



2026-2027

Skaggs Foundation Grant Guidelines

*Priority Health Needs
Helping Hands*

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Skaggs Foundation. We invest in organizations and community partners working to improve health and wellness across Stone and Taney counties. As a locally rooted foundation, our work is informed by community insight, data, and long-term relationships across the region.



These guidelines are designed to provide clarity and transparency around our funding approach, eligibility, and application process. We share them to support thoughtful proposals, reduce unnecessary barriers, and create a shared understanding of how funding decisions are made.

We approach grantmaking as a partnership. We value well-developed proposals that demonstrate clear purpose, strong community connection, and a commitment to learning and meaningful impact over time.

Our Mission & Vision

- Our mission is to support community initiatives that improve health and wellness in Stone and Taney counties.
- We envision a healthy, connected community where people across Stone and Taney counties have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

How We Approach Funding

We approach grantmaking as a partnership grounded in trust, transparency, and shared accountability. Our funding is intended to support community-led efforts that improve health and wellness for people living in Stone and Taney counties. We believe strong outcomes are built through clear purpose, community connection, and ongoing learning.

Funding Goals

Through our grantmaking, we aim to:

- Address clearly identified health and wellness needs affecting local communities
- Strengthen access to services, education, and supports that contribute to healthier lives
- Support approaches informed by community insight, data, and lived experience
- Invest in work that demonstrates potential for meaningful outcomes and learning over time



Funding Priorities

In reviewing proposals, we prioritize:

- Thoughtful, well-developed ideas grounded in local knowledge and strong community connection
- Approaches that are realistic, feasible, and aligned with an organization's capacity
- Intentional use of funds that clearly supports the proposed work
- Outcomes that are meaningful and appropriate to the size and scope of the project, along with openness to learning and adaptation

We recognize that organizations vary in size, structure, and resources. Strong proposals demonstrate clarity of purpose, sound planning, and a clear connection between the proposed work, the use of funds, and the intended impact on health and wellness in our community.

Funding Focus Areas

All proposals are reviewed through the lens of Skaggs Foundation's six health and wellness focus areas. Projects should align with one or more of the following:

- Access to Care
- Child and Family Safety
- Dental Care
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Mental Health
- Substance Use

General Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school, or government entity
- Serve residents of Stone and/or Taney counties
- Propose a project that is health and wellness focused

Organizations without 501(c)(3) status may apply with a qualified fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsorship arrangements vary and may include pass-through funding, administrative oversight, or capacity-building support.

Community-Centered Grant Opportunities

Skaggs Foundation offers grant opportunities designed to support community-centered work that improves health and wellness across Stone and Taney counties. We value proposals shaped by the voices, experiences, and priorities of the people closest to the work, including



lived experience, long-standing relationships, or meaningful community partnerships. We recognize that expertise shows up in many forms.

Priority Health Needs Grant Opportunity

Overview

Priority Health Needs is a two-step grant opportunity supporting collaborative, outcome-focused initiatives that respond to clearly identified community health needs. This opportunity is best suited for projects or programs addressing complex or systemic health challenges that benefit from shared planning, coordination across partners or sectors, and sustained learning over time.

Priority Health Needs grants may support multi-year programs or projects for up to three years.

Community-Centered Approach

Priority Health Needs grants prioritize work that is informed by data, grounded in community connection, and shaped by local insight. Strong proposals demonstrate how community voice, lived experience, or partnerships meaningfully inform the proposed approach.

Award Range & Disbursement

- **Range:** \$10,001 and above
- **Disbursement Schedule:** Unless otherwise specified at the time of award, funds are distributed in two installments—50% on November 15 of the award year and 50% on July 15 of the following year.

Application Process

Priority Health Needs grants follow a two-step application process.

Step 1 – Letter of Intent (LOI) Open from the first Monday in February through the last Friday in April. The LOI is a starting point for conversation and shared understanding. It helps us understand the community need, your proposed approach, and alignment with Skaggs Foundation’s funding priorities.

Step 2 – Full Application (by invitation) Invited applicants submit a more detailed application, including:

- Program description
- Project budget
- Memorandums of Understanding (if applicable)
- Proof of organizational status (if applicable)
- List of board of directors
- Organizational annual budget



Interviews are not required for all applications and may be requested to support shared understanding. Applicants will be notified if an interview is requested.

