



# Puna Strong Collaboration Grants Funding Opportunity

**Online Application Deadline: October 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m. HST**

## SUMMARY

Puna Strong collaboration grants are available to Puna serving 501(c)(3) organizations for a 12-month period of grant funding. Grant awards are intended to range on average from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

## BACKGROUND

We believe that change can happen when we understand the challenges in front of us and work together to find and implement equitable solutions to those challenges. Established by the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), the [CHANGE Framework](#) identifies six essential sectors, or areas, that affect the overall well-being of these islands and people. We are pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for Puna serving nonprofit organizations over twelve-months to promote cross-sector collaboration and bolster community networks.

Puna Strong is a grant program supported by the County of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) focused on disaster readiness and building community resilience for the Puna communities impacted by the 2018 Kīlauea eruption. With investments in nonprofit organizations and partnerships leading community-driven projects, the Puna Strong program is currently in its third round of funding to support 10 organizations over an 18-month period ending June 30, 2025.

*This funding opportunity (FO) is not limited to current Puna Strong Round 3 grantees; it is available to any 501(c)(3) organization that serves the Puna area.*

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of this FO is to foster collaboration between nonprofit organizations (NPO) with other NPOs, government agencies, community leaders, and/or for-profit entities. The aim is to build and enhance networking and collaborative capacities that lead to sustainable and impactful outcomes. This FO seeks to support initiatives that go beyond one-time events, focusing instead on programs or projects that promote long-term partnership building and resource sharing.

Applicants are encouraged to propose initiatives that result in measurable outcomes with a focus on collaboration. The focus of the proposed work should be on creating a lasting impact through strong, inter-organizational partnerships.

This funding opportunity is not intended to support single-day events or sponsorships, although they may be part of the plan. Instead, it seeks to invest in collaborative efforts that build the necessary "muscle" for ongoing cooperation and joint success. The expectation is that funded efforts will contribute to a broader capacity for collaboration and networking, ensuring that the benefits extend beyond the immediate scope of the proposed work.

## **Funding Opportunity Details**

### **ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS**

**Eligibility:** Grants will be awarded only to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide services in the Puna district on Hawai'i Island.

**Grant Term:** Grants will be awarded for a 12-month period.

**Funding:** Grant awards are intended to range on average from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in Q4 2024.

**Reporting:** Grantees will be required to submit an interim progress report halfway through the grant term (at the six-month benchmark) and a final report one month after the grant period ends. Grantees must also be open to participating in a meeting during the grant period to discuss and share updates on the progress of collaboration with their partners.

### **This funding opportunity will give preference to organizations that:**

- Can describe what issue or change is being affected and the intended impact relative to the strategies of the KRRP or the vision for a Resilience Capacity Area.  
(<https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/revitalize-puna/resilience-capacity-areas>)
- Can demonstrate past efforts or clearly articulate plans for building connections and collaborations with other organizations, government agencies, community leaders, and/or for-profit entities.
- Can explain how the planned collaboration will help address the identified issue or change to be affected.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

#### **Online Application**

This application is only available via online submission. New users may register for an account here [https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s\\_Login.jsp](https://hawaiicf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp). Registered users may log in to their account to submit an application. Please give yourself adequate time before the submission deadline to access the system and familiarize yourself with the application process and requirements.

#### **Instructions**

- Only complete and timely applications will be accepted.

- The online application has fillable boxes with character limits. The character counts in MS Word may not match the character counts in the application. If you cut and paste your work into the application, please be sure your text fits the space provided.

## ORGANIZATION PROFILE

A critical component of the grant application is the Organization Profile. Every applicant organization must maintain updated financial documents in the Organization Profile. The documents can be uploaded at any time but must be current at the time a grant is submitted. If fiscal documents are not up to date, the application may be administratively denied. Information needed to complete your organization's profile includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter (not required if previously applied to the Foundation or if applying through a fiscal sponsor)
- Number of full-time, part-time, or regular volunteer staff
- Organization Mission
- Service Location(s)
- Types of services provided – including age, gender, and target populations served
- Financials – including, income statement (or profit/loss statement) and balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year, and annual operating budget for the current year
- Board of Directors List

## APPLICATION

The application consists of four tabs. Information needed to complete your application includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Program Overview:**
  - Provide general information and plans for collaboration on a project to serve the Puna community including project title, duration, area of interest, project location(s), ages and genders served, and the CHANGE sector(s) your project most closely aligns with.
  - For more information about the CHANGE framework, please visit our website <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/change>.
- **Program Information:**
  - **Organization Description:** Describe the history and mission of the organization/program. What is the organization's experience implementing this program and staff capabilities to conduct the proposed work? Identify the organization(s) you will collaborate with to conduct this work. *(Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page)*
  - **Executive Summary:** Provide a brief but concise summary of the applicant's proposed project and partnerships. This executive summary may be used for different purposes, including external communications, to describe the project should a grant be awarded. *(Maximum 2,500 characters = ¾ page)*

- **Problem or Opportunity:** Describe the need or opportunity your organization is trying to address and why this is critical. Describe how your organization aligns with the goals for the KRRP or vision for one of the Kilauea Eruption RCAs. *(Maximum 3,000 characters = ¾ page)*
  - **Program Activities:** Describe the activities that will be completed to address the need/opportunity. Explain why you chose this approach and the partners you chose for collaboration. Provide a project timeline. Describe how your project builds resilience for the Puna community. *(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)*
  - **Expected Results:** Describe what you hope to achieve and how you will measure the effectiveness of your collaborative project in increasing long-term resilience of the Puna community. Also, what outcomes do you hope to achieve from this collaborative project? *(Maximum 3,500 characters = 1 page)*
- **Budget:** Provide your total project budget, amount requested through this application, and upload a copy of your project’s budget, showing income and expenses, indicating sources of income that are pending and secured. The project budget should indicate how grant funding will be allocated to support direct Puna-serving activities and costs of technical assistance opportunities for the organization.
  - **Support Documents & Certification:**
    - Upload letter(s) of support from the organization(s) your organization intends to partner with.
    - Upload any additional required documents as listed in the application guidelines.

#### **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- None required

#### **RESOURCES**

Kilauea Eruption Recovery Resilience Capacity Areas

<https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/revitalize-puna/resilience-capacity-areas>

Kilauea Recovery and Resilience Plan

<https://recovery.hawaiicounty.gov/multimedia/documents>

#### **DEADLINE**

Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4 p.m. HST

**CONTACT INFORMATION** If you have questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Michelle Pope at [mpope@hcf-hawaii.org](mailto:mpope@hcf-hawaii.org) or 808-792-3101.

For technical assistance with the online application process, please submit a support ticket at <http://hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/ticket>