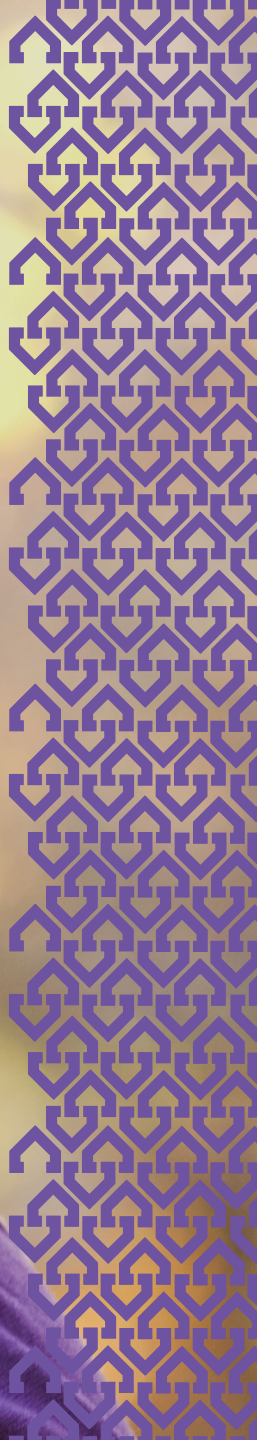




The Boston
Foundation

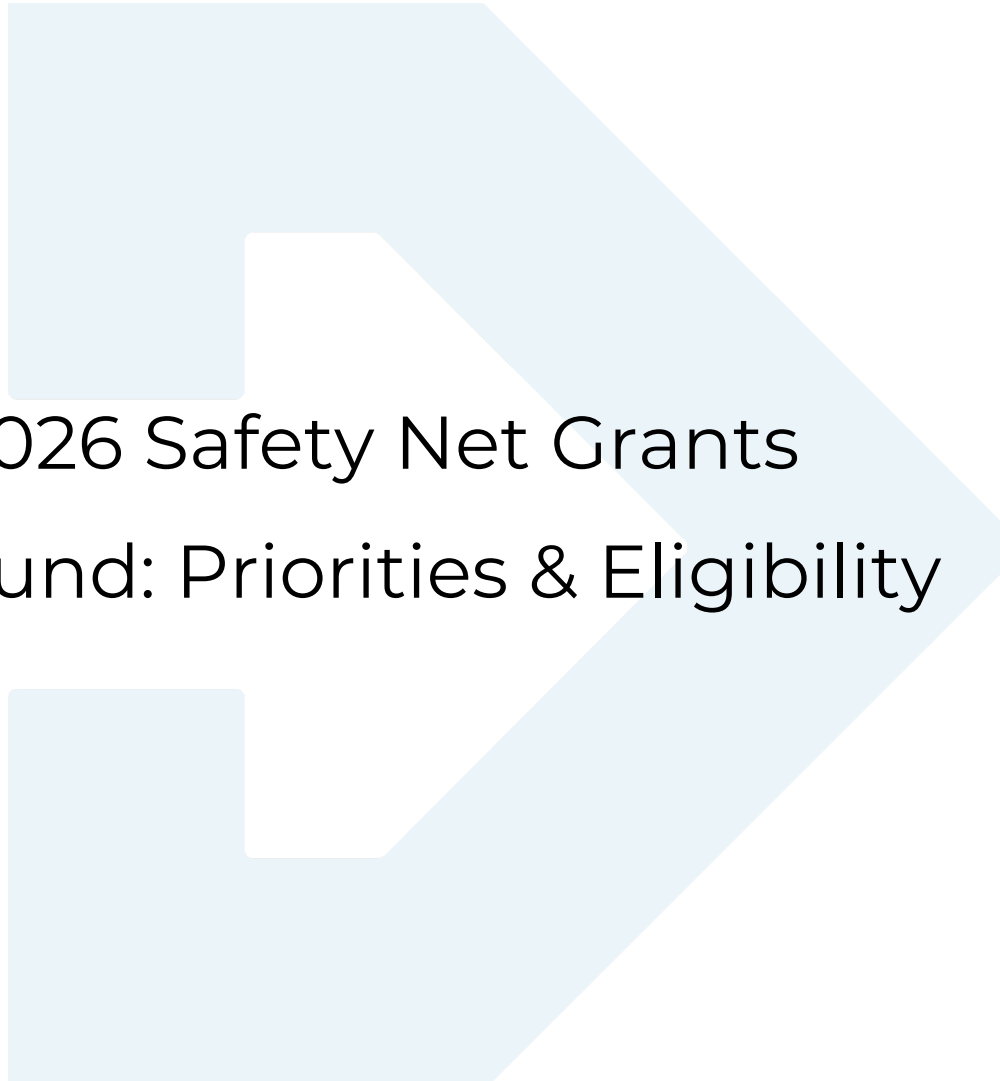
Safety Net Grants FY27 Fall Round

September 16th, 2026





Agenda



- Welcome!
- Looking Back: Spring 2026 Safety Net Grants
- FY27 Fall Safety Net Round: Priorities & Eligibility
- Table Conversations
- Feedback Session

Land Acknowledgement

The Boston Foundation respectfully acknowledges the land on which we work and convene as being the sacred homeland of the Masachusett, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc peoples. We honor the original stewards of these grounds, who lived in harmony with the land for generations before colonization, assimilation, genocide, and forced removal. We recognize their descendants who live here today, and future generations, as well as the rich culture and influence of all Native peoples, which have endured despite centuries of attempted erasure.

With this acknowledgment, TBF commits to expanding understanding of the true history of Native peoples here and to celebrating their past, present, and future contributions. We will listen to and uplift Native voices and communities and partner with them in pursuit of equity and restorative justice in our region and beyond.

The Safety Net Grants Team



Candace Burton

*Assistant Director, Support for the
Social Safety Net*



Zaria Karakashian-Jones

Associate, Safety Net Grants



Context Setting



The Situation on the Ground

Surging Demand

Unprecedented legal caseloads, an overwhelmed emergency shelter and food system, work authorization delays

Heightened Fear

Increased ICE presence leading to rising detentions and intimidation

