



Community Crisis & Disaster Response Grants Request for Proposals

Summary

- **Purpose** – We offer Community Crisis & Disaster Response grants to help non-profits and other community partners address the immediate community needs after a disaster or crisis. The funds may be used for specific programs or as general operating support to continue supporting vulnerable communities after a disaster. As of Sept. 2, 2021, the Blue Cross Foundation has allocated funding under this grant program to respond to the impacts of Hurricane Ida, Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Delta, other recent natural disasters, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the state of Louisiana.
- **Eligibility** – Louisiana-based, 501(c)(3) organizations working to support those directly impacted by a recent, declared disaster or crisis may apply. Louisiana-based 501(c) 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 19 organizations may apply provided that their efforts are related to the Foundation’s mission, are similarly supporting those directly impacted by a recent, declared disaster or crisis and provided that they can demonstrate clearly how this work being supported is otherwise the same as community and charitable work being done by a 501(c)(3) organization.
- **Amount** – Grant awards fall in two categories:
 - **COVID-19 Response:** Up to \$50,000
 - **Hurricane Relief:** Up to \$250,000 for organizations serving in parishes [covered under a federal disaster declaration](#) ; up to \$50,000 for organizations serving other parishes.
 - In all cases grants can be used to support general operating costs. The Foundation allocated \$15,000,000 related to these efforts.
- **Length of time** – We are looking for projects that can be implemented immediately but also may be executed over time to alleviate specific needs following a disaster or associated with an ongoing community crisis.

- **Applying** – Online via our website and an abbreviated application at www.bcbslafoundation.org. The application calls for an overview of the organization requesting support, a description of the community and needs being addressed and a high-level outline of what the funds will enable. Competitive organizations and proposals may be asked to share additional details to aid in consideration.
- **Deadlines** – Immediate and ongoing, as long as funds allow and there is need.

Purpose

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Louisianans with a specific emphasis on kids of high need and community level efforts to improve wellness and wellbeing. In times of disaster and crisis, we recognize the importance of front-line organizations who meet immediate needs and help communities and families recover.

The Foundation does not normally offer general operating support through its grant programs. However, we know that disaster and crisis response calls for more flexibility to meet community needs. We are interested in both immediate needs (food security, housing, etc.) and medium-term needs (family economic recovery) being addressed for those in need across the state of Louisiana as these directly tie to the health, wellness and wellbeing of communities in the short and long term.

The ideal proposal will also help us clearly understand what you are doing to mitigate community concerns and how you will define success.

Selection and Awards

Online via our website and an abbreviated application at www.bcbslafoundation.org. The application calls for an overview of the organization requesting support, a description of the community and needs being addressed and a high-level outline of what the funds will enable. Competitive organizations and proposals may be asked to submit additional details to aid in consideration.

Submitting a formal application is not a guarantee of funding. Funding is limited; we cannot fund every effort even if it meets our criteria for success.

The maximum amount awarded per grant will be \$250,000 and funding for grants is at the sole discretion of our Board of Directors.

The ideal Community Crisis & Disaster Response Grant outlines how the organization is:

- Serving a clearly defined need within the community that was caused or exacerbated by the current crisis and/ or will be doing so in the coming days and weeks
- Properly staffed with capacity to complete the proposed effort safely and efficiently
- Able to measure and communicate immediate services delivered and the impact of these services over time

Full Eligibility Requirements

You can find our full eligibility requirements online at <http://bcbslafoundation.org/our-programs/grants/eligibility-requirements/>

Must be designated a 501 (c)(3) or other nonprofit organization by the IRS

We traditionally only give to nonprofit organizations working for charitable, religious, scientific, literary and other organizations under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). In times of disaster and under unique circumstances we are willing to consider gifts to other types of non-profit (501 (c) 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 19) organizations as long as the funds are clearly used for charitable and community purposes and all required documentation needs are met.

Must be registered “in good standing” with the Louisiana or appropriate Secretary of State

All organizations must be up-to-date on their filings with the Louisiana or appropriate state Secretary of State. You can find more information here: <http://www.sos.la.gov/>

Must be domiciled in Louisiana

We only make gifts to organizations who are working in Louisiana and working for the welfare of Louisianians.