

# Highmark BluePrints for the Community

## Information Session - Small Grants

February 20, 2026



# Housekeeping

- Please mute your line.
- We will take questions at the end of the webinar.
- If you have questions, you may put them in the chat or hold them until the question portion of the meeting.
- Questions in the chat will be addressed first, and verbally during the question portion of the meeting.

# Background

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In 2007, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware established BluePrints for the Community, a grant program to help address the issues faced by Delaware's uninsured and underserved populations.

The program was established as a donor-advised fund at the Delaware Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that manages and administers charitable funds throughout Delaware. From inception through 2025, over 325 grants totaling more than \$40 million have been awarded.

# Goals

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Proposals should aim to **increase access to care and/or reduce health disparities.**

**Access to care** – Can an individual obtain the necessary healthcare services when they need them? Considerations include location, insurance coverage, provider availability, income, etc.

## **Health Disparities**

- Largely preventable health differences that adversely affect populations who experience greater challenges to optimal health
- Are closely linked with intergenerational social, economic, and/or environmental factors—primarily observed among racial and/or ethnic minority populations and/or persons with low income.
- Can be observed in the risks, prevalence, or problems resulting from specific behaviors, as well as the incidence, prevalence, and mortality from conditions, diseases, and/or disorders.

# Focus Areas

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Proposals should aim to **increase access to care and/or reduce health disparities** through a program/project that falls within one of these five areas:

- **Healthcare Access**  
Examples: preventative care, disease specific, health literacy, research, etc.
- **Economic Stability for Families and Individuals**  
Examples: financial resources strains, food insecurity, housing stability, etc.
- **Social and Community Context**  
Examples: mental health, physical activities, social connections, etc.
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment**  
Examples: safety, transportation, environmental health, infrastructure, etc.
- **Health Workforce**  
Examples: training, upskilling, further education, provider practice improvements, etc.

# Available Funding & Timeline

2026 - \$1,000,000 across two cycles

## **Small grant cycle**

- Around \$400,000 in total
- Proposals up to \$50,000
- Typical awards are between \$20k - \$50k
- Timeline
  - Opens - February 9, 2026
  - Closes - April 9, 2026
  - Review period - April 10 - May 29, 2026
  - Notice - Early June 2026
  - Grant period: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

# Available Funding & Timeline

## Large grant cycle

- Around \$600,000 in total
- Grant proposals up to \$200,000
- Typical awards are between \$50k and \$100k
- Timeline
  - Opens - June 1, 2026
  - Closes - July 31, 2026
  - Review period - August 1- September 15, 2026
  - Notice - End of September
  - Grant period: October 15, 2026 - October 14, 2027

# Eligibility

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- Applying organization must be an incorporated not-for-profit 501c3 or community-benefit government agency, such as libraries, parks, public school districts.
- BluePrints for the Community does not award grants to individuals.
- Applicants must disclose any conflict of interest due to representation by their organization on the BCBSD Advisory Council or Board of Directors or the Delaware Community Foundation Board of Directors.
- **Organizations with an active Highmark grant are not eligible to apply again until their grant cycle is complete.** While there are no restrictions on number of applications or awards received, funding and performance history are taken into consideration.

# Not Supported

- Non-501(c)3 organizations
- Purchase of office equipment, furniture or standard office expenses
- Sports clubs, leagues or facilities
- Endowments
- Religious organizations for sectarian purposes
- Annual fundraising campaigns
- Projects completed **before** the grant period begins
- Individuals
- Special events
- Debt reduction

# Key Factors Considered

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- Alignment with goals and focus areas
- Need
- Cost vs. benefit
- Geographic distribution
- Strength of evidence
- Proposed outcomes
- Target population

# Past Grants

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- In 2025, Highmark BluePrints for the Community awarded \$1,000,000 to 24 organizations across the state, including:
  - Milton & Hattie Kutz Home: Elder Abuse Sanctuary
  - Millford Housing Development Corp: Healthy & Resilient Communities
  - Vision to Learn: Free Eye Exams and Glasses
  - Nurses & Neighbors Collaborative: Foot Care Patrol
  - CAMP Rehoboth: Family Mental Health Support
  - ARC of DE: Group Home Safety/Accessibility

