

Funding Opportunity

OPEN CALL

We All Benefit 2.0: Building Economic Stability

Background

“We need to put the human back in human services... whether it’s mental health, or physical health, or medical resources, or benefits... people are feeling dehumanized.”

-Community Partner in Travis County, [Community Voices on Health and Well-Being](#), 2025

We have heard from individuals and organizations across our community that many of the systems designed to help people who are struggling financially are difficult to navigate and often leave people feeling dehumanized, demoralized, and frustrated. Public benefits are a critical part of the local safety net, yet many of these resources remain underutilized because enrollment processes can be complex and a challenge to access. As a result of these barriers, resources intended to support individuals and families often do not reach those with the greatest needs. Local organizations play an essential role in guiding people to and through these systems, reducing or removing enrollment barriers so individuals and families can access supports that improve economic stability.

Public benefits are a powerful multiplier. When more eligible community members successfully access supports like SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, or the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), it generates additional federal and state resources for the region, helping households meet basic needs while reducing strain on other local systems. Yet hundreds of thousands of Central Texans who are eligible for these benefits do not receive them. [Nearly half of Texans eligible for SNAP do not receive it](#), an estimated [1 in 5 Texans eligible for the EITC do not claim it](#), and [many uninsured Texans are eligible for coverage through ACA subsidies, Medicaid, or CHIP but remain without coverage](#).

We recognize that this is a challenging moment—federal, state, and local policy changes are putting serious pressure on safety net programs, making it harder for historically marginalized communities to access the resources they need. St. David’s Foundation is committed to investing in the organizations working to close that gap.

The goals of this funding opportunity are to:

- Increase the number of Central Texans enrolled in public benefits for which they are eligible.
- Strengthen community hubs and culturally responsive practices that address the fears, administrative burdens, and other barriers that impede enrollment, particularly for historically marginalized populations.
- Increase co-location and coordination among service providers that reduce barriers for community members to access benefits and economic supports.

Funding Opportunity

Through *We All Benefit 2.0: Building Economic Stability*, the Foundation seeks to invest in local, community-informed organizations providing core economic stability services (income supports, food security, and healthcare access) to the communities with the greatest health needs in Central Texas—communities that have faced systemic barriers to resources, opportunity, and representation due to race, ethnicity, income level, immigration status, language, geography, sexual orientation, gender, or other factors. The focus of this funding opportunity is to strengthen the local infrastructure that helps people enroll in public benefits that foster economic stability, specifically:

- **Income Supports:** Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, SSI, and SSDI
- **Food Security:** SNAP and WIC
- **Healthcare Access:** Medicaid, CHIP, and Marketplace

Public benefits are the foundation of the economic stability safety net, yet they are often hard to access. Enrollment processes are complex; and staying enrolled can be just as challenging — especially for historically marginalized communities. Federal policy changes in 2025 reduced funding, access, and eligibility for many of these programs, making the work of public benefits navigators both harder and more essential. A key lesson learned from the cohort of organizations participating in our earlier [We All Benefit funding opportunity](#) is that **while the path to public benefits has narrowed, it remains available to many who qualify for and need these benefits**. Personalized enrollment support can help community members overcome barriers and successfully access these benefits. Read more about insights from this cohort and how it informed *We All Benefit 2.0*, [here](#).

These grants are intended to strengthen non-profit organizations with the expertise and trusted community relationships needed to help people enroll in, understand, and effectively use available benefits to improve their financial stability. Organizations can propose continuing existing work, expanding current work, or pursuing new ideas. Because the benefits enrollment system is complicated and the safety net is often fragmented, the Foundation aims to invest in **approaches that are client-centered and holistic—meeting people where they are and honoring their humanity, dignity, and autonomy while working to reduce stress and confusion**. This effort will likely include helping people access safety net services beyond public benefits and partnering with other safety net providers to holistically address community members' needs.

Through this funding opportunity, we also hope to strengthen the local ecosystem by encouraging greater coordination and collaboration across service providers. This open call is primarily intended to support organizations with **existing [benefits enrollment infrastructure](#) and expertise**. In our rural counties (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson County), we will also consider funding organizations that are **well-positioned to build this capacity** based on their experience as a trusted safety net service provider in their communities.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, organizations must:

- Be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (with a valid IRS determination letter at the time of LOI submission) or use a fiscal sponsor that is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Public or government entities are eligible to apply as part of a collaborative as the lead entity or a collaborative member.
- Provide core safety net services to historically marginalized communities in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and/or Williamson counties.

Both current and new grantees may apply to support new or existing work. Applicants may apply independently or as part of a strategic collaborative.

