

Rest Cottage Association Grant Guidelines

About The Ebell and the Rest Cottage Association

The Ebell of Los Angeles, founded in 1894, is one of the oldest women’s organizations in Los Angeles. In 1918, The Ebell was gifted a cottage in South Los Angeles. The Ebell members created the Rest Cottage Association (RCA), with the purpose of providing a refuge for women needing convalescence. Years later a larger property in MacArthur Park was purchased, replacing the cottage, and the RCA women continued the mission of creating a safe space for women to rebuild their physical and mental health. With time the property lost its usefulness, was sold and the proceeds invested in an endowment portfolio. This endowment enables the Rest Cottage Association to be a grant maker to nonprofit social services organizations. The Rest Cottage Association is proud to continue its founding purpose by providing grants, volunteers, and networking opportunities to organizations that help women and their children throughout Los Angeles County. In doing this work, RCA members embody the motto of The Ebell — “I will find a way or make one - I serve”.

Mission of the Rest Cottage Association

The mission of The Ebell Rest Cottage Association is to fund charitable projects of 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving women in need in Los Angeles County, and their minor children.

Overview of the Grants Program

Rest Cottage Association Grants provide programmatic support to organizations that are aligned with the mission of the RCA, serving women and their children in Los Angeles County. RCA grants are intended to directly fund programs that provide services to women, and therefore capital improvement requests are typically not funded.

Grant Size and Duration

Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for a one-year grant period.

Key Dates

May 1 – Open for applications

June 30 – Deadline for applications to be submitted

June 30 – Recipients submit their mid-year report

December – Notification to all applicants and disbursement of funds

December 31 – Recipients submit their end-of-year report

April – RCA Luncheon at The Ebell to honor grantees

If any of these dates fall on a weekend, the due date will be the following Monday.

How to Apply

Use the on-line application and upload all required documentation. Incomplete and late submissions will not be considered.

Eligibility

It is required that applicants:

- serve women (and their children 18 years and younger) in need in Los Angeles County¹
 - 95% - 100% of people served by the organization's specific program should be women and their children
- provide services that are open to any eligible woman in the County in need of services
- are a 501(c)(3), operating for at least 3 years, evidenced by an IRS letter of determination
- have filed a recent IRS Form 990, not longer than 3 years ago
- have a board-approved organization-wide budget for the current year
- have submitted all required reports, if they have previously received a grant from the Rest Cottage Association

Required Supporting Documents

Applicants must upload all required documentation, or the application will not be complete:

- Most recent IRS Form 990
- IRS 501(c)(3) Letter of Determination
- Last fiscal year and Year-to-date Income Statement and Balance Sheet
- Program Budget for the coming fiscal year
- Any mid-year or end-of-year reports submitted to the RCA during the past two years.

Assessment Process

After an initial eligibility screening process, all eligible applications are then thoroughly reviewed against the criteria by at least two reviewers who are members of the RCA Gifts & Investment Policy Committee. Once all reviews are submitted, the committee will then consider the evaluations of all eligible applications and make funding decisions accordingly.

Screening criteria

- Applications are screened against each eligibility requirement (see list above) and a site visit may be required.

Evaluation criteria

1. Clarity about the work of the program and its impact, the need for that work, and how this grant would maintain or increase the program's impact
2. The extent to which the program is in alignment with the mission and history of the RCA and The Ebell of Los Angeles

¹ Teens experiencing adult issues, such as pregnancy, motherhood, caretaking responsibilities, or having been sex trafficked are defined as women.

3. Evidence that the specific approach is highly effective, or has the potential to be highly effective, in improving and maintaining the mental, physical, and/or financial health of women and children
4. Capacity to do the work proposed in the application, taking into account: staffing; leadership; governance; infrastructure; finances; volunteers; empathy; and other factors
5. The number of women and children served, the cost per beneficiary, and the program's value for money
6. Plan for recognizing the support provided by the RCA

The Committee will strive to select a balanced portfolio of grantees in any given round, to support:

- a variety of focus areas such as urgent shelter, transitional shelter, education, health care, legal support, financial literacy, counseling, and combating human trafficking and domestic violence, and
- a variety of organizations, taking into account factors such as organization size, revenue, staffing, volunteers, and resources.

Conflict of Interest

If at any time during the assessment process there is an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest, the reviewer or committee member will declare that conflict and the Committee will take appropriate action, such as re-assignment to another reviewer or abstaining from voting. Examples of conflicts include being a current or former Board member or staff member, or being a major donor.

Re-applying

Grantees may apply and be funded for consecutive years, subject to satisfactorily meeting the reporting requirements. If an organization is funded for five consecutive years, it is required to take a two-year hiatus before re-applying.

Recognition

It is expected that you will publicly acknowledge the Rest Cottage Association's grant. This may be on your website, in your newsletter, on social media, or by any other medium. Copies of publicity are to be included in your reports.

Reporting requirements

All grantees are required to submit a brief mid-calendar year and end-of-year report as to how the monies were used and the impact of the funding.

Effective Date and Related Documents

These guidelines are current as of February 17, 2026. The guidelines should be read alongside the current year's application form, released on May 1 of each year.