals that demonstrate strong alignment with underserved populations and effectively leveraging additional resources or funding sources to expand impact.
- Proposals will be evaluated on their readiness to implement, including evidence of feasibility, timelines, and ability to deliver within the recovery window.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS & REVIEW APPROACH**

### **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](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>.

## **APPROACH**

HCF is committed to a transparent, equitable, and efficient review process that supports strong proposals while managing the volume and complexity of applications. The review process includes the following steps:

1. Applicant Info Session (Optional): HCF will host a virtual informational session to provide an overview of the funding opportunity, review key priorities, and answer applicant questions.
2. Letter of Interest (Required): Interested organizations will be required to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) outlining their proposed housing solution, target population, implementation approach, and anticipated outcomes. HCF will review all LOIs to assess alignment with funding priorities, including:
  - a. Focus on permanent housing outcomes
  - b. Service to populations not fully served by public programs
  - c. Demonstrated feasibility and readiness
  - d. Ability to leverage additional funding

Only selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Due to the anticipated volume of applications, not all organizations who submit a Letter of Interest will be invited to submit a full application.

3. Full Application (By Invitation Only): Organizations invited to the next phase will submit a detailed application, including program design, implementation plan, budget, and expected outcomes.
4. Presentation and Peer Review: Selected applicants may be invited to present their proposed solution to a panel of HCF staff and external subject matter experts. This step allows for deeper evaluation of feasibility, partnerships, and overall impact.
5. Final Review and Award Determination: Final funding decisions will be made based on alignment with program goals, demonstrated impact, feasibility, and overall strength of the proposal.

## **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. 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
  - 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 with disaster relief, housing, or related fields, including any past projects or case studies that demonstrate your expertise. 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 goals with the 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. Applicants should describe the extent to which the target population is eligible or ineligible for existing federal, state, or county assistance programs, and how the proposed solution addresses identified gaps. 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? Please include appropriate data, evidence, or strategies that could strengthen these statements. Some recovery related reports and data resources are available at <https://strongerhawaii.org/news-updates/research-and-data/>
  - **Program Overview & Timeline:** (*Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page*) Please give an overview of your request for funding. Key program activities that align with the issue or problem the effort will solve or support; the strategy for implementation of funds; any partnerships or collaborations that have helped to support and inform the effort; the funding sources (secured or pending sources, including government and private sources) and/or in-kind support for the effort; and the timeline of activities, from start to completion.
  - **Expected Results:** (*Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page*) Detail a plan for how you will evaluate the success of the project, including metrics for measuring the impact on the affected population and the long-term sustainability of the solution. Measures should be specific and quantifiable.
  - **Additional Grant Request: Implementation Plan:** Provide a detailed plan outlining how your organization will implement the proposed solution, including key milestones, delivery timelines, logistics, and risk management strategies. (*Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page*)
  - **Additional Grant Request: Sustainability and Resilience:** Explain how the proposed housing solution is sustainable and resilient to future disasters, including any energy-efficient or environmentally friendly components. (*Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page*)
  - **Additional Grant Request: References:** Contact information for at least three references who can speak to your organization's ability to deliver on the proposed project.
  - **Areas of Disaster Approach** (check all that apply) – risk reduction and disaster readiness, rapid relief and response, recovery and stabilization, and rebuilding resilience.
  - **Area of Focus** (check all that apply) – Housing, Health & Social Services, Economic, and Natural & Cultural Resources.
  - **Population Served** (check all that apply) - Disabled Persons, Elders, Immigrants, Children/Youth, Animal Care, High-Risk and/or Underserved Populations.
- **Budget:** Provide a detailed, itemized budget outlining the costs associated with the design, development, and implementation of the proposed solution. Proposals should also include a clear explanation of any cost-saving measures or efficiencies. Budgets should be inclusive of income and expenses, indicating sources of income that are

pending and secured. Applicants should clearly identify leveraged funding sources and describe how Maui Strong Fund resources will complement or catalyze additional investment.

- **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.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/grants/fiscal-sponsor-materials>
- Fiscal sponsor's IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter

#### **RESOURCES**

HCF Staff will host an information session on Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. To register for this call, please use the link below. Please note that attendees can submit questions through the chat and the session will be recorded.

**Register Here:** [https://hcf-hawaii-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/IJodBQuVQee\\_YXYERGfGTQ#/registration](https://hcf-hawaii-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/IJodBQuVQee_YXYERGfGTQ#/registration)

#### **DEADLINE**

HCF anticipates completing the review and selection process by December 2026, though timelines may vary based on application volume and project complexity. Applicants who meet criteria for consideration of funding will be asked to submit a presentation deck of their proposals to be shared with HCF staff and subject matter experts. Decisions should be announced in December 2026.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

All questions about this funding opportunity must be submitted in writing via email to the Maui Recovery Team at [info@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:info@hcf-hawaii.org).

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