Notifications

Applicants are informed of LOI outcomes in late May or early June. An invitation to submit a full application indicates alignment with Skaggs Foundation's priorities and interest in learning more; it does not guarantee funding.

Reporting & Learning

Helping Hands grantees complete a final report by December 15 following the award year, unless a different timeline is outlined at the time of award.

We view reporting as a learning tool and an opportunity for shared reflection. Reports help us understand progress, outcomes, and lessons learned, and they inform future funding decisions and ongoing partnership.

Reporting expectations are set based on the size, scope, and nature of the funded work. Outcomes should be meaningful and appropriate to the project. Final reports support learning and reflection and help inform future funding decisions; submission of a final report does not guarantee future funding.

Helping Hands Grant Opportunity

Overview

Helping Hands is a one-step grant opportunity designed to support focused, community-based efforts that address practical health and wellness needs. This opportunity is well suited for health education, targeted programming, pilot projects, or discrete initiatives that strengthen access, awareness, or capacity within the community and are achievable within a one-year timeframe.

Community-Centered Approach

Helping Hands grants value practical insight and community connection. Proposals may reflect lived experience, direct service knowledge, or close engagement with the people served. Formal partnerships are not required if they are not appropriate to the project.

Award Range & Disbursement

- **Award Range:** \$1,000–\$10,000
- **Disbursement Schedule:** Funds are distributed in a single installment on November 15 of the award year, unless otherwise specified at the time of award.



Application Process

Helping Hands uses a one-step application process, open from the first Monday in February through the last Friday in April. Interviews are not required for all applications and may be requested to support shared understanding. Applicants will be notified if an interview is requested.

Funding Scope

Helping Hands grants may support health education, targeted programming, pilot efforts, or other discrete project needs aligned with Skaggs Foundation’s health and wellness focus areas.

Notifications

Applicants are notified of funding decisions in September.

Reporting & Learning

Helping Hands grantees complete a final report by December 15 following the award year, unless a different timeline is outlined at the time of award.

We view reporting as a learning tool and an opportunity for shared reflection. Reports help us understand progress, outcomes, and lessons learned, and they inform future funding decisions and ongoing partnership.

Reporting expectations are set based on the size, scope, and nature of the funded work. Outcomes should be meaningful and appropriate to the project. Final reports support learning and reflection and help inform future funding decisions; submission of a final report does not guarantee future funding.

Key Dates

Dates below reflect Skaggs Foundation’s typical annual grant cycle. Specific dates are confirmed and posted each year.

Phase	Event	Date
Grant Application Cycle	Priority Health Needs Letters of Intent & Helping Hands applications open	February 2, 2026
	Priority Health Needs Letters of Intent & Helping Hands applications due	April 24, 2026



Priority Health Needs – Letter of Intent Stage	Letter of Intent decisions and invitations to submit full applications	Late May
	Letter of Intent interviews (if requested)	May 20, 2026
Priority Health Needs – Full Application Stage	Priority Health Needs full applications due	July 17, 2026
	Priority Health Needs full application interviews (if requested)	August 26, 2026
Award Decisions & Announcements	Applicants notified of final funding decisions	Mid September
	Public announcement of awards	Early October
	Grant awards presentation	Fall (date announced annually)
Grant Disbursements	First grant disbursement	November 15, 2026
	Second grant disbursement (Priority Health Needs only – 50%)	July 15, 2027
Reporting Deadlines	Quarterly reports (if applicable)	March 15, 2027 June 15, 2027 September 15, 2027 December 15, 2027
	Single-submission final reports due	December 15, 2027

Timelines may vary slightly based on the specific grant opportunity. Reporting expectations and disbursement schedules are confirmed at the time of award.

How Letters of Intent & Application are Reviewed

To support transparency and shared understanding, Skaggs Foundation uses a scoring rubric to guide application review. This rubric is shared with all applicants and may also be used to provide feedback after funding decisions are made.

Application Review Rubric

Applications are reviewed using the criteria below. These criteria are intended to support clear, consistent, and thoughtful review across Skaggs Foundation grant programs. They are applied



proportionally to the size, scope, and purpose of each grant opportunity and are not meant to prescribe a single way to design or describe your work.

Community Need & Relevance

Definition - The extent to which the application demonstrates a clear understanding of the health or wellness need being addressed and who is affected.