How to Apply

The *We All Benefit 2.0: Building Economic Stability* funding opportunity opens on March 30, 2026, using a Letter of Intent (LOI) process. The LOI is a short eligibility screening on the criteria and focus listed above and a high-level summary of the applicant's proposed project. LOIs will not be accepted after April 27, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Proposals that strongly align with the goals of the funding opportunity will be invited to submit a full application after the LOI stage. Organizations will be notified by May 15, 2026, if they are invited to submit a full application. The invited applications will be due by June 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Applicants may submit multiple LOIs, but each LOI must represent a unique project and/or scope. If applying as part of a collaborative, the group must identify one lead organization to submit the application on behalf of the group. We define a collaborative as two or more organizations formally partnering to deliver coordinated services that support economic stability. The lead organization should be the only organization to submit an application for the scope of work. If a grant is awarded to the collaborative, the grant agreement will be issued to the lead organization, which will be responsible for reporting to the Foundation and distributing funds to the rest of the collaborative as agreed to by all participating organizations.

All LOIs must be submitted through the Foundation's online Grants Portal. Paper copies and emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Milestones	
March 30, 2026	Funding opportunity opens, LOI submission form available
April 27, 2026 at 5pm CT	Deadline to submit an LOI
May 15, 2026	Organizations notified if they are invited to submit a full application
June 18, 2026 at 5pm CT	Deadline to submit a full application (invited LOI proposals only)
By Sept. 30, 2026	Funding decisions announced
Oct. 2026 – Sept. 2029	Grant term

Contact Information

For programmatic questions, please email questions@stdavidsfoundation.org

For technical questions, please email grantsinfo@stdavidsfoundation.org

Grant Details

The Foundation expects to award up to \$35 million in grants for this three-year funding opportunity, roughly \$12 million per year. We expect to award 15-25 grants reaching all five counties. There is not a minimum or maximum award size.

Organizations invited to submit a full application will be asked to propose a project amount and budget aligned with the actual scope of the proposed work. Additional budget guidance will be available by early May for organizations invited to submit a full application. The Foundation will make the decision on the grant amount based on the scale and impact of the proposed work, the organization’s potential for long-term impact and durability, and the organization’s capacity to translate the award into positive community impact in a timely way.

Each awardee will receive a one-time, 36-month grant. Grant payments will be distributed in annual installments, and recipients will have discretion on how the funds are spent as they carry out the grant purpose. Grant announcements will be made in September 2026, and funding is expected to be released in October 2026.

Organizations selected for grants will be expected to provide information and insights through annual reports, learning and evaluation activities, and participation in grantee cohort meetings. We anticipate bringing together grantees for virtual and in-person convenings multiple times per year throughout the grant term to create opportunities for shared learning and increased coordination.

Rubric for Decision-Making

We will use the rubric that follows when reviewing applications. As you determine whether or not your proposed work is a good fit for this funding opportunity and prepare your proposal, please review this rubric carefully.

We will use the **Potential for Impact** category of the rubric to **review LOIs and determine whether an organization will be invited to submit a full application**. As you prepare your LOI, be sure to include details that demonstrate potential for impact of your proposed work, including each of the components listed in the box below.

POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT

The organization's approach to providing benefits enrollment and economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective in helping Central Texans from communities with the greatest health needs become more financially stable.

- **Client-driven**

- Services are designed around client needs in a way that honors their dignity and autonomy. The organization shares up-to-date and accurate information about available benefits and economic supports in an unbiased way—helping clients understand their options and make informed decisions that align with their priorities.
- The organization has established trusted relationships with historically marginalized communities, with a culturally responsive approach tailored to their specific needs and priorities. This includes language access, respect for cultural norms, and the ability to address specific concerns individuals may have about enrolling in public benefits.

- **Holistic**

- The organization's approach acknowledges the interconnected nature of this work and addresses clients' needs in a comprehensive way that goes beyond benefits enrollment. For example, the organization provides access to a food pantry and emergency rent assistance to clients while working with them to enroll in SNAP to ensure they have food and housing until they can use their SNAP benefits.
- To strengthen this work, the organization is closely connected with other safety net providers to help meet community members' holistic needs. For example, the organization has a strong referral system with another organization that provides emergency shelter for its clients.

- **Effective**

- The organization's approach has been shown to increase enrollment in public benefits and/or improve economic stability of those served, as demonstrated by enrollment data for specific benefits programs for the past year and number of current staff trained on benefits enrollment.
- Participation in the [HHSC Community Partner Program](#) will be a key consideration, particularly for organizations in Travis County.

