Jackson County Seniors Fund

2026 Community Grants — Request for Proposals

Date Posted: October 20, 2026

Revised: November 5, 2026

Applications Due: November 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CST

Award Notification: Prior to December 31, 2026

Grant Period: January 1–December 31, 2027

Total Available: Up to $6 million

Grant Range: $10,000 minimum; maximum $250,000 or 25% of the applicable organizational/program budget, whichever is less

Questions: grants@jacksoncoseniors.org

1. Purpose of This Grant Opportunity

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for the Jackson County Seniors Fund's (JCSF) first grant cycle. JCSF seeks proposals from organizations delivering established programs and services that help older adults in Jackson County live independently, safely, and with dignity.

Funding awarded through this cycle will support activities during the 2027 grant period. Organizations that receive funding through the 2026 Community Grants cycle may apply for future JCSF funding opportunities, including the 2027 grant cycle, subject to the eligibility requirements and funding priorities established for those future opportunities. Funding in this cycle does not guarantee continued or renewed funding.

2. Strategic Priorities

Applicants should describe how their proposed program aligns with one or more of JCSF's priorities:

- Food Insecurity. Reduce food insecurity among Jackson County's older adults, including people who fall outside existing food-assistance eligibility.
- Caregiver Support. Strengthen support for unpaid caregivers of older adults in Jackson County.
- Social Isolation. Reduce social isolation and related barriers to information, services, and connection.
- Home Modification & Fall Prevention. Help older adults remain safely in their homes through home modification and fall prevention services and programs.
- Transportation. Address transportation barriers to food, healthcare, social connection, and other services across Jackson County.

3. Funding Available

Total available: Up to $6 million in this first grant cycle.

Minimum request: $10,000.

Maximum request: $250,000 or 25% of the applicable organizational/program budget, whichever is less. The Board reserves the right to consider exceptions.

Grant term: One year. Grants in this cycle are not automatically renewable.

Grant cycle: Each organization may submit only one application per grant cycle. However, an organization may also serve as a fiscal sponsor for one or more eligible applicants, provided each fiscally sponsored program submits its own application and required documentation.

Applicant Categories

- Category 1: Organizations that exclusively serve older adults.
- Category 2: Organizations for which serving older adults is a significant and established part of their mission, but not their exclusive focus.
- Category 3: Organizations that have designated programs or services for older adults, but for which serving older adults is not a major part of their overall work. JCSF publishes this range so applicants can calibrate requests appropriately. The minimum and maximum are intended to help applicants request an amount proportionate to the proposed work, not to signal a target.

4. Who Is Eligible for Funding

To be eligible in this cycle, an applicant organization or fiscally sponsored program must meet all of the following requirements:

- Located in Jackson County, Missouri. The applicant organization—or the fiscally sponsored program seeking funding—must maintain a physical location in Jackson County, Missouri, but may be headquartered elsewhere.
- Tax-exempt status or fiscal sponsorship. The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing, a fiscally sponsored program, or an established senior program operated by a municipality or other local unit of government. Government-operated senior programs do not need separate 501(c)(3) status but must meet all other eligibility requirements. Fiscally sponsored applicants must provide documentation of the sponsorship arrangement.
- Established service to older adults. Applicants must fit one of the three funding categories described above.
- Serves eligible Jackson County residents. The funded project or program must serve Jackson County, Missouri residents age 60 and older. JCSF funds may be used only to support services for those residents.
- Participant tracking. Applicants must describe how they will verify participants' age and county of residence, count each participant only once, and collect information required for JCSF reporting.
- Demonstrated capacity and track record. The program or service for which funding is requested must have been in operation for at least one year.
- Project or program funding. Applicants must submit a budget explaining requested expenses. If the total project/program cost exceeds the JCSF request, applicants must describe how they expect to cover the remaining cost. Other funding does not need to be committed at the time of application.
- 2027 grant period. Funding awarded in this cycle is for a one-year grant period in 2027. Multi-year funding requests will not be considered.

5. What We Fund

Eligible requests may include:

- Costs to deliver or expand established programs and services for older adults.
- Salaries and benefits for staff time directly attributable to the proposed work.
- Supplies, equipment, contracted services, transportation, and other allowable expenses necessary to carry out the proposed work.
- Modest improvements to existing facilities or program space that directly improve accessibility, safety, or the delivery of services to older adults.
- Administrative or indirect expenses, limited to 15% of salaries and benefits for staff working directly on the funded project or program. All requested expenses must be reasonable, necessary, and tied to the proposed project or program. Applicants must explain each expense in the application budget. General operating support is not available through this grant cycle.