What reviewers are looking for

- A clear description of the need or challenge the project responds to
- Identification of the population or community impacted
- Local context drawn from data, lived experience, or community insight, as appropriate to the project

What this is not

- A requirement for formal needs assessments or academic studies
- A comparison of whose need is greatest
- Excessive statistics without explanation or relevance

Alignment with Funding Priorities

Definition - How well the proposed work aligns with Skaggs Foundation's mission, health and wellness focus areas, and the intent of the specific grant opportunity.

What reviewers are looking for

- Clear connection to one or more health and wellness focus areas
- Alignment between the proposed work and the purpose of the grant program
- Logical fit between the request and Skaggs Foundation's mission

What this is not

- A requirement to align with multiple focus areas
- An expectation to use specific language or keywords
- A judgment of the overall value of an organization's mission beyond the proposed work

Community-Centered Approach

Definition - The degree to which the project reflects the voices, experiences, and priorities of the people or communities most affected by the issue.

What reviewers are looking for

- Evidence of community voice, lived experience, or meaningful engagement
- Relationships or partnerships that inform the work, when applicable
- Clear explanation of how community insight shapes decisions or design

What this is not

- A preference for large or formal partnerships
- A requirement to demonstrate collaboration if it is not appropriate to the project
- A requirement to use specific equity, engagement, or participatory frameworks

Proposed Approach & Activities

Definition - The clarity and feasibility of the proposed activities or approach, appropriate to the grant type and scope.

What reviewers are looking for

- A clear description of what the organization plans to do
- Activities that are realistic given the timeline, budget, and organizational capacity
- Alignment between the approach and the identified need

What this is not

- A requirement for detailed implementation plans or logic models
- A judgment about whether the approach is the “best” or only solution
- Penalizing applicants for proposing adaptive or evolving approaches

Outcomes & Learning

Definition - The extent to which the application identifies meaningful outcomes and demonstrates openness to learning and adaptation.

What reviewers are looking for

- Clear articulation of what the organization hopes will change as a result of the work
- Outcomes that are appropriate to the size, scope, and stage of the project
- Willingness to reflect, learn, and adjust over time

What this is not

- A requirement to demonstrate long-term impact at the application stage
- An expectation of complex evaluation or measurement systems
- A focus solely on outputs without connection to intended change

Organizational Readiness

Definition - The organization’s preparedness to carry out the proposed work at the requested scale.

What reviewers are looking for

- Evidence that the organization has the capacity to manage the project
- Staffing, partnerships, or systems appropriate to the request
- Alignment between project scope and organizational experience



What this is not

- A preference for large or long-established organizations
- A requirement to have completed identical projects previously
- An evaluation of the organization beyond the proposed work

Budget & Use of Funds

Definition - The clarity and appropriateness of the proposed use of grant funds.

What reviewers are looking for

- A budget that aligns with the proposed activities
- Costs that are reasonable and clearly explained
- Intentional use of funds to support the stated purpose of the project

What this is not

- A requirement for highly detailed or complex budgets
- A judgment of whether the project is “worth” the investment
- Penalizing minor variances that are clearly explained

Use of the Rubric

Scores are used to guide discussion and decision-making and are one of several tools used in the review process. Applicants may receive rubric-based feedback to support learning and future planning, regardless of funding outcome.

Additional Support & Resources

Skaggs Foundation staff are available to answer questions related to funding priorities, grant opportunities, and the application process.

Applicant Support Appointments & Meetings

Applicants are encouraged to connect directly with Skaggs Foundation to ask questions, talk through ideas, or gain clarity on the application process. Office hours and meeting opportunities are frequently available, and applicants are welcome to reach out to Nyssa Berhorst to set up a time to talk through their proposal.

Grant Applicant Workshops

Free workshops are offered each grant cycle, including in-person sessions and a webinar, to walk through our funding approach, timelines, and application portal, with plenty of time for questions and conversation.



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Online Resources

Additional tools, data resources, and follow-up materials will be shared on skaggsfoundation.org/grants, through our social media channels, and during applicant workshops to support applicants throughout the process.

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in partnering with Skaggs Foundation and for the work you do to support the health and wellness of our communities. We look forward to connecting with you and learning more about your work in Stone and Taney counties.