Benefits Eligibility Narrows

Eligibility narrowed to citizens and lawful permanent residents; refugees, asylees, and parolees lose access

A Changing Environment

Safety net organizations are operating in a rapidly changing environment.

Federal policy and funding changes are affecting immigration enforcement, public benefits, food access, health care, and the financial stability of Greater Boston families.

Organizations are being asked to respond to more complex needs with limited resources.



Meeting the Moment Timeline

Sustaining Families



01

July 2025

BBB passed and leads to
**increased funding for
ICE/CBP and limits SNAP
and Medicaid** to citizens and
permanent residents

Meeting the Moment Timeline

Sustaining Families



02

November 2025

During the government shutdown, **SNAP benefits were paused until mid-November, TBF gave out 77 grants**

Meeting the Moment Timeline

Sustaining Families



03

Dec 2025 – Feb 2026

Operation Metro Surge took place in Minneapolis, **TBF gave an additional 51 food focused grants**

Meeting the Moment Timeline

Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors



04

June 2026

34 Safety Net Grantees

focused on immigrant
serving populations awarded
\$2.4 million

Meeting the Moment Timeline

Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors



05

July - August 2026

**Supreme court ended TPS
for Haitians and Syrians,** TBF
awards 9 organizations funds
to help with legal and safety
net needs

What's Next?

- Changes to public benefits eligibility
- Additional TPS terminations
- Growing pressure on safety net services
- Continued fundraising and responsive grantmaking
- FY27 Fall Safety Net Grants Round



