



## HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THREE NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE MAUI STRONG FUND

*The funding opportunities focus on interim and long-term housing and mental health programs to support fire-affected individuals and families.*

**Lahaina, Maui** — Today, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is announcing three new funding opportunities from the Maui Strong Fund. The targeted grantmaking programs are being made available as a result of recent data, reports and community conversations demonstrating a need for additional solutions on interim and long-term housing and mental health programs.

Last week, the first report from "[The Maui Recovery Survey](#)," which was produced in partnership with HCF, the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i (UHERO) and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), shared the following findings:

- Households impacted by the fire are paying on average 43 percent more rent for the same or fewer bedrooms, compared with before the wildfires.
- At least 14 percent of surveyed households live in crowded conditions.
- The proportion of fire-affected households living with family/friends or unhoused has nearly doubled since the wildfires.
- 80 percent of West Maui residents surveyed have been displaced from their homes, and almost half have had to leave West Maui.
- Displacement has not only affected residents of West Maui and Kula. More than a third of those who worked or owned businesses in West Maui or Kula, but lived elsewhere, were displaced from their homes following the disaster.

Additionally, a recent study by the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, "Maui Together Wildfire Assessment 2024," provides insight into the mental health crisis, with feedback provided by 1,105 fire-impacted individuals:

- Almost 60 percent have moved at least three times since the fires, and 33 percent have moved four or more times.
- Nearly 58 percent of these respondents saying the uncertainty of the future is the hardest thing to face since the fires, followed by housing (40 percent), the difficulty of navigating the system (30 percent), and the emotional and mental impacts of the losses they have faced (32 percent).

- About 64 percent of fire survivors note a deterioration of their mental health over the past year, with a general concern about there not being enough providers.

“Fire-affected individuals and families deserve to have safe and stable homes that are affordable and located in their communities,” says Keanu Lau Hee, HCF’s Senior Director of the Maui Recovery Effort. “To cultivate more solutions to meet the housing needs of our Maui ‘ohana and to support the mental health and wellness of the community as they continue to recover, we are opening three new grant funding opportunities from the Maui Strong Fund.”

A grant opportunity targeting **Interim and Long-Term Housing** is available and open to applications from organizations offering disaster housing solutions to meet the needs of wildfire survivors. HCF will consider applicants who can address needs relating to transitional housing and other priority areas identified by recent data from the UHERO Maui Recovery Survey. The Interim & Long-Term Housing opportunity will be available through November 5, 2024.

A grant opportunity targeting **Mental Health - Community Wellness and Wellbeing** is available and open to organizations and programs providing mental health resources to Maui wildfire survivors. Many individuals have been emotionally and mentally impacted by the fires and the ongoing recovery. HCF will consider community-based options that provide activities for children and community engagement for adults and families will support wellness and wellbeing. The deadline to apply for the Mental Health - Community Wellness & Wellbeing opportunity is November 8, 2024.

HCF is also seeking applicants through a Request for Proposal for the **Mental Health Crisis Center Program** funding opportunity. The program focuses on the development of a mental health hub that will match fire-affected households and individuals with mental health providers. The program aims to increase access and opportunities for mental health care for fire survivors. The deadline to apply for the Mental Health Crisis Center Program opportunity is November 8, 2024.

The Maui Strong Fund continues to accept grant applications on a rolling basis for funding requests up to \$100,000. Grant proposals should address critical needs in the recovery effort. HCF provides responsive grantmaking through the Maui Strong Fund and is committed to funding strategies that consider the long-term recovery of Maui’s fire-affected residents.

**For more information about the new and current grant opportunities and the RFP, please visit the HCF website at <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund/apply-for-a-grant>.**

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### **About The Hawai‘i Community Foundation**

The vision of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai‘i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-107-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state’s most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving fresh water resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai‘i’s young children. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and its people. HCF works in communities across Hawai‘i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2023, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai‘i. We distributed over \$107 million in grants to

the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,000 Hawai'i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [hawaiicommunityfoundation.org](http://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

The Maui Strong Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is providing financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires. HCF works in close collaboration with federal, state and county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the evolving priorities on the ground and deploys grants to address unmet needs. To ensure transparency, all grantees and award amounts from the Maui Strong Fund are updated regularly and can be found [here](#). The Maui Strong Fund is designed for the long haul, using a four-phase approach that includes recovery, stabilization, risk reduction, and resiliency building. Learn more about our four-phase approach [here](#).