

Bay County ARPA Nonprofit Grant FAQs

The Bay Area Community Foundation (BACF) is partnering with the County of Bay to provide critical funding to nonprofits negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal at Bay Area Community Foundation is to help you have all the information you need to make your grant application as complete as possible.

Frequently asked questions about the Bay County ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program

What is the timeline for applying?

The application opens on August 22nd at 9:00 a.m. and closes on September 22nd at 5 p.m. The deadline is firm. Extensions to the grant period will **NOT** be given. We encourage you to plan for any possible challenges such as gathering information, technical issues, or questions and submit your application ahead of the deadline.

Do I have to attend one of the ARPA Information Sessions to apply?

No, but it is strongly recommended you attend either the virtual or in-person information session. If you were not able to attend, a recording of the virtual session is available on our website.

Is my organization eligible for a grant?

Eligible organizations will:

- Have experienced negative economic impacts. Certification to this effect is required.
- Have received and operated as a 501(c)3 or 501(c)19 nonprofit on or before March 1, 2020.
- Serve citizens within Bay County and have a physical location in Bay County.
- See the full program guidelines on our website for additional eligibility.

Does a Bay County PO Box count as a physical location?

No, you must have an actual physical location within Bay County where your organization does business.

What is considered a negative economic impact?

- Decreased revenues (e.g., donations, fundraising, fees)
- Increased costs (e.g., uncompensated increases in service need)
- Challenges covering payroll, rent/mortgage or other operating costs because of COVID-19
- Difficulty finding/retaining staff and volunteers
- Reduced capacity to weather financial hardship

Note: Financial hardship must be related to the COVID-19 pandemic and be demonstrated as current and continuing through 2023.

What if our organization also serves a geographic region outside of Bay County?

To be eligible for a grant, organizations must reside in and serve residents of Bay County. If your activities will benefit residents both inside and outside of Bay County, limit your funding request to the amount that will impact only those in Bay County.

What can the grant be used for?

Payroll, rent/mortgage or operating costs are eligible uses of grant funds.

What are examples of operating costs?

- Utilities: water, sewer, garbage, electricity and gas
- Phones and Internet
- Office Supplies
- Fundraising/Marketing/Development: printing, advertising, development of materials
- Capacity Building: consultants, training or seminars

What will not be funded by this grant?

- **Capital expenditures** (any expense \$5,000 or higher with a usual life of a year or longer)
- Any expenses incurred before November 1, 2022.
- Gifts, parties and fundraiser events
- Draw or salary to board member, CEO, or similar position that exceeds the amount that they were paid on a weekly or monthly basis for the same period in 2019. This excludes nonprofit organizations that commenced operations in 2019 or 2020.
- Bonuses to employees
- Contributions to rainy day funds, pension funds, or similar funds
- See the full program guidelines on our website for additional ineligible costs.

How much money can I apply for?

You may request up to \$50,000. Your request must commiserate with the negative impact experienced by your organization. Only one grant is allowed per organization.

How do I access the application?

- Go to our new grant portal. You can find the link, *Grant Portal*, on our website at the top of the page.
- Register for an account.
- You will then be taken to the “Apply” page.
- Scroll down until you see the grant opportunity, Bay County ARPA Nonprofit Grant.

Who decides which applicants receive a grant?

Applications that are determined to be eligible will be reviewed by BACF’s Bay County ARPA

Nonprofit Grant Program Committee, comprised of community volunteers. The Committee will make recommendations for funding to the BACF Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will consider these recommendations and make final award determinations on November 1, 2022.

Preference will be given to organizations providing services in the areas of healthcare, affordable housing, education, childcare, emergency services, and mental health, especially those that do so for communities that have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.