

Funding Opportunity

OPEN CALL

Strengthening Local Media to Advance Community Health

Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application Questions

Note: There may be slight variations to the LOI and application questions once in the online grants portal. This document is intended to serve as a guide and resource during your application process.

The *Strengthening Local Media to Advance Community Health* open call is focused on supporting local media organizations and community-centered journalism that strengthens local coverage of health and social issues impacting Central Texans, particularly those facing the greatest health disparities.

Organizations intending to apply for this funding opportunity must **submit an initial Letter of Intent (LOI) by 5:00 p.m. CDT on January 22, 2026. After submitting the LOI and if accepted, all invited applications will be due by February 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

For technical assistance, email grantsinfo@stdavidsfoundation.org or call 512-879-6584.

For program-related inquiries, email questions@stdavidsfoundation.org.

Eligibility Criteria

Please review the eligibility criteria associated with the Strengthening Local Media to Advance Community Health open call.

- Serve one or more Central Texas county (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and/or Williamson) through local coverage of health and social issues impacting Central Texans, particularly those facing the greatest health disparities.
- Provide original local news to communities in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and/or Williamson counties.
- Produce or support journalism that has a strong history of serving local news outlets and reflects communities on which they report.
- Demonstrate a commitment to [journalistic integrity](#).

The Foundation would consider proposals from for-profit organizations, however, such proposals must clearly articulate how the proposed project would align with the Foundation's mission of advancing health equity and improving the health and well-being of those in the most underserved communities in Central Texas. Any Foundation funding to for-profit entities must be used for charitable purposes and thus cannot be used for general operating support.

Step 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Questions

To begin the application process, organizations must submit a letter of intent (LOI) through the online grants portal. Paper copies and emailed submissions will not be accepted. The questions that follow in the LOI will allow you to provide additional information for the Foundation to determine the proposal's potential for impact.

REQUEST DETAILS

Request Title

Include a brief title of your proposed work.

Request Summary

Tell us about your work and how you produce local news and information that strengthens reporting on the health and social issues of historically marginalized Central Texans and others not adequately served, reached or represented.

Please aim for no more than 500 words.

Editorial Sample (Maximum 2)

Provide two editorial samples that are most relevant and best reflect your organization. These two could include:

- Writing sample, and/or
- Multimedia sample such as audio clip, video or podcast
- URL link
- Editorial Sample Upload

Digital Presence:

- Website URL
- Social Media Account

Geographic Impact

Select the geography that best aligns with the intended impact of this proposed work.

- Choose regional if your proposed work's impact **is equally focused** across all Central Texas counties.
- Choose County if your proposed work may impact multiple counties within Central Texas but **is not equally focused** across all counties.
 - National or multi-state
 - Statewide
 - Regional
 - County

*Primary County Served (if Geographic Impact "County" or "regional" is selected)

Select the county that will receive the most impact from your proposed work.

- Bastrop
- Caldwell
- Hays
- Travis
- Williamson
- No primary county

How did you learn about this funding opportunity?

- Email from St. David's Foundation
- Social Media
- News Story
- Advertisement
- Peer or Colleague
- Other _____

ORGANIZATION DETAILS***Organization Name**

***Organization Address:** Address, City, State, Zip Code, County

Organization Website**Organization Type**

What type of entity is your organization? If applying using a fiscal sponsor, this question should reflect the fiscally sponsored organization.

- Tax-exempt non-profit organization
- For-profit organization

***Current Annual Operating Budget**

Submit the annual operating budget of your organization. There is no specific format required for submission. If applying with a fiscal sponsor, include the budget of the fiscally sponsored organization.

***Fiscal Sponsor**

Will your organization receive funding through a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) organization? If yes is selected, additional fiscal sponsor questions will appear.

- Yes
- No

Provide your Employer Identification Number (EIN)*FISCAL SPONSOR DETAILS****Fiscal Sponsor Name****Fiscal Sponsor Employer Identification Number (EIN)**

Fiscal Sponsor Address: Address, City, State, Zip Code

CONTACTS**Application Contact**

This will be the primary point of contact for questions related to the LOI proposal and will be notified of application status once decisions have been made.

Additional Contact(s)

Please note any additional contacts that should be copied on communications related to the LOI, if applicable.

Step 2: Funding Opportunity Application Questions

If your LOI demonstrates a strong alignment with the goals of the call, your organization will be invited to submit a full application.

Welcome to the St. David's Foundation application form. We look forward to learning more about your organization's work and how that work can advance the Foundation's goals. Learn more about the Foundation's [2030 Vision for Impact](#), [Strategic Plan](#) and [Funding Priorities](#).

For technical assistance, email grantsinfo@stdavidsfoundation.org or call 512-879-6584.
For program-related inquiries, email questions@stdavidsfoundation.org.

All invited applications are due by February 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Applications must be submitted through the online grants portal. Paper copies and emailed submissions will not be accepted.

