

Austin Community Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund Grant Applicant FAQ

What types of programs are eligible for Emergency Assistance Funding?

The fund was established to address emergency assistance needs in the areas of food, utility and rent assistance, transportation and emergency healthcare/prescription needs.

Are there any organizational eligibility requirements that would prevent an organization from being considered for a grant (i.e., organizations that have been incorporated for less than a year, have a small budget or staff complement)?

There are no eligibility requirements related to budget size, number of staff or years of operation, however, the organization's past history and track record for effectively providing services will be a factor in all funding decisions.

What are the geographic restrictions for funding?

To be eligible, your organization must have a significant presence in Central Texas. Organizations headquartered outside the Central Texas region must demonstrate service to the area.

May an organization submit a proposal for a multiple-year grant?

No, the Emergency Assistance Fund is a short-term resource with an expected life-span of six months to one year.

May we submit multiple proposals?

Yes, but we discourage this practice in all but a few cases where there is an organization that has strong internal capacity and a track record.

My organization intends to request Emergency Assistance Funds. If we are awarded a grant under that Fund, will we be eligible to apply for a grant from the Austin Community Foundation through its regular grants process?

Yes, you may submit a proposal for a grant from the Austin Community Foundation ("ACF") through its regular grants process even if you have been awarded a grant under the Emergency Assistance Fund, but note that it is recommended that you not apply through for funding for emergency assistance through ACF's regular process as they will review all Emergency Assistance Fund requests.

If my organization submits a grant proposal, is it possible that the organization may be awarded less money than requested?

Yes, it is possible that your organization will be awarded a smaller grant than what was requested.

Will any general operating support grants be awarded?

Yes, organizations can request operating support as part of their request for planning or implementation of specific projects.

I would like to know how competitive each RFP round will be by considering how many and what kind of entities you anticipate will respond. What can you tell me?

We expect that there will be considerable interest, but we have no way of knowing how many organizations and of what type will submit proposals. We encourage innovative thinking and different organizational entities or partnerships to apply.

May we submit letters of recommendation?

No, we ask that you not submit them and we will not evaluate them as part of your proposal. If we need additional information not included in the proposal submission package we will contact you.

When will we be notified if we have received a grant?

Turnaround to review and notify grant recipients will depend on the volume of grants received. The goal is 6-8 weeks.

What support for education is provided during this round?

The Emergency Assistance Fund is designed to provide safety net funding for basic services in the areas of food, utility and rent assistance, transportation and emergency healthcare/prescription needs. Requests for educational projects that are not directly tied to basic needs will not be considered with these dollars.

If our proposal does not get funding, will I be able to receive comments from the reviewers or a debriefing of some other kind from the community foundation?

We will endeavor to be as responsive to questions from applicants as the volume of proposals we receive allows.