Implemented Terminations

Afghanistan, Cameroon, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Yemen

Recent Terminations

Somalia, Ethiopia, Burma (Myanmar), El Salvador, South Sudan, Haiti

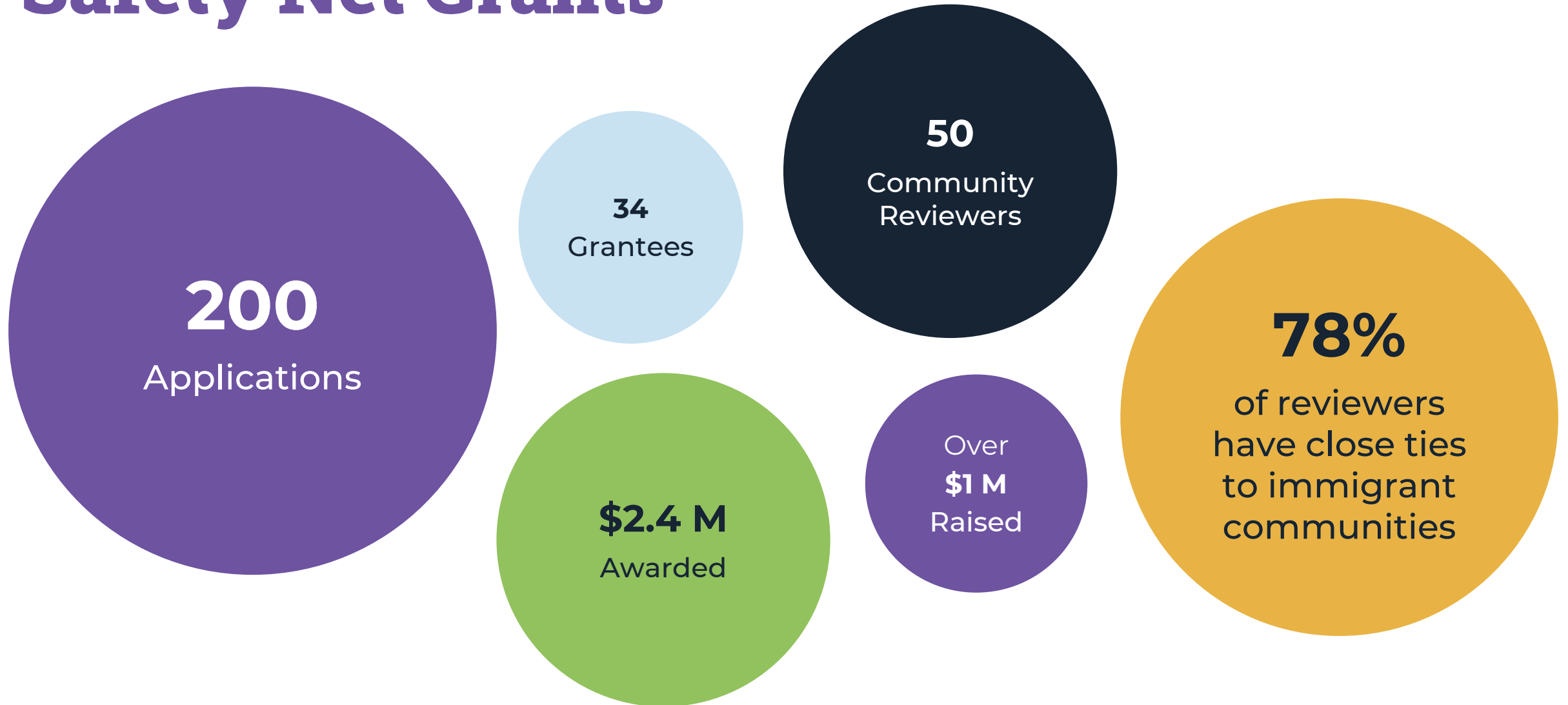
Upcoming Terminations

Sudan (October 19), Ukraine (October 19), Lebanon (November 27), Hong Kong (February 2027)



Safety Net Grants

Safety Net Grants



Baseline Eligibility

1. **Aligns with the strategic vision of The Boston Foundation**
2. **501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit** or operates under a fiscal sponsorship of a tax-exempt nonprofit
3. **Primarily serves people in the foundation's catchment area** apart from regional, statewide, or national public policy efforts where there is a strong connection with and influence on the Greater Boston policy interests
4. **Responds to an essential need** by providing resources that promote health, wellness, safety, and belonging for individuals or families in crisis
5. Has been **operating for at least three years**
6. Engages in **year-round programming**

