



## FY26 Grant Cycle Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can an organization access the application before the application opening?**
  - Yes, the application will be available in Word on February 11 on the HIF website [here](#).
- **What additional organization information is required to submit an application?**
  - HIF has put together a checklist of items you will need and items you should consider for the application. All required documents can but uploaded into the application in Foundant. [Click here to access the application checklist](#).
- **How do I know if our organization has an active account in Foundant?**
  - We encourage organizations to ask internally about an existing organizational account in Foundant before reaching out to HIF. Having multiple organization accounts can lead to confusion when trying to reference historical application information and data. If you still require assistance identifying an existing account or how to add a profile to an existing account, you can reach out to the HIF team at [Communication@hifmc.org](mailto:Communication@hifmc.org). To access our online grant portal, [click here](#).
- **Does HIF allow organizations who are not yet 501c3 nonprofits to apply with a Fiscal Sponsors?**
  - Yes, if an organization currently operating in Montgomery County does not yet have its 501c3 nonprofit status, they can partner with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor. The application will require additional information from both the applying organization and the 501c3 fiscal sponsor. The organization on the application should still be the one requesting the funding. [Click here to access the checklist of requirements for fiscal sponsors](#).



- **Should the cycle an organization chooses (Fall or Spring) be based on our organization's fiscal year?**
  - Organizations should choose a grant cycle based on timing that works best with the programming for which they are applying. Organizations can only apply once in either the fall or spring cycle.
  
- **Is the funding period for one full year from the start of the award?**
  - Yes, the award, whether in the fall or spring, would be a 1-year grant award from the time of the grant agreement execution.
  
- **Is there a cap for our funding request?**
  - There is no cap for the funding request; however, please note that the average award is generally \$35,000.
  
- **Will the slides or presentation from the grant orientation training be made available?**
  - Yes, a recorded training will be available.
  
- **Will HIF continue to operate the Small Grant Cycle?**
  - More information about our Small Grant Cycle will be available in the coming months.
  
- **What if an organization falls into more than one Strategic Priority Area or Funding Priority Area?**
  - It is common for an organization to fit into multiple Strategic Priority Areas and Focus Areas. However, when applying we ask that an organization considers the program for which they are applying and find the Strategic Priority Area and Focus Area that *best fits the work*. An organization can only submit 1 application in a grant cycle.



- **If we have never applied to HIF for funding before, what should we do?**
  - If an organization has no previous grant history with HIF, it is required that they set up a site visit (in person or virtual) with a member of the HIF Team. This allows the Foundation to better understand an organization's work and relationship to our mission. HIF welcomes any organization the opportunity to connect with us prior to a grant cycle! Reach out to [Jess.Fuchs@hifmc.org](mailto:Jess.Fuchs@hifmc.org).
  
- **If we are a current FY25 Capacity or FY25 Small grant recipient, is our organization eligible for FY26 Spring Grant Cycle funding?**
  - Yes, HIF recognizes that there will be an overlap of grant years if your organization were to receive funding in FY26. If you are a current FY25 grant recipient, when reporting to HIF on each respective report, please remain consistent on the grant year metrics and budget actuals. Any organization who applied for the FY26 Fall Grant cycle is NOT eligible to apply for the FY26 Spring Grant cycle.
  
- **Is grant funding only for organizations based in Montgomery County, Md?**
  - It is okay for a nonprofit organization that is based *outside* of Montgomery County, Md to apply to HIF. However, the program that is being applied for in the grant application *must clearly address programs and services that advance the health of Montgomery County, Md community and its residents*. So, even if the organization/program conducts work outside of Montgomery County, Md, the data, metrics, and services described must only relate to Montgomery County, Md community and its residents.
  
- **If our organization applied in the Fall FY26 Grant cycle but did not receive funding, are we eligible to apply for the Spring FY26 Grant cycle?**
  - No, if your organization applied for the Fall Grant cycle in October 2025, even if you did not receive funding, you are not eligible to apply for the Spring FY26 Grant cycle.