



Discretionary Grants: Children's Services 2026 Guidelines

GLCF will award multiple grants of up to \$10,000 each to projects that support services for children. The Foundation welcomes proposals that improve the quality of life for children and young adults (birth to age 22.)

Grant decisions and amounts will be determined based on a variety of factors, including:

- Organization size - understanding the impact of a grant of this size on your organization
- Location(s) of impact - demonstrating commitment to Greater Lowell and role in the region's social services ecosystem, including strong & established local collaborations and partnerships
- Organization impact and reach - including population served, # of households served, type(s) of programming offered, etc.
- Organization's leadership and financial health

GRANT PROCESS

The 2026 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

- Monday, **February 2, 12:00 PM** Applications open online
- Monday, **March 2, 12:00 PM** Applications due
- Mid-May Applicants notified of decisions via email

ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation will consider applications from organizations that:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization **OR** have an eligible fiscal sponsor, or Congregation, Government, or Education Organizations
- Are based in and/or serve one or more of the following Greater Lowell cities/towns: Acton, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Billerica, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Lowell, Pepperell, Shirley, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Westford and Wilmington
- Do not limit service based on an individual's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability.

Please note: Agencies with multiple service sites should submit only one application for all sites.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Beginning February 2nd applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to GLCF, please create an account at [HERE](#) (multiple short video tutorials are available on the righthand side of the login page).
3. If your organization has applied to GLCF in the past, please log into your existing account [HERE](#)
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select **2026 Discretionary Grants Cycle**

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MONDAY MARCH 2nd at 12:00 PM

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your application, please send a detailed email maria@glcfoundation.org as early as possible. We may provide additional guidance via email or schedule a brief call to discuss.