



The Falmouth Fund
Guidelines for 2026 Grants
Application Deadline: Friday, September 26, 2025

PLEASE READ THE GUIDLINES CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING

Introduction

The Falmouth Fund was established as a town fund of The Cape Cod Foundation in 2009 to serve as a responsive resource for a vibrant town. The Falmouth Fund supports diverse needs across the community in the areas of health and human services; education, youth, and recreation; arts and culture, and the environment. Since its inception, the Fund has distributed over \$1.3M in grants to more than 100 organizations.

The Fund seeks grant applications from nonprofit organizations that bring innovative thinking to issues — both large and small — that foster new ideas, approaches, and involve collaborations. Our priority is to support high-impact proposals that demonstrate a direct and lasting benefit to the Falmouth community. We are particularly interested in initiatives that incorporate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Fund is not a substitute source for funding basic town services. The intention is to support services and programs that extend beyond these basic services and enhance Falmouth's special character and values. **All projects must serve people in the Town of Falmouth.**

Overview

The Falmouth Fund's grants are highly competitive, typically awarding about 50% of its applicants. Grant awards ranged from \$2000 - \$10,000 with an average between \$3000 - \$4000. As part of our strategy, we award fewer, larger grants to increase impact. Although we admire and support ongoing programs in our community, it is not The Falmouth Fund's intent to be a continuous source of annual revenue for any one program or organization. We are most interested in projects that

- Involve collaboration. We encourage organizations with similar projects and activities to consider a joint proposal.
- Will make a significant or lasting impact within the Falmouth community. For example:
 - o direct services, programming, and one-time community focused events (such as a concert or educational event).
 - o projects that are more strategic in nature, including: new initiatives, long-term solutions to pressing needs.
- Respond to the impact of public funding uncertainty and policy changes on Falmouth organizations and residents.
-

Examples of eligible projects

Proposals should provide direct benefit to residents of Falmouth. Some examples include:

- Existing programs or projects with a track record of success with a one-year time frame

- New programs or projects, including pilot projects. This includes planning and developmental costs required to launch a new initiative.
- One-time projects that benefit the community. This does not include fundraisers or other event sponsorships.
- Strategic initiatives that enable an organization to better serve the Falmouth community or that provide the foundation for expanded efforts by the organization to better carry out their mission. These projects set up the organization and the community for greater future success. Examples include:
 - o Projects that provide a long-term vision or solution for a pressing challenge. This may include collaborations with other organizations.
 - o Enhancement or capacity-building projects that help an organization build internal capacity or infrastructure to better deliver services in Falmouth. Capital projects are not generally funded.
- General Operating Support for organizations that have previously received funding before from The Falmouth Fund. These organizations must be able to demonstrate secure leadership and evidence of their organization directly impacting Falmouth residents in the year 2026.

Types of Organizations that May Apply

- 501(c)(3) public charities
- Organizations serving a charitable purpose that are applying with a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3) public charity.
- Public and private schools, for projects that exceed the school's budget funding (must have a letter of support from the superintendent or head of school)
- Faith-based organizations; however, proposals will only be considered if: (1) services benefit all, regardless of religion; (2) service provided is not religious in nature; and (3) there is no proselytizing associated with the service.

Limitations

The Falmouth Fund will generally not consider proposals to fund the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Debt reduction | • Fundraising events |
| • Projects that will be completed prior to the grant award. | • Maintenance and repair |
| • Capital campaigns. | • Educational projects that serve <i>one</i> classroom – must impact the entire grade level or school and must be accompanied by a letter of support from the superintendent. |
| • Endowment funds | |
| • Monuments and memorials | |
| • Scholarships | |

Evaluation Considerations:

In response to frequently asked questions, here are a few evaluation considerations from our committee that will be useful as you develop your proposal:

- If applying for funding to support a staff position, demonstrate how the position will be sustainable into the future. The Falmouth Fund will not support new staff positions if the sustainability of the position is a concern.
- If applying for funding to support an organization's ability to better serve residents of Falmouth, such as a strategic initiative, capacity building project, infrastructure, or operational enhancement, you must demonstrate how this project is essential to supporting the Falmouth community specifically.

