

# U.S. GRANT GUIDELINES

## U.S. Grants

Please note that you may only apply to one of the two grant opportunities each year through the Community Grants Program.

Please refer to our website for all dates related to our Community Grants Program.

## Food and Nutrition Programs

Please review the Food and Nutrition Programs funding guidelines below.

MAF recognizes that there is an increasing need for resources to support food and nutrition programs for people living with HIV/AIDS due to rising food costs, decreased government funding, and an increase in demand for services. The primary goal of this initiative is to improve the nutritional health of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). In addition to strengthening the body's natural ability to fight and combat infections that can be lethal to a person living with HIV/AIDS, proper nutrition maximizes the effectiveness of anti-retroviral drug treatments and also reduces and offsets the negative side-effects of medication. Proper nutrition is also a key to treatment adherence and compliance and has been cited by clients and medical professionals as an important component of an integrated treatment and prevention program. Addressing the nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS is a key component of an integrated approach to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S.

### Who is eligible to apply for funding?

Nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that are recognized as 501(c)(3) organizations, provide services to those affected by HIV/AIDS, and have been in operation for a minimum of three years are eligible to apply. Organizations must also have a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and specifically protects LGBTQ clients, operate an HIV/AIDS food and nutrition program five days or more per week, and supply 50% or more of a person's daily nutritional requirements in the form of prepared meals, congregate meals or pantry bags.

Current and past grantees must have submitted all required grant reports. If you are a current grantee and still within the grant period, please note that you must complete your report prior to or at the time of submitting your new grant application even if the report will not be for a complete year.

### What is the grant range?

Grants range up to a maximum request amount of \$25,000. Grant requests should not exceed 20% of the total HIV/AIDS food or nutrition program budget.

### What does the MAC AIDS Fund Community Grants Program fund?

Funding categories include:

- Food purchases - protein, dairy, fruits, vegetables and groceries
- Capacity building - capital equipment (such as kitchen equipment, hot boxes), strategic planning, training and technology for improved organizational effectiveness (such as databases to track health outcomes, website development)
- Organization sustainability - general operating expenses such as food and nutrition services staff, utilities

- Collaborations - partnerships that advance advocacy efforts or result in cost efficiencies such as shared administrative or finance staff

## **Funding Priorities**

Priority will be given to organizations that:

- Participate in policy-level advocacy related to food and nutrition issues (local, state, or national)
- Track health outcomes related to the impact of food and nutrition services (i.e. initial nutrition assessment, periodic follow-up assessments, documentation of changes in nutrition status and other data such as adherence to medication regimens, etc.)
- Participate in clinical research and evaluation of nutrition services
- Design menus and pantry bag contents with input from registered dietitians
- Face particularly challenging obstacles to service provision (i.e., geographic region, underserved populations, etc.)
- Participate in nontraditional collaborations resulting in cost efficiencies and improved program sustainability
- MAF also seeks to fund programs that advance the field of HIV/AIDS Nutrition through research and the collection of health outcomes data that can support the case for funding HIV/AIDS nutrition programs, and programs that support the U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy's threefold platform of reducing HIV incidence, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related health disparities.
- Finally, MAF seeks to support organizations that demonstrate sustainability through the development of diverse funding streams; cost efficiencies achieved through partnerships, collaborations and entrepreneurial efforts; and/or participation in policy-level advocacy.

**The U.S. Community Grants are intended to support the provision of direct services to persons living with HIV/AIDS.**

**MAF will not fund the following:**

- Political lobbying
- Religious activities
- Sponsorship of events
- Individuals
- Endowments
- Debt reduction
- Direct medical care or services
- Programs based outside of the U.S. operated by U.S.- based organizations
- Requests from past grantees who have not met reporting requirements

Additionally, due to the high level of competition for grants through the Community Grants Program, we will no longer consider requests to support:

- Food vouchers
- Nutrition education materials and activities (fact sheets, cooking classes, recipes, etc.)

