



AFC 2026 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meetings - NOTES

Meeting #1

- 1 participant from: AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland (ATGC)

Topic: AFC 2026 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meeting #1

Date: June 3, 2026

Cloud recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Pvd1lxSndf3M3P9y9hrcusYDfuYHFR2wkl-RR0k21k9xT1ALJF4XpNjr-ZYkKi4e.5z-IIFmXeqs3ZCdm?startTime=1780498772000>

Passcode: xKtn+j00

Meeting #2

- 11 participants from: Sankofa; ROOTED in the Community; LGBT Center; Nueva Luz; We Think 4 a Change; Str8 Positive; and ATGC.

Topic: AFC 2026 Responsive Grants Technical Assistance Meeting #2

Date: Jun 4, 2026

Cloud recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5Do6HkKREj7IoxDg2zINjSbuRKS5-Y0xhnFTt4hOURy9VHufYJl7vtc7ljk2lxB.-mxgDJkLLz85-qVr?startTime=1780592440000>

Passcode: HUOn#leJ

Questions:

Q: Does the term funding mechanism in the document refer to different types of grants, or is this only for responsive?

A: The funding mechanisms defined in the Request for Applications (RFA) document are specific to responsive grants. The discretionary and catalyst grants have different policies and those can be found on our website.

Q: Where are the various forms found, like the Letter of Intent form? Were they in an email?

A: The RFA document and LOI form were emailed out to many people, but all forms can be found on our website page for grantmaking, found at this address: <https://www.communitysolutions.com/aids-funding-collaborative/grantmaking>

Q: Is there a general range or cap on responsive grants?

A: The range tends to be between \$20,000 to \$50,000 for each responsive grant. There is no official cap, just a rule of thumb or historical pattern.

Q: Which budget are you asking for, the project budget or the agency budget?

A: In the letter of intent (LOI) in question 5, we ask for the project budget. If you are invited to submit a full application, we will ask for a more detailed project budget in our budget template with narrative, plus a copy of your agency's 2026 organizational budget.

Q: Is the RFA very similar to last year?

A: Yes, the RFA is very similar to last year. The differences are in the timeline as well as in the background context in the HIV services community. The AFC is carefully monitoring delays and cuts to publicly-funded HIV services in Cuyahoga County and may pivot our funding toward Targeted Grants to address any significant gaps that jeopardize essential services.

Q: How much is in the responsive grants pool of funds this year?

A: The AFC has approximately \$250,000 allocated to responsive grants this year.

Q: Is the total of \$250,000 about the same amount that was available last year?

A: It is about \$35,000 less than last year.

Q: Can we apply for staff support?

A: Yes, staff support is welcome when it is part of your proposed program, and it does not count towards overhead costs.

Q: Are there any specific non-allowable costs besides “endowment, fundraising events, and capital-only requests not otherwise responsive to the funding priorities”?

A: In years past there has been a desire by the grants committee to avoid duplication by generally not funding medical research, treatment, or clinical services, including anti-retroviral therapy (ART), HIV test kits, and PrEP medication. If these items are part of your proposal, you are advised to itemize them separately and fully explain why other funding sources are not available.

Q: If we have never been funded by the AFC before, should our organization aim for a responsive grant, or are we better suited for a catalyst grant?

A: It is true that with catalyst grants, preference will be given to organizations that the AFC has not previously funded with responsive or targeted grants. That said, the AFC is excited to receive a letter of intent (hear your ideas) especially for prevention, linkage to care, and community-centered work regardless of whether you are a new grantee. Feel free to apply in the responsive grant category. If it isn't a good fit, the committee may ask you to scale back and re-submit in the catalyst category. There are still funds available in catalyst for 2026.