For **organizations invited to submit a full application**, we will use the **full rubric** (including Potential for Impact) to score each application. The scores from this review will inform which organizations will receive funding. **Carefully review the rubric** and **clearly describe and illustrate** in your application how your organization and proposed work align with each category.

Additionally, for this open call, our goal is to fund in all five Central Texas counties (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson), so we will also review LOIs and applications through the lens of the existing infrastructure in each county. Given the varying levels of benefits enrollment infrastructure in our region, we are focused on **strengthening** this capacity in Travis County and **building and expanding** this capacity in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson counties.

Rubric Categories	Possible Points
1. Equity-focused: The organization primarily serves historically marginalized Central Texans and has tailored the proposed services to remove barriers to benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports.	5
2. Potential for Impact: The organization’s approach to providing benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective in helping historically marginalized Central Texans enroll in benefits and become more financially stable.	15
3. Of and By Community: The organization is trusted by and connected to historically marginalized community members, especially those who face barriers related to language, citizenship status, transportation, and childcare. The organization demonstrates this trust and connection through sustained and authentic relationships with historically marginalized communities, staff and volunteers who reflect the communities they serve, and decision-making processes where those most impacted hve a say in how programs are designed and delivered.	10
4. Team Capacity: The organization has experience helping Central Texans access public benefits or other economic supports, demonstrated by number of people enrolled in each benefit included in the call, number of trained staff, and participation in the HHSC Community Partner Program (particularly as a Level 3 organization). For organizations outside Travis County, experience providing core safety net services (such as running a food pantry or providing flexible financial assistance) can substitute for Community Partner Program participation if it demonstrates the organization is well-positioned to build this capacity.	10

5. Durability: The organization explains how the impact supported by this grant will continue after the three-year funding period ends and how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net beyond the grant term.	10
6. Collaboration: The organization has strong ties to other safety net providers and uses a collaborative approach—such as co-location or coordinated service delivery—that reduces barriers and improves access to benefits. The result of this collaboration is a more streamlined benefits enrollment and service delivery process in which clients successfully enroll in benefits and feel supported every step of the way.	10
	60 TOTAL

Rubric Details

#1 EQUITY-FOCUSED

Rate the extent to which the proposal indicates understanding of enrollment barriers for historically marginalized community members and creates effective strategies to address and remove those barriers.

Does the organization prioritize serving historically marginalized Central Texans? Does the organization also remove enrollment barriers for historically marginalized community members in a way that is tailored to their specific needs?

EQUITY UNADDRESSED: The proposal does not clearly describe how the organization prioritizes historically marginalized community members, what enrollment barriers they face, or how the organization addresses and removes those barriers.	0
The proposal describes how the organization prioritizes historically marginalized community members and what enrollment barriers they face, but it lacks specific details about how the organization addresses and removes these barriers in a way that is tailored to community members' needs.	3
EQUITY CENTERED: The proposal clearly describes how the organization prioritizes historically marginalized community members and what enrollment barriers they face as well as specific, tailored approaches the organization uses to address and remove these barriers.	5

#2 POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT

Rate the extent to which the proposed approach to providing benefits enrollment and economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective in helping communities with the greatest health needs in Central Texas become more financially stable.

- **Client-driven**

- Services are designed around the needs of clients in a way that honors their dignity and autonomy. The organization shares up-to-date and accurate information about available benefits and services in an unbiased way—helping clients understand their options and make informed decisions that align with their stated priorities.
- The organization has established trusted relationships with historically marginalized communities, with a culturally responsive approach tailored to their specific needs and priorities. This includes language access, respect for cultural norms, and the ability to address specific concerns individuals may have about enrolling in public benefits.

- **Holistic**

- The organization’s approach acknowledges the interconnected nature of this work and addresses clients’ needs in a comprehensive way that goes beyond benefits enrollment. For example, the organization provides access to a food pantry and emergency rent assistance to clients while working with them to enroll in SNAP to ensure they have food and housing until they can use their SNAP benefits.
- To strengthen this work, the organization is closely connected with other safety net providers to help meet community members’ holistic needs. For example, the organization has a strong referral system with another organization that provides emergency shelter for its clients.

- **Effective**

- The approach has been shown to increase enrollment in public benefits and/or improve financial stability of those served, as demonstrated by enrollment data for specific benefits programs for the past year and number of current staff trained on benefits enrollment.
- Participation as a Level 3 organization in the HHSC Community Partner Program will be a key consideration, particularly for organizations in Travis County.

Does the organization clearly describe and provide evidence that they use an approach that is client-driven, holistic, and effective?

