

AIDS Funding Collaborative 2026 Responsive Grant Review Criteria

Grants from the AIDS Funding Collaborative are awarded on the basis of a review process involving the following steps:

- Review of Letters of Intent (LOIs) by the AFC Responsive Grants Committee;
- Technical assistance with organizations invited to submit a full proposal;
- Review of proposals by the Responsive Grants Committee and final follow-up with organizations, as needed, to come to consensus on funding recommendations;
- Review and discussion of the Responsive Committee's written recommendations, and decision-making by majority vote of the full AFC Advisory Committee.

The AFC Responsive Grants Committee is comprised of AFC staff and members of the AFC's Advisory Committee representing our public and private funding partners, designated organizations, and community-at-large members.

In deciding whether or not to request a full proposal, the AFC assesses the available grantmaking dollars and the degree to which:

- The proposal is responsive to one or more of the 3 [funding priority areas](#) (in the RFA):
 1. HIV/AIDS Care and Support Services
 2. HIV Prevention
 3. Community-led and Neighborhood-based Programming
- The proposal is responsive to one of the 3 [funding mechanisms](#) (as outlined in the RFA):
 1. Programmatic Support
 2. Community Capacity Building
 3. General Operating Support
- The need is clear and demonstrates service to the most impacted neighborhoods and populations;
- The project or organization's mission relates to the AFC's [strategic priorities](#) and [the local HIV epidemic](#);
- Activities are fully conceptualized (with evidence to support them) and are designed to increase the likelihood that the program/organization will be successful;
- The proposed budget is reasonable and appropriate for the proposal;
- The organization meets the eligibility requirements, and has the leadership, staff, infrastructure, and expertise to carry out the proposal (e.g., history of successful outcomes, experience well-suited);
- The application is complete, accurate, and meets the guidelines.

As stated in the RFA, if all other review criteria are equivalent, AFC gives special consideration to projects that are collaborative in nature and/or utilize people living with HIV in the conceptualization, delivery or evaluation of the project.

Questions about the RFA, application process, or review criteria can be directed to Julie Patterson, (216) 290-4940 or jpatterson@communitysolutions.com.