

**LAFAYETTE CITY CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT  
2025-2026 EXTERNAL AGENCIES FUNDING PROGRAM  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
GRANT GUIDELINES**

**FOR GRANT PERIOD NOVEMBER 1, 2025 – OCTOBER 2, 2026**



**Contact Mary Elair, Grants Coordinator at (337) 291-8420 or [melair@LafayetteLA.gov](mailto:melair@LafayetteLA.gov).**

**Background**

Through the External Agencies Funding Program, Lafayette Consolidated Government supports agencies that enhance the economic, social, cultural, and educational welfare of the citizens of Lafayette. A social service agency is generally defined as an agency that provides direct services to people in need. They may serve the general public or specific populations (e.g., children, victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities, etc.)

Each agency will be allowed to submit only ONE application.

**Requests – Minimum and Maximum**

Applicants may request between \$2,000 and \$15,000. No cash match is required. In-kind support is not mandatory, but it strengthens an application.

**Application Deadline**

Applications must be completed online via the Neighborly portal under the “Start a New Application” section, locate the application named “External Agencies Funding Program” at <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/LAFAYETTELA/participant> by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025**, for the funding period of November 1, 2025, to October 2, 2026. Applications received after this time, or if lacking required attachments, will not be considered. Applications will be accepted online **ONLY**.

**Who May Apply – Eligibility Requirements**

Funding is only available to social service agencies with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. **A social service agency is generally defined as an agency that provides direct services to people in need.** They may serve the general public or specific populations (e.g., children, victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities, etc.).

Applicant agencies must also meet the following requirements:

- Be in existence for at least one year
- Based in Lafayette Parish
- Governed by a Board of Directors that meets at least quarterly

### **Eligible Expenses**

Expenses needed to support mission-driven operations. Such expenses include salaries, employee benefits, transportation costs, supplies, telephone, utilities, postage, travel and meetings, rent, contractual services, printing and binding, equipment/maintenance, insurance, and other expenses.

### **Ineligible Expenses – The External Agencies Funding Program will NOT fund**

- Scholarships, fellowships, or tuition assistance
- Deficit reduction
- Costs incurred before the effective date of the contract or after the grant period ends
- Competitions, pageants, fund-raising events, or hospitality costs such as food and drinks
- If requested funds are for a particular project, administrative and/or operational costs not associated with the project
- Requests submitted by agencies currently receiving direct support (line item appropriation) from Lafayette Consolidated Government

### **Attachments to include with the application**

- Articles of Incorporation
- Current Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State
- Letter demonstrating non-profit status under section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Tax Code
- List of the agency's Board of Directors and contact information
- A Board of Directors resolution or clause of assurances authorizing the President or Executive Director to submit the application
- Annual Budget adopted by the Board of Directors
- Financial Statement (audit or IRS Form 990) for agencies with annual budgets of \$50,000 or more
- Bylaws of the agency
- Statement indicating if the grant will be used to match a federal, state, or foundation grant

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- 60%**     **Need & Impact:** Description of population served and impact on service population, need for agency's services within Lafayette Parish, need for Lafayette Consolidated Government to fund this service in lieu of the agency.
- 30%**     **Administration & Budget:** How requested funds will be spent, qualifications, and experience of staff.
- 10%**     **Evaluation Methods:** How the effectiveness of the agency's services will be measured.

### **Application Review Process**

The Grants Manager of the Community Development and Planning Department will designate a five-person Review Panel to review the applications during the Summer of 2025. Please note: A point will be deducted from agencies that were non-compliant in the previous grant cycle. The Social Services Review Panel will make funding recommendations to be presented to the Lafayette City Council. The City Council then votes on a Resolution to 'affirm' the 2025-2026 External Agencies awards. Once the Resolution is adopted, grants can be awarded.

### **Grant Procedure**

Grant activities must take place during the LCG fiscal year of November 1, 2025 – October 2, 2026.

**Please remember that this is a competitive grant process. Therefore, an application may or may not be funded, dependent on the number of applicants, the amount of External Agencies funding available, and the application's score based on the evaluation criteria. The acceptance of an application does not imply that it will be funded automatically in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.**

Grants are on a reimbursable basis. The agency will incur the expense and then submit documentation to the Lafayette Consolidated Government for reimbursement. The agency will be required to submit interim and final reports. All grant materials must be retained for three (3) years following the completion of the grant period.

### **Grant Writing Tips**

- **Be specific.** Write in simple, clear language.
- **Use facts and not opinions.** Present concrete statistics, plans, specific goals, and evidence of research and planning as it relates to your population and local statistics. Cite sources where applicable.
- Complete the application as though the reader knows nothing about the agency. Panelists are asked to base their scores solely on the information presented in the application.
- The narrative and budget should be consistent. Give details on how funds will be spent.
- **PROOFREAD.** Have other people read a draft of the application. Does it make sense to them? Does it address the evaluation criteria? Are all the attachments included?

A virtual grant writing workshop for Social Service agencies interested in applying for External Agencies funding will be held on July 2, 2025, at 10 am. A link will be provided as soon as it is available. Please check the LCG website for updates before the workshop.

<p><b>For questions regarding the application before submission, contact Mary Elair, Grants Coordinator, at (337) 291-8420 or <u><a href="mailto:melair@lafayettela.gov">melair@lafayettela.gov</a></u>. The last day to schedule an appointment with Mary is Wednesday, July 16, 2025.</b></p>
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