LOW POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT: The proposal does not include compelling evidence that the organization’s approach to providing benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective.	0
The proposal includes limited evidence that the organization’s approach to providing benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective, with significant gaps across most categories.	5
The proposal includes some evidence that the organization’s approach to providing benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective but is missing clear details for one or more categories.	10
HIGH POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT: The proposal clearly demonstrates how the organization’s approach to providing benefits enrollment and other economic stability supports is client-driven, holistic, and effective in helping historically marginalized Central Texans enroll in public benefits and become more financially stable.	15

#3 OF AND BY COMMUNITY

Rate the extent to which the organization is a trusted service provider among historically marginalized community members, especially those who face barriers related to language, citizenship status, transportation, and childcare.

Is the organization a trusted service provider among historically marginalized community members? Does the organization have sustained, authentic relationships with historically marginalized community members? Does the organization’s staff reflect those they serve? Do the people most impacted by the organization’s work have a say in how its programs are designed and delivered?

ABSENCE OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP: The proposal shows no clear evidence that the organization is a trusted service provider with sustained and authentic relationships with community members, staff who reflect those served, and decision-making processes where those most impacted have a say.	0
The proposal shows limited evidence that the organization is a trusted service provider among historically marginalized community members, that it has some relationships with those served, that its staff reflect those served, and that those most impacted have a say in programmatic decisions.	5

<p>MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP: The proposal shows clear evidence that the organization is a trusted service provider among historically marginalized community members, that it has a sustained and authentic relationship with those served, that its staff reflect those served, and that those most impacted have a say in programmatic decisions.</p>	<p>10</p>
--	-----------

#4: TEAM CAPACITY

Rate the extent to which the organization has experience helping Central Texans enroll in public benefits or other economic supports, demonstrated by the number of people enrolled in each benefit included in the call, the number of trained staff, and/or Community Partner Program Level 3 status.

Does the organization have experience enrolling Central Texans in the public benefits prioritized in the funding opportunity? How many people has the organization enrolled in each program over the past year? How experienced and trained are the staff delivering these services, and how does the organization maintain that expertise through staff transitions? Is the organization part of the Community Partner Program, and if so, at what level? Does the organization have experience delivering other core financial stability services, such as running a food pantry or providing direct financial assistance?

<p>LIMITED CAPACITY: The proposal shows no evidence that the organization has the staff experience or expertise to effectively enroll community members in public benefits or help them access other economic supports.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>The proposal shows limited evidence that the organization has the staff experience and expertise to effectively enroll community members in public benefits or help them access other economic supports, with little description of how this expertise is maintained over time.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>ROBUST CAPACITY: The proposal shows clear evidence that the organization has the staff experience and expertise to effectively enroll community members in public benefits or help them access other economic supports, as well as the established processes for maintaining this expertise.</p>	<p>10</p>

#5: DURABILITY

Rate the extent to which the organization describes a plan for continuing the impact created by this grant after the three-year funding period ends and how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net beyond the grant term.

Does the organization explain how the impact created by this grant will continue after the grant period? Has the organization developed a service delivery model that could be resilient in tumultuous funding environments (e.g., does the organization cross-train staff, leverage the strengths of other organizations, and/or utilize volunteers where appropriate)? Does it describe how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net for historically marginalized community members beyond the grant term?

LIMITED DURABILITY: The proposal does not describe how the work will continue after funding ends or how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net beyond the grant term.	0
The proposal provides limited detail on how the work will continue after funding ends or how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net beyond the grant term.	5
ROBUST DURABILITY: The proposal clearly and compellingly describes how the work will continue after funding ends and how this investment could strengthen the local economic stability safety net beyond the grant term.	10

#6: COLLABORATION

Rate the extent to which the organization demonstrates that they have strong ties to other safety net providers and uses a collaborative approach—such as co-location or coordinated service delivery—that reduces barriers, improves access, and creates a more streamlined experience for clients.

Does the organization list specific partner organizations and describe how they work with each organization to remove barriers and improve access for clients? Does the organization provide evidence and examples that this collaboration results in clients successfully enrolling in benefits and feeling supported throughout the process?

ABSENCE OF COLLABORATION: The proposal shows no evidence of meaningful community partnerships, or only lists partner organizations without describing how those partnerships improve the service delivery experience for historically marginalized community members.	0
--	---

<p>The proposal shows evidence of some partnerships with specific organizations, but these partnerships do not include co-location or coordinated service delivery that meaningfully reduces barriers for historically marginalized community members.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: The proposal shows clear and compelling evidence of strong service delivery partnerships that include co-location or coordinated service delivery and describes how the coordination removes barriers and improves the experience for historically marginalized community members in tangible ways.</p>	<p>10</p>