Eligibility for Current Grantees

If you received a Safety Net grant in 2026, you are ineligible to apply

We are doing our best to spread our limited resources

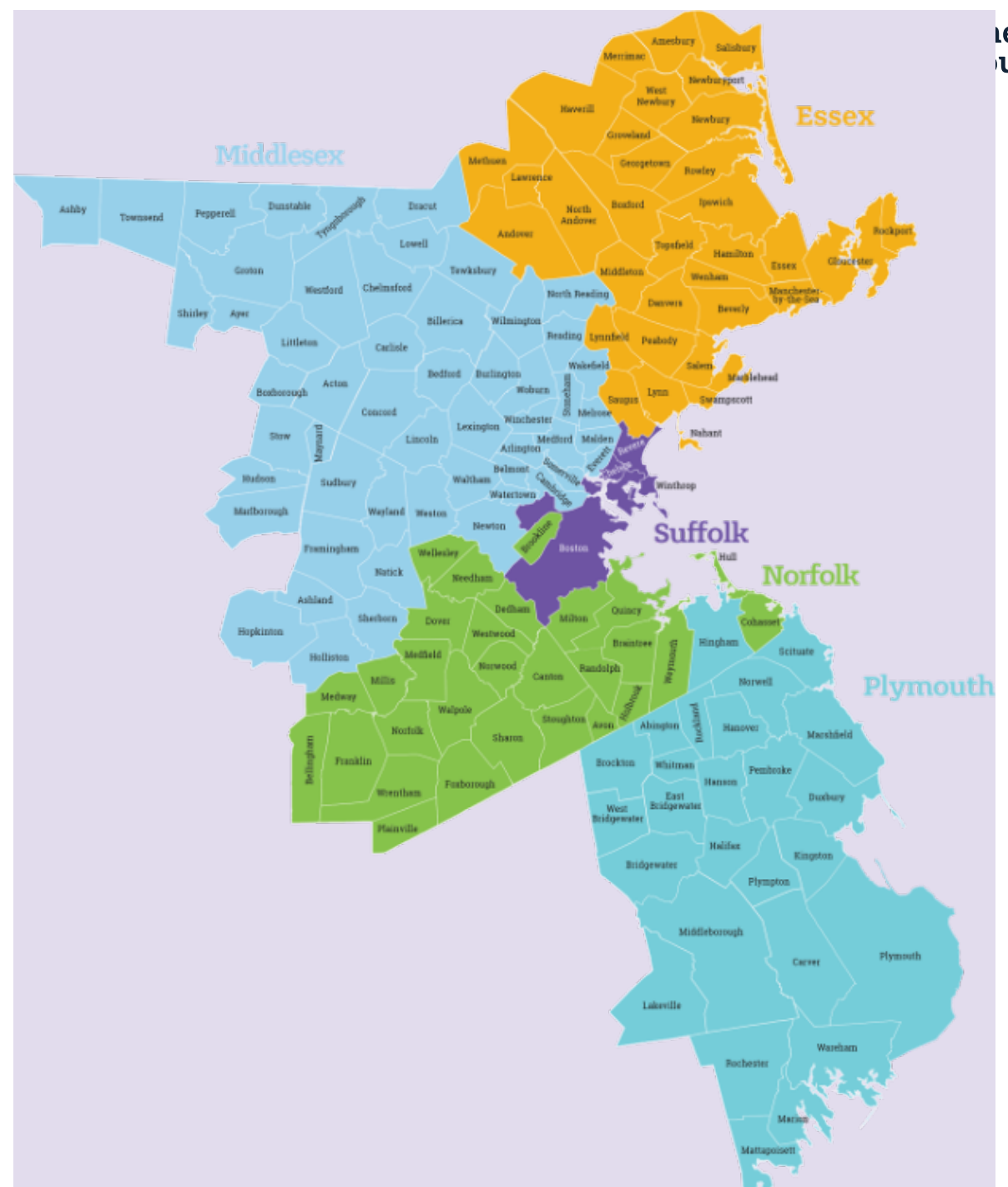
Essential Needs



Essential needs are defined as resources that restore health, wellness, safety and belonging for individuals or families in crisis.

