

Grant Resources for Harford County & Maryland

Finding the right grants for your nonprofit begins with a clear understanding of your mission, vision, and the specific impact you are making in your community. Research shows that funders are more likely to support organizations whose work closely aligns with their stated priorities. Focus on grants that are a natural fit for your work and values.

Using targeted search tools can make the grant-seeking process more efficient. Platforms like Grants.gov, Candid, and state or county grant portals can help identify relevant opportunities. Rather than casting a wide net, invest time in understanding which grants are the best fit for your organization's size, mission area, and stage of growth. Also, regularly check local foundations, county programs, and arts councils, as these sources often receive fewer applications and offer more targeted funding opportunities. In addition, creating and maintaining a grant calendar is essential. Tracking deadlines, eligibility requirements, and reporting timelines helps you stay organized and allows for more strategic planning.

Building relationships is another useful tool. Funders are more likely to support organizations they know and trust. Attend informational sessions, engage with program officers, and reach out with thoughtful questions well before submitting an application. Establishing these connections early can increase your chances of success. A thoughtful and focused approach to finding and applying for grants can significantly increase support for your organization's long-term sustainability and impact.

Below is a list of some local and statewide grant opportunities, as well as some grant databases that should help you find the grants that align with your priorities.

Local Grant Opportunities

- [Harford County Government Grants Portal](#)
 - Harford County offers a centralized portal for nonprofits to apply for and manage grant applications. Funding areas include housing assistance, food insecurity, transportation, and programs for youth, seniors, and individuals with differing abilities.
- [Harford County Grant-In-Aid Program](#)
 - This program enhances the capacity of organizations to provide human services, addressing emergency and daily needs of Harford County residents.
- [Community Foundation of Harford County \(CFHC\)](#)
 - CFHC awards annual grants to nonprofits for projects that improve the quality of life in Harford County.
- [Women's Giving Circle of Harford County](#)

- Provides grants to nonprofits serving women, children, and families in Harford County.
- [Harford County Cultural Arts Board](#)
 - Offers grants to nonprofit arts organizations for general operating costs and to other nonprofits for arts programming open to the public.
- [Dresher Foundation](#)
 - Supports nonprofits in Harford County, with a focus on operating support and addressing increased demand for services.

Statewide Grant Opportunities

- [Maryland Governor's Grants Office](#)
 - Provides a comprehensive list of state and private foundation grant opportunities.
- [Maryland Humanities – SHINE Grant Program](#)
 - Offers general operating support to nonprofits conducting work in the humanities throughout Maryland.
- [Maryland Philanthropy Network – Small Grants Program](#)
 - Allows smaller nonprofits to apply for grants up to \$50,000 over two years for operating, program, or capital needs.
- [United Way of Central Maryland](#)
 - Supports programs and initiatives in Harford and surrounding counties.
- [UMMS Community Impact Grants](#)
 - Funds programs and events that foster thriving, healthy communities in Maryland.
- [Maryland State Arts Council Grants](#)
 - Offers grants for arts organizations.

Grant Search Tools

Free

- [Grants.gov](#)
 - Comprehensive database of federal grant opportunities.
 - Federal grant opportunities are more likely to result in grant awards based on criteria rather than relationships.

Paid: (All three have a free trial period to use before exiting.)

Private institutions will prioritize larger organizations first. Start state and region wide where the relationships are built on the ground. National private entities rarely result in localized funding for organizations operating under \$5M annually.

- [Candid's Foundation Directory Online \(FDO\) Quick Start](#)
 - Access to basic information on over 100,000 foundations.
- [Instrument](#)
 - Offers a searchable database of grants, including those specific to Maryland and Harford County.
- [GrantWatch](#)
 - Lists current grant opportunities across various sectors. Note: Requires a subscription for full access.