REQUEST DETAILS

- Organizations invited to submit a full application demonstrated a strong alignment with the goals of the call and indicated a plan to strengthen local media coverage of health and social issues impacting Central Texans, particularly those facing the greatest health disparities.
- Before completing the application, organizations are encouraged to review the [Funding Opportunity](#), including eligibility requirements, intent of the open call, and scoring rubric. Applications will be evaluated using the full rubric as a decision-making framework.
- Please note that questions do not have word limits. If you experience any formatting problems or error messages, email grantsinfo@stdavidsfoundation.org or call 512-879-6584.

The Foundation would consider proposals from for-profit organizations, however, such proposals must clearly articulate how the proposed project would align with the Foundation's mission of advancing health equity and improving the health and well-being of those in the most underserved communities in Central Texas. Any Foundation funding to for-profit entities must be used for charitable purposes and thus cannot be used for general operating support.

***Request Title**

Include a brief title of your proposed work. Please note that, if awarded, we may need to modify your request title for clarity and consistency.

***Requested Grant Amount**

Indicate your requested grant amount. Each awardee will receive a 2-year, one-time grant. Award size will be based on the scale of the project, the organization's potential for long-term impact, and the organization's annual budget.

***Proposed Project Budget**

Submit a budget detailing the estimated expenses for the proposed work described in this application. This budget should include all proposed expenses for that work, not just those requested by the Foundation. There is no specific format required for submission, although a sample budget can be found below for reference.

*Description of Work

Provide a detailed description of the proposed work and how it addresses the intent of this funding opportunity.

Applications will be evaluated using the rubric summarized below and further detailed in the [Funding Opportunity](#) as a decision-making framework. Please make sure your description of work directly addresses each rubric category.

Rubric Categories	Possible Points
Equity-focused: Organization prioritizes news and information that reaches historically marginalized Central Texans.	5
Potential for Impact: Organization produces local news and information that strengthens reporting on the health and social issues of historically marginalized Central Texans and others not adequately served, reached, or represented.	15
Of and By Community: Organization is recognized as a trusted or quality source of information and is in relationship with and/or has a clear plan for connecting with underserved communities. Organization demonstrates a commitment to actively working with or being informed by community to elevate the voices and lived experiences of Central Texans most affected by health inequities.	10
Team Capacity: Organization has the capacity including the people, skills, time, tools, and resources available to produce quality, trustworthy, accurate, and reliable local news that adheres to journalistic standards, integrity, and ethics .	5
Durability: Organization explains how the changes supported by this grant will continue after the two-year funding period ends and describes how this investment could serve as a long-term building block to strengthen coverage of health and social issues impacting Central Texans, particularly those facing the greatest health disparities.	10
Collaboration: Organization has strong networks and partnerships within the community and fosters connection among other journalists, storytellers, and community partners.	5

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Organization Name

Mission of the Organization

Tell us about your organization and its mission.

Organization Type

What type of entity is your organization? If applying using a fiscal sponsor, this question should reflect the fiscally sponsored organization.

- Tax-exempt non-profit organization
- For-profit organization

***Financial Statements**

Tax-exempt Non-profit Organizations:

Submit the most recent Form 990 for your organization.

- If your organization is not legally required to complete a Form 990 or is required to submit either a 990-EZ or 990 Postcard, please provide your most recent audited financial statements or a balance sheet and income statement for the most recent fiscal year instead of a 990.
- If applying using a fiscal sponsor, please include the financials from both the fiscal sponsor and, if available, the organization being sponsored.

For-profit Organizations:

Provide: a copy of your most recently filed federal income tax return plus one of the following:

- The most recently audited financial statements
- A balance sheet and income statement for the most recent fiscal year

***Organizational Diversity**

The Foundation is committed to using an equity lens in our work. In our grantmaking, we assess the demographics of applicants as well as grantees to understand how our processes and practices reach the entire Central Texas community that our Foundation serves. Across the organization, we transparently report on who the Foundation serves through our investments and programs. Organizational demographic data is not a component of the Foundation's grantmaking rubric and is not used in determining grant eligibility or selection.

To this end, the Foundation requests information on organizational diversity using the chart below. Person/People of color (POC) is primarily used to describe any person who does not identify as "white". However, we recognize that organizations collect this information in different ways and use different race/ethnicity categories. We ask that if you collect this information from your Executive Staff and Board, to report it using the following table. Numbers input below should be unduplicated within each category, meaning an individual should not be counted in multiple categories.

For-profit organizations who do not have a Board of Directors should enter 0 for Board demographics.

	White	Identify as POC	Unknown
Board, if applicable	#	#	#
Executive Staff	#	#	#

Additional Information to be Provided

During the application review process, you may be required to provide additional information, including but not limited to:

- Additional information about your organization, including financial documents

CONTACTS

***Request Primary Contact**

This contact will be the main point person for the grant, including reporting and ongoing communication.

***Executive Director or CEO**

Please specify a leadership contact for your organization.

***Signatory**

In the event of a grant award, this contact will be authorized to sign the grant agreement.

***Payment Contact**

In the event of a grant award, this contact will provide the banking information to receive payment.

Additional Contact(s)

Please note any additional contacts that should be copied on grant-related communications.

Fiscal Sponsor Signatory

If using a fiscal sponsor, please indicate the contact who is authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the fiscal sponsor.