Catchment Area

Eligible Organizations primarily serve communities historically excluded from institutional philanthropy in Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk counties with a focus on the communities of greatest need. We make exceptions for regional, statewide or national public policy efforts when there is a strong connection with and influence on Greater Boston policy interests.



Grant Size & Support Type



Support Type
General Operating
Support



Funding Level
\$50,000



Grant Period
Two-year funding
commitment

Funding Priorities

We have identified several priority areas for this SNG Round:

- **Priority Area 1 - Food** — Increasing access to nutritious, culturally responsive food and addressing food insecurity.
- **Priority Area 2 - Home Stability** — Helping individuals and families maintain safe, stable housing and prevent displacement or homelessness.
- **Priority Area 3 - Health & Wellness** — Supporting physical and mental health, access to care, and overall well-being.
- **Priority Area 4- Direct Cash Assistance** — Providing flexible financial assistance that allows individuals and families to address urgent essential needs.

Funding Priorities

Geographic Focus

We will be focusing on high need communities, including: Boston (East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury), Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Lynn, Brockton, Lowell.

Priority Populations

- Primary: Immigrants, especially within African, AAPI, Latinx, and Caribbean communities
- Secondary: Children, seniors, people with disabilities

Funding Considerations

Organizational Strength

- **Aligns with** the strategic vision for The Boston Foundation
- **Clear mission and vision** that guide the organization
- Strong **staff and board leadership, that is diverse and representative** (demographic composition and lived experience) of the community they serve
- Deep **commitment to equity** (internally and externally)
- Strong emphasis on **incorporating learnings from a measurement/assessment plan**
- **Strong collaboration/partnerships** with community and community-based organizations

Funding Considerations

Proposal's Potential for Impact

- The grant size will **have a meaningful impact on the organization's effectiveness** and ability to meet its mission
- **Authentically serves populations and communities** historically excluded from institutions and/or systems

Exclusions

We do NOT make grants for:

- Capital construction costs
- Endowments
- Medical or academic research
- Scholarships
- Individual persons
- Sectarian or religious purposes
- To support candidates for political offices
- Private non-operating foundations, 501(c)(4) organizations, and Section 501(a)(3) Type III Non-functionally Integrated organizations

I'm eligible!

How do I apply?



Login

Email

Password

Login

Forgot Password?

New to the System as a Grant Applicant?

For Grant Applicants Only: Please first try using the "Forgot password?" link to access your account. If you do not receive an email after 10 minutes and it is not in your spam folder, you may be new to our database. Please click the "Register" button below to set up an account. If you have any trouble, reach out to grantsinfo@tbf.org.

Register

Complete an **online application** (available on [the Boston Foundation Website](https://bostonfoundation.smartsimple.com))



Registration Options

Please click on one of the buttons below to set up a **new** SmartSimple account **as a grant applicant**. These forms are for new grant applicant registrants only. If you already have a SmartSimple account, please go back to the main login page <https://bostonfoundation.smartsimple.com> and use the password reset link. For questions, please email grantsinfo@tbf.org.

I am applying for a grant:

On behalf of an Organization

As an Individual or as part of a Group of Individuals (only available for Live Arts Boston and Next Steps grant programs)

Smart Simple Login Information

If this is your first time using the Boston Foundation's SmartSimple grants portal, please follow the steps below:

- Go to the SmartSimple [login page](#)
- Use the “Forgot Password?” link and input your email when prompted. If you already have an account in our system, you will receive an email at the address you provided with a link to reset your password. Please try the password reset link even if you have never used our SmartSimple system before. If you are already in our database, then you likely already have an account.
- Once you receive the password reset email, click on the link to create a new password and log into the SmartSimple system. You can access open funding opportunities under the icon “Funding Opportunities”.
- If you do not receive an email after 10 minutes, then you should create a new account.

