



ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation

2026-2027 Grant Cycle

Application Portal: www.acms.org/acmsfgrants

About the ACMS Foundation

The Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS) Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Allegheny County Medical Society. For more than 50 years, the Foundation has invested in programs that improve the health and well-being of individuals and families throughout Allegheny County.

The ACMS Foundation supports charitable organizations whose work strengthens the health of our community through innovative, evidence-informed, and measurable programs.

Examples of previously funded initiatives include:

- Public health and prevention programs
 - Behavioral health initiatives
 - Basic human needs
 - Health education
 - Literacy and educational advancement
 - Medical and nursing scholarships
 - Caregiver and family support services
 - Community health research
 - Programs addressing social determinants of health
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2026 – 2027 Grant Cycle Timeline

Activity	Date
RFP Released	August 1, 2026
Application Deadline	September 15, 2026
Grant Review & Decision	October 21, 2026
Award Notification	By End of October 2026
Funding Distributed	By November 30, 2026

New for the 2026–2027 Grant Cycle

Please review this year's updates before applying.

- New operating budget eligibility limit of \$3 million.
 - Introduction of Collaboration Grants for collaborative projects.
 - Increased maximum request of \$25,000 for eligible Collaboration Grants.
 - Updated application questions and budget guidance.
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Eligibility Requirements

Organizations must meet **all** of the following requirements to be eligible.

Applicants must:

- Be recognized as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service or apply through an eligible 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.
- Be located in Allegheny County or demonstrate that a majority (more than 50%) of the proposed project's services and beneficiaries are located within Allegheny County.
- Have been operating for a minimum of two years.
- Be current with all required IRS filings.
- Submit a complete application through the Foundant grants portal by the September 15, 2026 deadline.
- Collaboration Grant applicants must each independently meet the Foundation's eligibility requirements unless one organization is serving as the fiscal sponsor.

Operating Budget Eligibility

Organizations must have an annual operating budget of \$3,000,000 or less.

For Collaboration Grants, each organization must independently meet the Foundation's eligibility requirements. (Example: both organizations each have \$2.5m operation budgets, are they eligible for the Collaboration Grant? The answer is yes.)

For purposes of this grant program, operating budget is defined as the organization's total annual operating revenue, as reported on the most recently filed IRS Form 990 (or audited financial statements, if applicable). This includes all unrestricted and restricted operating revenue used to support ongoing organizational activities, but excludes investment gains, endowment assets, and one-time capital campaign revenue.

Organizations exceeding this threshold are not eligible to apply.

Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Improve physical or behavioral health
 - Address social determinants of health
 - Improve access to health care
 - Reduce health disparities
 - Strengthen healthy children, families, and communities
 - Serve vulnerable or underserved populations
 - Demonstrate meaningful collaboration among community organizations.
 - Show potential for measurable community impact
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Grant Awards

Typical grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for individual applicants.

Organizations applying for a Collaborative Grant may request up to \$25,000.

Applicants are encouraged to request only the amount necessary to successfully complete the proposed project. The Foundation reserves the right to award less than the amount requested.

NEW! Collaboration Grants

Collaboration Grants are available for collaborative projects jointly led by one primary applicant organization and one partner organization.

One organization should serve as the primary applicant and submit a single application on behalf of both organizations. The partner organization should play a meaningful role in the planning, implementation, or evaluation of the proposed project.

Collaboration Grant applicants may request up to \$25,000 to support collaborative initiatives that demonstrate how working together will produce greater community impact than either organization could achieve independently.

The application includes additional questions describing the partnership, the responsibilities of each organization, and the anticipated value of the collaboration.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Alignment with the Foundation's mission
- Benefit to Allegheny County residents
- Demonstrated community need
- Program design and feasibility
- Organizational capacity
- Measurable outcomes
- Financial stewardship and budget reasonableness
- Long-term sustainability of the project

Previous funding from the ACMS Foundation does not guarantee future funding. Returning applicants should demonstrate measurable outcomes achieved through prior Foundation support.

Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for:

- Project-specific personnel expenses
- Program supplies and materials
- Consultants or subject matter experts
- Program evaluation
- Data collection and reporting
- Educational materials
- Reasonable local travel necessary for project implementation
- For Collaboration Grants, grant funds may be allocated between the primary applicant and partner organization as described in the approved project budget.

Personnel Costs

Personnel expenses are eligible only when directly attributable to implementation of the proposed project.

Personnel costs may not exceed 35% of the total grant request unless specifically approved by the Foundation.

Personnel expenses must be clearly described within the project budget narrative.

Ineligible Expenses

Grant funds may **not** be used for:

- General operating support
- Organizational overhead or indirect costs
- Executive leadership salaries not directly related to the project
- Rent or utilities
- Debt reduction
- Budget deficits
- Capital campaigns
- Endowments
- Fundraising events or activities

- Political or lobbying activities
 - Religious instruction or worship activities
 - Litigation or legal expenses
 - Equipment purchases exceeding \$5,000
 - Expenses incurred before the grant award date
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Reporting Requirements

Award recipients will submit:

- Mid-year progress report
- Final report
- Final budget reconciliation
- For Collaboration Grants: The primary applicant is responsible for submitting all required reports on behalf of the partnership.

Failure to complete required reporting may affect eligibility for future ACMS Foundation funding.

Public Recognition

Grant recipients are expected to acknowledge support from the Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation in publications, promotional materials, presentations, and media related to the funded project. Foundation branding guidelines and logos will be provided upon award.

Questions

Foundation staff are available to answer questions regarding:

- Eligibility
- Application requirements
- Foundant technical assistance
- Grant timeline

To ensure fairness, Foundation staff cannot review draft proposals or provide feedback regarding the competitiveness of individual applications.

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