

GRANTMAKING

Capacity Building Grant Application (June 2026)

Thank you for your interest in completing this application for a Capacity Building grant. We encourage you to check out our Capacity Building overview page and read the full application prior to completing the proposal. If you have any outstanding questions, please refer to our FAQs and webinars, or reach out to us at GranteeHelpDesk@kauffman.org.

Consent & Authorization

Collecting and analyzing grantee data helps us on our journey to create equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable change. The following consent is necessary to apply for funding, allowing us to better listen to and understand organizations serving the communities in which we work. We aim to use this aggregated information to develop shared knowledge, as well as bring people together to build and support programs that improve education, boost entrepreneurship, and help communities and individuals thrive.

Please review [our privacy policy](#) which provides info on how we use and process your data.

I agree that the Foundation may use my personal information to communicate with me about the Foundation and programs I may find interesting, to personalize my experience on Foundation web sites, conduct academic/charitable research, and share my data with trusted Foundation affiliates. (check box)

I am authorized to submit a grant proposal on behalf of the organization and authorize your use of the information submitted, which includes data such as personal information (e.g. email, demographic data), financial, and program results. (check box)

I understand that Capacity Building grants are non-renewing, one-time grants. If awarded a Capacity Building grant, I understand that I cannot request funding for the same project in the future. I understand that I am submitting a grant that will build capacity and impact in the Kansas City region. (check box)

Organization & Contact Information

Will this proposed project be fiscally sponsored? (Y/N)

(If yes) Please have the fiscal sponsor complete the application. Provide the information (name and contact) of the organization being sponsored. A questionnaire will need to be completed by the fiscal sponsor later in the process.

Organization name and related contacts.

- Note: If a fiscally sponsored project, complete this section with the fiscal sponsor's information.
- Note: The Primary Contact will receive communication from the Kauffman Foundation (i.e., confirmation of submission of application email)

Website

Social media

Other

Does the scope of your grant involve interactions with policymakers? (Y/N)

A "yes" answer does not disqualify you from receiving grant funding, but our grant dollars cannot be used for lobbying. Some of the prohibited lobbying activities are outlined in our FAQs. Answering "yes" to this question may initiate a follow-up from our team.

(If yes) Please provide a brief description of these activities.

I confirm that these funds provided by the Kauffman Foundation will not be used for lobbying. (check box)

Dates & Funding

Please note that in most cases, the Foundation will only support one grant award at a time for an organization. Most organizations should focus their efforts on a single grant application. For more information, visit <https://www.kauffman.org/funding/FAQs/>.

- Start date (should not be earlier than January 1, 2027)
- End date (should not be later than December 31, 2028)
- Amount requested (range \$100,000 - \$250,000; average award is \$215,000)
 - Note: This needs to match the grant budget total amount.
 - Note: Capacity Building grants must not represent more than one-third of the organization's overall budget.
- Your organization's prior year operating expenses.
- If applicable, describe recent major changes to financial circumstances.
- Do you have other revenue streams and/or funders that support your organization?
- Please list any other revenue sources or grants currently obtained, or being sought, to support your organization.
- Detailed grant budget and narrative.

In no more than two paragraphs, share a budget narrative highlighting your key expenses.

In the table below, summarize how you would spend the proposed Kauffman Foundation grant by including the grant budget by expense categories. The sum of the expense categories should equal this grant request. As a reminder, capital construction and indirect expenses are not eligible.

Your grant reporting to the Kauffman Foundation will include progress against this budget.

Alignment with Foundation's Priorities

The Foundation identified strategic priorities to close economic mobility gaps in the Kansas City region and beyond. Select the strategic priority with which your Capacity Building project most closely aligns. If the focus of your proposal is broad, choose the strategic priority that aligns with the work of your organization.

- College access and completion
- Workforce and career development
- Entrepreneurship

If you are exploring more than one strategic priority through your Capacity Building grant, please indicate it here. (optional)

What areas of your organization do you seek to build or strengthen with your proposed Capacity grant: (select up to three)

Click [here](#) to review definitions of categories.

