

## Safety Net Grants

### Meeting the Moment: Supporting Our Immigrant Neighbors

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Eligibility:

#### Is the Safety Net Grants Program open to all nonprofit organizations?

For this round, the Safety Net Grants program is focused specifically on organizations serving immigrant communities. This round is designed to provide general operating support to organizations responding to urgent essential needs facing immigrant neighbors across Greater Boston. We are prioritizing organizations that can remove barriers quickly, especially those addressing legal needs, housing stability, and fear-based disruptions to daily life.

#### What is an essential need?

Essential needs are defined as resources that restore health, wellness, safety and belonging for individuals or families in crisis. They can include, but are not limited to:

- Childcare assistance
- Direct cash assistance
- Disability assistance
- Food security
- Health care access
- Legal support
- Mental health support
- Rental and housing assistance
- Support for survivors of trauma

#### What are the priority funding areas for this round?

This round will prioritize organizations aligned with one of the following areas:

- **Legal Services and Work Authorization**  
Support may include attorney and paralegal capacity, asylum application support, TPS renewals, and other immigration legal services that help individuals secure work authorization and stabilize their lives.

- **Benefits Navigation**  
Support may include helping families access RAFT, MassHealth, SNAP, rental assistance, and other critical benefits, including through bilingual case managers and flexible emergency funds.
- **Community Engagement and Protection**  
Support may include know your rights trainings, mutual aid, alternative communication networks, guidance related to ICE interactions, and culturally affirming safe spaces for vulnerable communities.

**Our organization is not located in TBF's catchment area, but our work is done within communities located in that area. Are we eligible?**

Yes, but proposals for funding should serve communities primarily located within our catchment area. If your organization has statewide or national reach, we encourage you to focus your application on your work in the Boston Foundation's catchment area specifically.

**Do I need to speak with someone about my intent to apply?**

A pre-conversation is not necessary to apply for a Safety Net Grant; however, if you have questions, please email [safetynetgrants@tbf.org](mailto:safetynetgrants@tbf.org) and a member of our team will be happy to assist you.

**Do we have to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to apply?**

An eligible organization has a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit designation from the IRS or operates under the fiscal sponsorship of a tax-exempt nonprofit. If applying under a fiscal sponsor, your organization is responsible for having that relationship in place before applying and will be asked to attach a fiscal sponsorship letter with your application submission.

**I have a collaborative program that I would like to undertake with a fellow nonprofit organization. Is that eligible?**

Absolutely. The Foundation encourages collaboration. One organization should submit the application as the lead organization on behalf of the collaborative partners. Should you have any questions about how to represent both organizations on the application, please reach out to [safetynetgrants@tbf.org](mailto:safetynetgrants@tbf.org) and our team can help provide guidance.

**Applications:**

### **How many applications can we submit?**

The Safety Net Grants program will accept one application per organization for this round. Should you have any questions regarding when your organization is eligible to re-submit an application for funding, please email [safetynetgrants@tbf.org](mailto:safetynetgrants@tbf.org) and a member of our team will be happy to assist you.

### **Can a staff member review a draft of my application prior to submission?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to review draft applications before they are submitted. While we understand the value of receiving early feedback about an application, due to capacity constraints we are not able to offer this assistance to all applicants. However, if you need assistance with the application, you are welcome to reach out to us via email (at [safetynetgrants@tbf.org](mailto:safetynetgrants@tbf.org)) and we are happy to help resolve any questions.

### **Review Process and Applicant Notifications:**

#### **How will applications be reviewed?**

Safety Net Grants uses a participatory grantmaking model that centers affected communities in the review process. For this round, applications will be reviewed through a **100% community-led process**, with community reviewers responsible for final grant recommendations. Final decisions are approved through the Foundation's board processes.

#### **Who is involved in making a funding decision?**

Community reviewers representing a diverse group of nonprofit leaders in Greater Boston will review applications and make final recommendations for funding. This approach is intended to deepen community leadership in grantmaking and ensure funding decisions reflect lived experience and community priorities.

#### **What are some of the evaluation criteria for this round?**

Applications will be reviewed for alignment with this round's immigrant focused priorities and essential needs framework. Priority will be given to organizations that can remove barriers quickly and effectively, especially those addressing immigration legal needs, access to public benefits, housing stability, and fear-based disruptions to daily life. Geographic focus, organizational alignment, and service to immigrant communities are also important considerations.

**When does the application open and close?**

According to the updated round materials, the grant round opens on **March 12** and the application deadline is **April 6**.

**When will applicants hear back?**

Applicants are expected to be informed of grant status in **June 2026**.

**Questions:****Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Please email [safetynetgrants@tbf.org](mailto:safetynetgrants@tbf.org) and a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

**Will I meet with someone from the Foundation or have a site visit about my application?**

Site visits are not a part of our review process this is largely due to our team's capacity and inability to grant site visits to every applicant. That being said, a member of our grant review team may reach out to you via email or phone call should they have questions regarding your application.