6. Ineligible Funding Requests

- Programs or services primarily focused on institutional or residential care, rather than helping older adults remain in their own homes and communities.
- New organizations or programs without an established operating track record. The program or service for which funding is requested must have been in operation for at least one year.
- Multi-year funding requests.
- Capital campaigns, new facility construction, or major renovations.
- Capacity building as a standalone request, such as general organizational development, strategic planning, or grant-writing support.
- Programs or services that do not serve Jackson County, Missouri residents age 60 and older.
- Grants directly to individuals or households.
- Event sponsorships, including galas, fundraisers, or similar events.
- General operating support unrelated to a defined project, program, or service.
- Reimbursement for expenses incurred before the grant award date.

7. How to Apply

Applications must be submitted electronically through the Jackson County Seniors Fund's online grant application system, Foundant Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM). Applications submitted by email or in paper form will not be accepted.

1. Review the RFP. Confirm that your organization and proposed program meet the eligibility and funding requirements.

2. Review Foundant/GLM applicant tutorial on how to create an account, access an application, and submit a request: Foundant/GLM Applicant Tutorial

3. Access the application portal. Visit the application portal HERE and select “Apply Here.” First-time applicants will create an organizational profile.

4. Complete the application. Answer all required questions and upload the requested organizational and financial documents.

5. Submit by the deadline. Applications must be submitted through Foundant/GLM by November 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CST.

FAQ updates. JCSF may add or update Frequently Asked Questions during the application period. Applicants are encouraged to check www.jacksoncountyseniorsfund.org/grants regularly for updates and additional application guidance.

8. Required Documentation

Applicants should prepare the following documents in advance. The online application will identify which documents are required based on the applicant's organizational structure. Government-operated senior programs may provide applicable government financial and program documentation in place of nonprofit-specific documents, including IRS determination letters, Form 990 filings, and nonprofit board lists.

- 501(c)(3) determination letter. For fiscally sponsored applicants, provide the fiscal sponsor's determination letter and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- IRS Form 990. Most recently filed Form 990, if applicable. Fiscally sponsored applicants submit the fiscal sponsor's Form 990.

- Financial audit. Most recently completed audit, if available. An audit is not required for eligibility.
- Fiscal year-end financial statements. Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations/Activities for the most recently completed fiscal year if that year is not covered by the audit.
- Current financial statements. Most recent Statement of Financial Position and current year-to-date Statement of Operations/Activities.
- Budgets. Current organizational operating budget and applicable older-adult program budget.
- Board of Directors. Current list of board members. Financial statements may be internally prepared and do not need to be audited unless otherwise specified.

9. Questions and Technical Assistance

Questions about the RFP, application process, or technical assistance may be directed to grants@jacksoncoseniors.org. JCSF will respond to inquiries within two business days.

10. Reservation of Rights

JCSF reserves the right to decline funding an application, request additional information or clarification from an applicant, and negotiate changes with applicants at any time before, during, or after the award process. Grant awards are made at the sole discretion of the JCSF Board of Directors. No entitlement to funding is expressed or implied by the issuance of this RFP or by submission of an application.

JCSF will not be responsible for expenses incurred by an applicant in preparing or presenting a proposal.

11. Reporting Expectations

Grantees will be required to submit a final report on the use of funds and program outcomes at the close of the grant period. JCSF may also request a brief mid-year status update.

12. Nondiscrimination

JCSF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or any other legally protected status in its grantmaking process.

About the Jackson County Seniors Fund

The Jackson County Seniors Fund (JCSF) was established through a Jackson County, Missouri, voter- approved property tax levy in 2024 to support programs and services that help older adults live independently, safely, and with dignity. JCSF is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Jackson County Executive.

Mission. JCSF advocates for the well-being of seniors residing in Jackson County and invests public tax dollars in services that help older adults live and thrive with dignity, independence, and connection.

Vision. A future where every older adult can live, age, and belong in community on their own terms, supported by a strong community network.

Values. Stewardship, transparency, and impact.