



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Grants Overview Webinar Q&A – January 15, 2026

Process

Q: Can organizations apply for both a Systems Change Grant and a Community Engagement Grant in case one of them is denied?

A: Yes, but organizations cannot *receive* both a Systems Change Grant and a Community Engagement Grant from the Foundation in the same year. Because of this, we recommend that you prioritize the grant that best fits your needs and apply for that grant first.

Q: Can organizations submit more than one LOI for a Systems Change Grant?

A: Yes, but only one LOI will be considered per funding round.

Q: Do all Systems Change Grants need to be implemented statewide? Will regional work be considered?

A: Systems Change Grants fund organizations that are seeking to change systems at the local, regional or state level. Applications for Systems Change Grants may request up to \$75,000 annually for local or regional work. State-level grants' requests have a \$100,000 maximum each year. Work impacting any of South Carolina's 46 counties is eligible.

Q: If you are declined from one round of a grant, can you submit an LOI or application during the next round?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any preference for the first round versus the second round of funding? Is that going to impact the funding available?

A: No, there is no preference. There will be funding available for each round of grants posted on our website.



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Q: For Systems Change Grants, is the LOI deadline rolling? When is the application due?

A: Systems Change Grant LOIs are reviewed on a rolling basis. The LOI deadlines posted on the website are the last days an organization can submit an LOI and still be considered for that round of funding. If we invite an organization to apply, we will share the application deadline when we share the application form.

Q: How do you create a new account in the grant portal?

A: On the [grants portal log-in page](#), there's a button labeled "Create New Account". Enter the required information and then you have an account! If you need help in the grants portal, email Ashlee McGandy, the Foundation's grants manager, at amcgandy@sistersofcharitysc.com.

Eligibility

Q: If I apply for a Community Engagement Grant, would it be awarded to an individual on behalf of an organization or the organization only?

A: We are only able to fund organizations.

Q: My organization doesn't serve a persistent poverty county? Are we still eligible for funding?

A: Yes! Organizations serving or having an impact in any of South Carolina's 46 counties are eligible for grants from the Foundation.

We strongly encourage applications from organizations serving one of the twelve persistent poverty counties, and those organizations will receive an extra point in the evaluation process. But all SC counties are eligible for Systems Change Grants and Community Engagement Grants.

Q: My organization is less than a year old. If I have a fiscal agent that meets that requirement, can I apply?

A: Yes! If your fiscal agent meets all of our eligibility requirements, including >1 year in operation, you can apply and list them as the fiscal agent in the LOI or application form.



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Q: If an established nonprofit is serving as a fiscal sponsor of a grassroots organization, can both organizations apply for a grant?

A: Yes. Both organizations can apply, and they should clarify their relationship in both applications.

Q: Do the Community Engagement Grants have to align with the systems-change theme?

A: No. Community Engagement Grant activities do not need to align with the systems-change definitions, but they do need to align with the Foundation's focus areas of economic mobility, housing security and/or health care.

Q: The Foundation strongly encourages applications from organizations impacting people and communities of color. How would an organization demonstrate this impact in an LOI or application?

A: We encourage you to look at the LOI and application questions around impact on communities and community input. We seek to fund work that is led and informed by the communities being impacted. In your responses to these questions, share what you know about the community that is most impacted by your work, how you know what you know and how these communities lead or inform the work of your organization.

Q: Why don't you fund Systems Change Grants or Community Engagement Grants focused on children and youth younger than 18 years old?

A: We recognize and acknowledge that earlier intervention, especially educational attainment among children and young adults, is critical for overall upward mobility. However, in South Carolina, the efforts being poured into our children are being diminished when people enter the workforce and are faced with wages that are too low, benefits that don't meet their needs, affordable housing that is unavailable and health care that is too expensive. For this reason, the Foundation feels called to focus our funding on adult populations.

Note that proposals that serve the whole family are eligible to apply. Ineligible proposals are ones that *only* serve children and youth.



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Q: Can partnerships be recognized and contain out-of-state partners that will help a community towards the organization's effort?

A: Yes, partnerships and even funded organizations can be located outside of South Carolina as long as their work is impacting South Carolina communities.

Other

Q: What makes a strong application?

A: For both the Systems Change Grants and Community Engagement Grants, you can find our evaluation rubrics on the webpages for each. We encourage you to respond to *each part* of the questions asked in the LOI and application and review the rubric to ensure your responses are complete. We will follow up with you via email or phone as needed to answer any questions we may have.

There are no guaranteed ways to assure your application will be awarded. If your LOI or application is ultimately not successful, you will receive feedback from us to help you strengthen any future submissions.

Q: Can you share information about the Capacity Building Grants that will be offered in 2027?

A: These grants will support organizations or coalitions as they build capacity to do systems-change work. If your organization is interested in systems change but is not far enough along for a Systems Change Grant, a Capacity Building Grant might be for you.

We do not have the details of these grants ready yet. We will post them on our website later in 2026.

Q: Will you be issuing additional invitations for the invitation-only Health Care Systems Change Initiative (HCSCI)?

A: No, we are not extending additional invitations for the HCSCI funding at this time. This initiative is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and, because these grants are provided in collaboration with another funder, additional geographic requirements must be met. We have invited HCSCI cohort participants from the eligible counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell,



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Colleton, Hampton and Orangeburg. We do not anticipate changes to the currently funded participants in subsequent years.

If your organization is involved in health care systems change in the counties listed above or in broader health care systems change efforts across the state, please contact SK Catalano, the Foundation's Director for Community Engagement, at skcatalano@sistersofcharitysc.com. There may be ways for your organization to connect with HCSCI without being part of the formal, funded cohort.

Q: Is there a preference for how Sisters of Charity would like to be acknowledged by the recipient of an award? Are there any requirements?

A: We do not have requirements, though we encourage grant recipients to acknowledge the Foundation. We will share logos, social media templates and press release templates at the time of award that grantee partners can elect to use.

Q: My question wasn't answered, and/or I don't see the response to my question here. How can I get more information?

A: If you need technical support or clarification on any of the grant guidelines, please reach out to us and we will respond within two business days.

Keep in mind that we are unable to answer questions that are specific to any particular organization or proposed idea, and any questions of that nature were excluded from this Q&A. Because of the high volume of inquiries we receive and our efforts to create an equitable process for everyone interested in applying, submitting a LOI for Systems Change Grants or an application for Community Engagement Grants are the most efficient and equitable ways for us to hear everyone's great ideas.

We'll also continue to update the Frequently Asked Questions on our [grants webpage](#), so feel free to check back there at your convenience.