

## Strengthening Communities Grant FAQs

1. Why focus on the organization rather than the work?
  - a. Organizational development grants are an opportunity to build an organization's strength, effectiveness and/or sustainability. Organizations benefit from support specifically designated to bolster day-to-day operations, develop competencies, and improve systems, especially small grassroots organizations. Opportunities may include (but are not limited to) staff development and onboarding, strengthening infrastructure, contingency planning, and more.
2. Why do we state a preference for grants to organizations working in the "islands of disadvantage"?
  - a. An important step in attaining health equity is to focus resources and interventions in the areas where the greatest disparities currently exist. The Foundation is aiming to build resources in the areas of greatest disadvantage in Northern Virginia, the so-called 'islands of disadvantage' (as described in "[Getting Ahead: The Uneven Opportunity Landscape in Northern Virginia](#)"). Strengthening the organizations that work in these places in turn strengthens these communities.
3. Who is eligible to apply?
  - a. Non-profit organizations who are working to improve health equity or reduce disparities in an 'island of disadvantage' in Northern Virginia may apply for these grants. Priority will be given to organizations who have a trusted relationship within the community, work toward systems change, and incorporate community input into organizational planning and priorities.
4. Can we use this grant to grow a program or increase services?
  - a. These grants are focused on improving the organization itself, supporting staff and volunteers, and survival or sustainability. These grants may not be used for operational or program support.
5. Can current NVHF grantees apply for these grants?
  - a. Many of the Foundation's existing grantees are eligible to apply, with the exception of recipients of multi-year general operating support grants.

6. How can I learn more about this funding opportunity?
  - a. Foundation staff will hold an information session on September 25 at 10am. [Please click this link to register.](#)
7. What are the deadlines?
  - a. Proposals are due on October 17 by 5:00pm. The Foundation Board of Directors will meet mid-December to make final decisions, and applicants will be notified soon after of the outcome.
8. How do I apply?
  - a. The online application can be accessed through Foundant, our grants management system: <https://www.grantinterface.com/nvhf/Common/LogOn.aspx>. If you do not already have a profile in our system, please create an account. Then click on “apply” – the code is CB2025.