# Process

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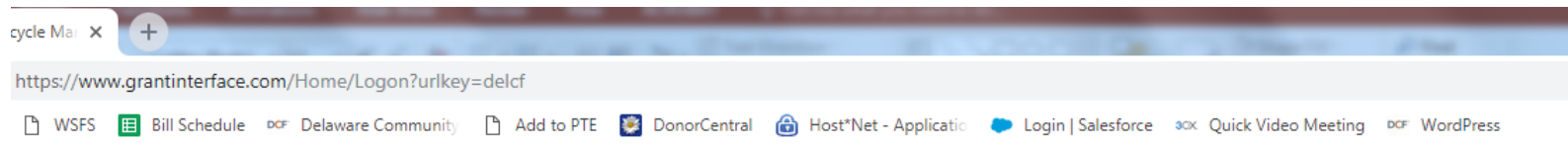
## Application Process

- Must be submitted using the online DCF application
- Only one application per organization
- Other formats will not be accepted

## Questions

- Questions on process or grant portal
  - Email Kelly Sheridan: [KSheridan@delcf.org](mailto:KSheridan@delcf.org)
- Questions on content/strategy/fit
  - Email Kate Dupont Phillips: [KDupontPhillips@delcf.org](mailto:KDupontPhillips@delcf.org)
  - Schedule a 20-min discussion with Kate via [Calendly](#).

# Applying Online



## Logon Page

**Email Address\***

sgrunewald@delcf.org

**Password\***

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Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Delaware Community Foundation's online grant portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact Kelly Sheridan at [ksheridan@delcf.org](mailto:ksheridan@delcf.org) to receive your username.

# Applying Online

Delaware Community Foundation



Apply

## Applicant Dashboard

Public Profile

### Applicant:

Mrs. Molly Applicant  
mollyapplicant@invalid.email.com  
[555-555-5555](tel:555-555-5555)  
398 60th Street  
Bozeman, MT 59718



### Organization:

Example Organization  
[13-1635295](tel:13-1635295)  
[555-55-5556](tel:555-55-5556)  
398 60th Street  
Bozeman, MT 59718

[Contact Email History](#)

If your organization information does not appear correct, please contact the funder. Thank you.

Active Requests **5**

Historical Requests **1**

∨ New Desks

**Process:** Example Process -Joyce

LOI	Submitted	09/24/2018
Application	Assigned	09/24/2018
Decision	Undecided	

[View LOI](#)  
[Edit Application](#)

# The Application

## **Organizational Information**

- Organization Name
- EIN
- Years of Operation
- Mission Statement
- History of the Organization
- Geography Served
- Contact Information

# The Application

## Details

- BluePrints Priority Area
- Project Name
- Project Summary
- Measuring Success/Proposed Timeline
- Population Served (Target Population)/Geography Served
- Amount Requested
- Partners/Collaboration
- Project Budget & Estimates/Quotes
- Substantiate Need (Budget Narrative)

# The Application

## Required Attachments

- Most Recent Audited Financials and Form 990
- Operating Budget for Organization
- Project Budget
- Board of Directors List
- IRS Determination Letter
- Additional Upload (Photos or Collateral)

# The Application

## **Payment Processing**

- Authorization of Payment
- Voided Check or Letter from Bank

# The Rubric

## **Organization/Financial Sustainability**

- Organization Overview
- Experience
- Funding History

## **Project/Program Need**

- Align with guidelines/Priority Areas
- Use of Funds
- Project Design
- Data Supporting Need

## **Project/Program Impact**

- Target Population
- Impact
- Measurable Outcomes
- Project Budget

# Review Process

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- DCF staff reviews for completeness and fit.
- Proposals are reviewed and scored by Highmark and DCF liaisons.
- Once review is complete, the Highmark liaisons meets to recommend organizations for funding to Highmark.
- List of recommended awards are submitted to the Highmark and DCF Boards for approval.
- Once approved, DCF staff notifies all applicants of grant decisions.

# Notification

## If You Receive a Highmark BluePrints Grant

- Spread the word! Highmark provides media kits to share.

## If You Do Not Receive a Grant

- You may apply the following cycle.

# Reporting

- 6 months: Progress report (Large grants only)
- 12 months: Final report
  
- Successful completion of proposed work is considered in review of future applications.
- Communication is key!

# Questions?