

Investing in Community Impact

Funding Opportunity

Bastrop County Cares will support nonprofits, grassroots organizations, businesses, places of worship and individuals to implement innovative solutions to improve the health and well-being of Bastrop County residents. Investing in Impact grant funds can be used for a broad range of activities that address the social determinants of health - the factors that influence your health outside of medical care, such as housing, education, healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and healthy food. The funding process is intentionally accessible to support community-designed solutions and distribute funds to those who might not normally have access to grants. Applicants choose to submit a written application or make an oral or video presentation. Applications open March 1 (check [BCC website](#)) and are accepted March 1-April 15, 2025. Grant awards are expected July 1, 2024 and will provide funding for 18 months.

Funding Focus

This funding opportunity addresses "the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks" ([Healthy People 2030](#), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion). Grassroots organizations and individuals with lived experience in Bastrop County are encouraged to present innovative solutions to address any of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) or Non-medical Drivers of Health (NMDOH):

- ☐ **Economic Stability:** Projects targeting food security, workforce development, adult education (English as a Second Language, GED Programs) job creation, housing stability, financial literacy, or broadband access.
- ☐ **Education Access and Quality:** Projects designed to address school readiness, K-12 education, and higher education.
- ☐ **Health Care Access and Quality:** Projects designed to improve primary care access, behavioral health, prenatal health, childhood health, preventative health/health education, transportation to health services,
- ☐ **Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social and Community Context** (We combine these SDOH under the term *Thriving Communities*): Projects fostering neighborhood infrastructure/resources, community safety, transportation, civic participation, resiliency, or social cohesion and support systems

Funding Period

Time period of this grant: July 1, 2025- December 31, 2026 (18 months)

This is one time funding with no promise of continuation.



Key Dates

Date/s	Action
March 1	Application is released
March 1-April 15	Technical Assistance available for all applicants
April 15	Applications due 11:59 PM
April 15-May 30	Application review process
June 2	Grant recipients notified
July 1	Grant funding begins
December 31, 2026	Grant funding ends

How grant funds can be used

Use of Unrestricted Funds

Grants are intentionally flexible to align with what community members want and need. Funding is unrestricted, meaning non-profits, grassroots organizations, businesses, places of worship and individuals have the flexibility to allocate funds where they are most needed to address the social determinants of health effectively. This approach ensures that resources can be directed toward urgent priorities, innovative solutions, and sustainable impact without unnecessary administrative restrictions

Allowable Expenses

Grant funds may be used for a variety of expenses that support community-driven solutions, including but not limited to:

Personnel Costs – Salaries, stipends, and wages for staff, contractors, and individuals with lived experience contributing to the project.

Program and Project Expenses – Materials, supplies, and resources necessary for program implementation.

Capacity Building – Professional development, leadership training, and technical assistance.

Community Engagement – Stipends for community members, meeting facilitation, focus groups, and community events.



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Technology and Digital Access – Software, hardware, and internet services that support service delivery and community participation.

Facilities and Equipment – Rental costs, utilities, office equipment, and furnishings that enhance program effectiveness.

Transportation Assistance – Mileage reimbursement, public transit passes, or other transportation supports to ensure accessibility.

Administrative Costs – Indirect costs, including accounting, compliance, and reporting expenses necessary for program sustainability.

Emergency Assistance – Direct support for community members when aligned with program goals, such as food, housing stability, and other immediate needs.

Non-Allowable Expenses

While the grant is flexible, some expenses are not eligible for funding, including:

Political Activities – Lobbying, campaign contributions, or activities supporting political

Eligibility

This is an intentionally open inclusive funding opportunity.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for funding, you must fall into one of these categories:

Tax-exempt organizations under IRS Section 501(c)(3) in good standing

Collaboratives, coalitions, and partnerships

Emerging Organization, grassroots efforts, resident-led network(s), community focused initiatives (Fiscal Sponsorship options available).

Individual, business, non profit, education entity with an idea of how to address areas outlined in the funding focus section and the means to carry it out. Applicants are not required to reside in Bastrop County, but all services must benefit Bastrop County residents. Members of Bastrop County Cares Collaboratives are encouraged to apply.

Who is not eligible? Governmental / Municipalities/ Political parties-organizations



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Are joint applications allowed?

Yes, multiple organizations or people may apply jointly, but must articulate the role of each applicant and designate only one fiscal agent

Grant amounts

Applicants may propose any funding amounts between \$5,000 to \$100,000 based on their project's scope, capacity, and community impact. Please submit no more than 1 application per entity or individual.

Application Assistance

Bastrop County Cares can provide access to a computer and/or internet to complete an application. Applicants are also encouraged to use their local public libraries to access computer and/or internet

This table provides a clear and structured guide for applicants to access support during the application process.