- If your project is implemented in partnership with another organization, include a letter of collaboration or support from that organization. **Please note:** if your project includes any involvement with the schools, provide a letter from the superintendent or head of school.
- The Falmouth Fund is rarely the sole funder of any one project. However, if the proposed project can be accomplished with funding from The Falmouth Fund alone, ensure that your organization budget exemplifies diverse revenue streams.

Complete applications have the best chance of success. Incomplete applications may not be considered. Please carefully review the questions and requirements to ensure that your application is complete. We recommend paying attention to your financial submissions to ensure they reflect requirements and align with your narrative. Key questions to ask:

- Does the budget you have submitted match your narrative?
- Will the committee understand the project? Is the request clear?

Timeline

The deadline to apply for 2026 funding from The Falmouth Fund is Friday, **September 26, 2025**.

After a proposal is submitted, The Cape Cod Foundation's staff will screen it for eligibility and completeness. The Falmouth Fund Grant Review Committee, comprised of knowledgeable community members, will consider all eligible proposals in October and November. Following grant review, recommendations will be presented to The Cape Cod Foundation's Board of Directors.

Grantees will be notified in December 2025, and grants will be awarded in January 2026.

Grant Evaluation Process

The Falmouth Fund has an obligation to be good stewards of its resources, so we work hard to ensure that we make fair and appropriate decisions. Grants will be evaluated based on the following:

- Clear impact on the Falmouth community
- Clear objectives that relate to the applicant's organizational mission
- A thoughtful, practical work plan for achieving objectives, and for measuring and sustaining the impact.
- Community needs
- Organizational health: capacity of the organization, staff, and volunteer leadership to complete the work.
- Financial health: which demonstrates that the organization receives support from multiple sources. This includes diverse and balanced funding strategies (a mix of different revenue streams) and the ability to leverage revenue.

Financials

Organization financials are an essential consideration of The Falmouth Fund committee. All applicants must use the required template to be considered for review. You can find this template [here](#) and an instructional video on how to use this template [here](#).

A few tips:

- Please use the "This Request" and "Total Project Budget" columns of this template to demonstrate the sources of income and the expenses associated with this specific request.

- We prefer that you use the "Organization Budget" column of this template to provide your overall organization budget from your last completed fiscal year. However, if it is easier, you can instead include your own organization budget. This must be the organization's most recently completed fiscal year budget and should thoroughly demonstrate the organization's financial health, including income and expenses. This should not be a Profit and Loss statement or Form 990.
- If you decide to use your own unique Organization Budget, please do not complete the third column on the budget template.
- Applicants for General Operating Support will only need to submit an organizational budget.

How to Apply

All applications will be submitted through The Cape Cod Foundation's online [grant management system](#). Please [click here](#) to learn more about using our system prior to completing an application. If you have already created an organizational profile with The Cape Cod Foundation, you will not need to create a new one for The Falmouth Fund.

A meeting with The Cape Cod Foundation or with The Falmouth Fund is not expected or required.

Reporting

The Falmouth Fund likes to keep track of the accomplishments and good work of our grantees, along with the challenges they are facing. If a grant is awarded, the Foundation must receive a final narrative and financial report on the project. The final report is due in September 2026 or earlier though if you need more time, you can request an extension. The report can be a copy of something you are already preparing or a simple bullet-point document including financials. All reports must be completed before applying for subsequent grants from The Falmouth Fund. Please reach out to The Cape Cod Foundation with any questions.

For More Information

The Cape Cod Foundation offers several ways for you to learn more and have your questions answered.

1. You will find grant tutorials, guidelines and a 30 minute webinar available for viewing on our [website](#).
2. For short questions, 4 **Open Zoom Office Hours** have been scheduled. These are informal drop-in sessions where a member of Foundation staff will be available to answer questions to anyone who joins. Attendance is optional and has no bearing on grant review or decisions. Dates and Registration [here](#).
3. For first time applicants, or those who need more information, two (2) **Zoom Information Sessions** have been scheduled. These are informal, optional presentations from Foundation staff on the grant process for town funds. You can also view a 30 - minute webinar in its entirety on our website. Attendance or non-attendance at an information session has no bearing on grant review or decisions. Dates and registration [here](#).
4. For general questions about how to apply and/or questions about the grants portal, contact info@capecodfoundation.org. 508-790-3040. The contact person for this grant is: Jeanne Ruckert Lovy, Director of Impact, jlovoy@capecodfoundation.org.