## **Housing Programs**

MAF recognizes that the need for housing assistance for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) exceeds available resources in every part of the United States. The goal of this initiative is to positively impact the health of low-income Americans living with HIV by increasing the availability of and access to permanent housing. Access to safe, stable housing is essential in order for a person living with HIV/AIDS to receive and benefit from HIV health care and supportive services. Research findings conclusively show that housing status is among the strongest predictors of HIV risk and health outcomes. Low-income PLWHA who receive housing assistance have better access to health care services, their physical and mental health improves, they live longer, and they are less likely to engage in behaviors that can

transmit HIV. Increased housing stability also reduces avoidable emergency and acute health services, generating health care cost savings that can offset all or part of the cost of housing. Meeting the housing needs of PLWHA is essential in order to reduce HIV-related health disparities and effectively address the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic

### **What are MAF's Community Grants Program housing priorities?**

Priority will be given to housing programs or projects that:

- Provide or enable PLWHA to secure safe, appropriate permanent housing
- Meet housing needs in underserved or resource-poor communities, such as rural areas and communities in the Southern U.S., or target underserved populations, including women and injection drug users
- Target PLWHA who face particularly challenging barriers to stable housing, such as: a history of incarceration; lack of income to contribute to housing costs; youth; active drug use; transgender identity; and immigration status
- Employ low-threshold housing models with few or no housing readiness requirements (such as sobriety or income to contribute to housing costs)

Priority will also be given to organizations that:

- Actively participate in policy-level housing advocacy (national, state &/or local)
- Track and analyze program data to evaluate the impact of housing status on stability, health indicators, health behaviors, service utilization and costs, and other client-level outcomes
- Employ innovative approaches to fund, deliver and advocate for housing services for persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Demonstrate sustainability through the development of diverse funding streams and/or cost efficiencies achieved through partnerships, collaborations and entrepreneurial efforts.

### **What does the M-A-C AIDS Fund Community Grants Program fund?**

Examples of activities that will be considered for funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Housing placement assistance, including payment of one-time expenses required to establish a home (such as first month's rent, security deposit and brokers fees)
- Housing-based supportive services such as case management and mental health services for residents of housing programs
- One-time costs to secure, develop, maintain or improve agency-owned or agency-operated housing units and facilities
- One-time costs to improve program capacity to deliver direct housing services and/or to track and monitor outcomes of an existing housing assistance program
- Policy-level local and national housing advocacy, including community organizing, educating decision makers, and leadership of or participation in national, state and/or local collaborations
- Housing-related research projects that will strengthen the housing is prevention platform

### **Who is eligible to apply for funding?**

Nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that are recognized as 501(c)(3) organizations, provide services to those affected by HIV/AIDS, and have been in operation for a minimum of three years. Organizations must also have a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and specifically protects LGBTQ clients.

Current and past MAF grantees must be up-to-date with all required grant reports. If you are a current grantee and still within the grant period, please note that you must complete your report prior to or at the time of submitting your new grant application, even if the report will not be for a complete year.

Additionally, organizations eligible to apply for funding must operate direct housing services that are targeted to persons living with HIV/AIDS (housing units; payment of first month's rent, security deposit, brokers fee or other client costs to secure permanent housing in the private market; and/or policy-level housing advocacy).

**What is the maximum grant amount?**

The maximum grant request amount is \$50,000. Grant requests should not exceed 20% of the organization's total budget for housing programs.

**MAF will not fund the following:**

- Counseling and case management that is not housing-based
- Short-term or ongoing rental assistance
- Emergency shelter
- Emergency rent and utility assistance
- Other one-time or limited-time cash assistance to meet emergency needs
- Political lobbying
- Religious activities
- Sponsorship of events
- Individuals
- Endowments
- Debt reduction
- Direct medical care or services
- Programs based outside of the U.S. operated by U.S. – based organizations
- Requests from past grantees who have not met reporting requirements