- Staffing, Leadership & Culture
- Financial Health & Flexible Funding
- Internal Systems & Operations
- Data & Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Program Enhancement & Innovation
- Communications, Partnerships & Engagement

Please select the geographic areas covered by your organization. (Select all that apply)

- Cass County, MO
- Clay County, MO
- Jackson County, MO
- Platte County, MO
- Johnson County, KS
- Wyandotte County, KS
- Greater Kansas City Region - Missouri (your organization serves any of the following counties: Bates County, MO; Caldwell County, MO; Clinton County, MO; Lafayette County, MO; Ray County, MO)

- Greater Kansas City Region - Kansas (your organization serves any of the following counties: Leavenworth County, KS; Linn County, KS; Miami County, KS)
- Missouri Statewide
- Kansas Statewide
- Midwest Region
- National

What is the primary zip code this grant will serve? (select one)

Which best describes the geographic scope of your organization? (Select one)

- Locally based (headquartered in the Greater Kansas City region)
- Statewide organization
- Regional organization
- National organization
- Other (please specify): _____

Which best describes your organization's current presence in the Kansas City region? (Select one)

- Staffed physical office in the Kansas City region
- One or more staff members working remotely in the Kansas City region
- No staff or office in the Kansas City region, but with regular, ongoing engagement with Kansas City – area partners, leaders, or communities
- No staff, office, or regular engagement in the Kansas City region

Application Questions

Request Summary: Please write a brief description to summarize your capacity building request. Most people write about 2-3 sentences. The maximum response is 400 characters. [Note: This summary may be used to describe the proposal both internally and externally.]

About Your Organization: Please share the most important information about your organization. Most people write about 3-5 paragraphs or about 2,000 characters. The maximum response is 5,000 characters.

Relevant information should include the following:

- Your organization's mission statement.
- A brief organizational history.
- A brief description of your organizational goals over the next three years related to the Kauffman Foundation's strategic priorities.
- Your leadership's relevant experience and expertise related to your work.
- Current programs and accomplishments within the last three years.

About Your Capacity Building Proposal: Please share the most important information about your proposal. Most people write about 3-5 paragraphs or about 2,000 characters. The maximum response is 5,000 characters.

Please explain the Capacity Building proposal. Relevant information should include the following:

- What you plan to do.
- Why you plan to do it now, including the opportunity, challenge, issue, or need.
- Who will lead the project, including team size, roles, and relevant skills.
- How this funding will position you for impact during and beyond the grant timeline.
- Who will be impacted, including your priority population.
- How you will continue your efforts in the Kansas City region after this capacity is built.

About Your Project Execution and Impact: Please share the most important information about your project execution and impact. Most people write about 3-5 paragraphs or about 2,000 characters. The maximum response is 5,000 characters.

Relevant information should include the following:

- Project timeline: Include a timeline with milestones and activities. Responses may be provided in bulleted points, paragraphs, or a timeline format.
- Project impact: A brief description of the impact you expect this project to achieve. Please include how you will assess progress toward the project's intended impact.

About Your Community (Interest Holders): Please share the most important information about the community where, or with whom, you do your work. Most people write about 3–5 paragraphs or about 2,000 characters. The maximum response is 5,000 characters.

Relevant information should include the following:

- The community opportunity, challenge, issue, or need your organization works to address.
- Information about the people your organization serves.
- Details about how you work with other organizations, coalitions, or networks.
- Details about how you listen to, learn from, and involve constituents, community members, and/or volunteers.

Reporting and Evaluation Expectations

Measuring impact, communicating findings, and disseminating learnings are priorities for the Kauffman Foundation. We encourage applicants with skillsets in evaluation translation and impact to emphasize this experience in their proposals. Funded applicants will work with the Kauffman team (regardless of previous experience) to ensure learnings are shared with relevant audiences.

Demographic Information

Requested demographic information is not used to make eligibility or award decisions. [Note: If a fiscally sponsored project, complete this section with the fiscal sponsor's information.]

- Leader (race/ethnicity & gender)
- Governing Board (race/ethnicity & gender)

How did you hear about this opportunity?

The Kauffman Foundation is interested in learning how people hear about our work. Please share how you learned about our strategic direction and grantmaking priorities.

- Kauffman-hosted community engagement session
- Kauffman email
- Kauffman website
- Kauffman Facebook
- Kauffman Instagram
- Kauffman LinkedIn
- Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace LinkedIn
- Kauffman associate
- News media story
- Previous grantee
- Other community event (please specify)
- Other community sources (please specify)

Documents

Your organization's current year budget (this can be a document you provide to your board).

Your organization's most recent year-end financial statements (balance sheet and statement of activities), audited if possible.