Method	Details	Availability	Response Time
FAQ Document	A living document with answers to common questions. Updated regularly.	Available on the grant website.	Updated as needed.
Informational Webinars	Live sessions to provide an overview and answer questions. Recordings available.	Scheduled on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 10am and 6pm	Live responses; follow-up within 1-2 business days if needed.
In-Person Support	One-on-one assistance for applicants needing additional guidance. Visit 806 Water St. Bastrop, TX 78602	Available Monday to Friday 9am-4pm by appointment.	Immediate assistance; follow-up if needed.
Email Support	Applicants can send questions to Impact@bastropcares.org	Open throughout the application period.	Responses within 1-2 business days.
Phone Support	Direct assistance for urgent or complex inquiries. Call 512-409-3116	Available during business hours of 9am and 5pm	Responses within 1-2 business days.
Community	Interactive discussions to	Scheduled based	Responses provided



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Forums / Virtual Meetings	address applicant concerns.	on demand. Check website and social media for updates	during the session; follow-up if needed.
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Application Scoring Criteria

Each application will be reviewed by an advisory panel including community members. Applications will be assessed on each of the following criteria and be assigned a point value.

[application review criteria](#)

How to apply

All applicants will complete Part 1 of the application in writing and submit at Impact@bastropcares.org or in person to Bastrop County Cares office at 806 Water Street in Bastrop between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday-Friday March 1-April 15, 2025.

Applicants choose one of these 3 options to respond to Part 2:

Written: respond below in writing via email at Impact@bastropcares.org or in person at 806 Water Street, Bastrop TX 78602.

In Person: present your project directly to the advisory panel through a presentation of no more than 15 minutes. Presentations will be scheduled by BCC staff via phone 512-409-3116 or email Impact@bastropcares.org April 15-April 30. Presentations will be held in-person at 806 Water St. Bastrop, TX 78602.

Video: present your project directly to the advisory panel by submitting a link to a video of no more than 15 minutes to Eric Jones at Impact@bastropcares.org

You are welcome to apply in English or Spanish. Interpretation services can be provided for an in person presentation.



Application

Part 1: All applicants must submit this section in writing.

First and last name for Primary Applicant

Organization: If you are applying as an individual, write "individual"

EIN # for nonprofits and businesses only

Phone number

Email address

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Full address (Street, City, Zip code)

If you are applying jointly with other applicants, list them here

Name	Organization or individual	Email address	Phone



Describe which community or residents in Bastrop County will benefit from this grant, you can list more than one (Example: Cedar Creek, LBA, McDade, Elgin, Smithville, Bastrop, etc.):

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Please share a general budget for your project. Include budget items and amounts below. You may add more lines if needed. You may also include a link to a more detailed budget with your application.

Item	Amount
Total	

Please share contact information for at least 2 people who can act as references for you or your organization. References can be anyone who knows you well.

Name	Organization or individual	Phone	Email



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Which social determinant of health does your project address? Check all that apply.

- ☐ **Economic Stability** including any of the following: food security, job creation, financial literacy, or workforce development.
- ☐ **Education Access and Quality** including any of the following: school readiness, K-12 education, adult education opportunities, digital literacy, or skills training.
- ☐ **Health Care Access and Quality** including any of the following: transportation to health services, access to preventive care, or community health education initiatives.
- ☐ **Thriving Communities- Neighborhood and Built Environment and Social and Community Context** including any of the following: safe housing, accessible transportation, environmental sustainability, community safety, civic participation, and social cohesion within neighborhoods.

Which format do you select for your application? (check 1 only)

- ☐ **Written:** respond below in writing
- ☐ **In Person:** present your project directly to the advisory panel through a presentation of no more than 15 minutes. Presentations will be scheduled March 17 to April 12. Bastrop County Cares staff will reach out after March 12 to schedule your presentation time.
- ☐ **Video:** present your project directly to the advisory panel by submitting a link to a video of no more than 7 minutes to Eric Jones at Impact@bastropcares.org
- ☐

Part 2: Only complete this section in writing if you selected “written” above. Applicants applying in person or via video will respond to all of these questions verbally.

Title for your project

Who will benefit from your project?

What is the problem you are trying to solve or the positive project you’re trying to expand/develop?



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Please describe in detail how your project will create a positive change (in the social determinant of health you selected) in your community. You are welcome to share a personal story or experience. If your project includes multiple components, please describe each one.

Why is this project needed by this specific group of people and/or this specific community?

Please describe a broad timeline for your project including at least start date, end date, and a few major milestones.

How will you measure the impact of your project? For example, how many people will your project serve? i.e. # of meals provided, # of youth mentored, # residents housed, etc.

Answer the following question only if you are applying for \$50,000 or more.

How will this project be sustained once grant funding ends.

Please submit your most recent tax return (Form 1040 or Form 990) as a testament of your organization's good standing.