Creating a New Account in Smart Simple

- Click on the blue Register button underneath the login box.
- Click on the appropriate box to indicate that you are applying on behalf of an organization
- Register your organization. **Read the instruction box carefully.** You should first search the TBF database for your organization, then register yourself as a contact at that organization. If you cannot find your organization in TBF's database, you can use either the IRS search form or the open form to find and register your organization.
- Click the blue "Submit" button at the bottom of the page when finished. Once you have clicked the blue "Submit" button, you will be prompted to check your email to set up a new password for your account. Follow the instructions provided in the email to log into the system.

I'm eligible!

How do I apply?

(The Boston Foundation) to the Boston Foundation Portal

Thank you for visiting our new grants portal! We thank you for your patience as we implement this new and improved platform. Please reach out to grantsinfo@tbf.org with any feedback or questions.



Profile Image:



DETAILS

INTEGRATION

SYSTEM

Status:

Active

* First Name:

Quynh

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Nguyen

Initials:

QXN

Prefix:

* Primary Email:

quynh.nguyen@tbf.org

* Organization:

The Boston Foundation



Save Draft

Flag for Update [FP]

Send Password

Set Password

Funding Opportunities

This page is regularly updated to share grant opportunities open for application at the Boston Foundation. If you do not see any open opportunities below, please be sure to check back at this page periodically, or, [subscribe to the Nonprofit Update e-newsletter at this link](#) to be informed of open opportunities as they arise.

We recommend using a computer with the Google Chrome browser to fill out your application, as not all functionality is available on a smartphone.

OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (1)

#	Name	Description	Closes On
1		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. Applications are due April 6th, 2026 at 5PM.	04/06/2026

When you navigate back to the home page, you should see the Funding Opportunities icon. Click apply for grant next to the opportunity named "Safety Net Grants".

Request for Funding

General Tips

200-400 words

Per open response

Log in a few days before deadline

in case of technical
difficulties

Mention current events

and how they have
impacted your
organization

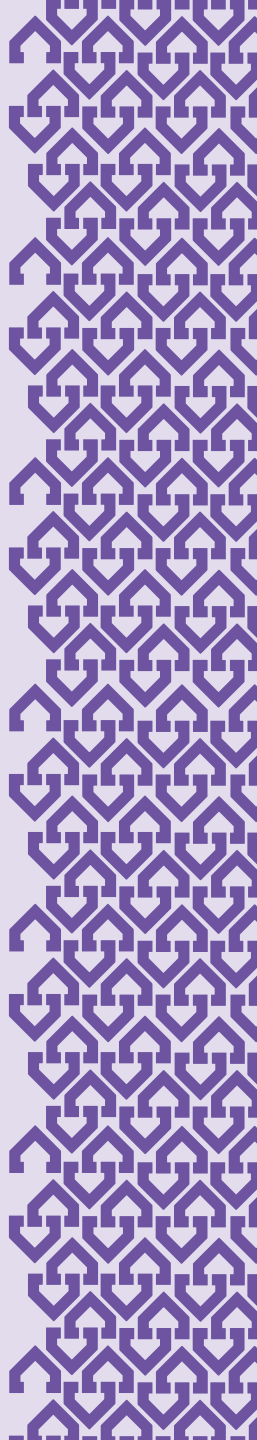
Ask questions

please don't hesitate to
reach out to the Safety
Net Grants Team

Read aloud

Having your narrative
read aloud can help
with editing responses

Safety Net Ecosystem



Upcoming SNG Deadline

October, 30 2026 at 5:00pm

Thank you!

Safety Net Grants Team

Email: safetynetgrants@tbf.org

Group Discussion Questions

- 1. What changes are you seeing in the needs of the individuals and families you serve right now? What feels different from six months or a year ago?**
- 2. What needs are increasing that you feel are not receiving enough attention or funding right now?**
- 3. Where are you seeing the greatest gaps in the current safety-net ecosystem?**
For example, are there services people need that are difficult to find, access, or qualify for?
- 4. How are organizations adapting to increased demand while working with limited staff, funding, and capacity? What strategies have been helpful, and what is becoming unsustainable?**
- 5. Are there communities or populations whose needs you believe are being overlooked within the current funding priorities?**
- 6. What is one thing you want The Boston Foundation to better understand about what it takes to provide effective safety-net services right now?**