

Rapid Response Fund: Guidance



What is the Rapid Response Fund?

The Rapid Response Fund is a short-term funding opportunity created by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation to support partners in our service area facing sudden, unexpected funding losses. These grants help partner organizations address urgent disruptions and continue providing essential services to the community.

What types of needs does this fund support?

Funding may be used to address emergent situations, such as:

- Bridge funding between resource gaps
- Costs associated with service discontinuation or workforce reductions
- Strategic litigation or community defense
- Client transitions to new providers
- Costs related to nonprofit mergers or collaborations to sustain programming

The fund is **not intended to sustain programs impacted by long-term funding reductions.**

What are the grant amounts?

Applicants may request up to **\$75,000**, depending on the level of need and the scope of proposed activities.

How long can the funds be used?

Funds are intended to be used within **1 to 6 months**. Longer timelines may be considered based on the situation and proposed plan.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible, organizations must:

- Have received funding from the Health Foundation in the past three years (2022 – present. Includes any grant, community event sponsorship, or donation)
- Be a tax-exempt nonprofit
- Have been in operation for at least three years
- Be located within our 9-county service area: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties
- Have received formal notice of a funding loss

What if I have not received formal notice but am anticipating the funding loss?

You are still welcome to submit information through our application portal. When you begin the application, you'll be asked whether you have received formal notice of a funding loss. If you select "no," you'll be prompted to answer one follow-up question about the anticipated disruption. While we are currently prioritizing organizations with confirmed losses, gathering this information helps us understand the scope of potential future need in our region.

How do I apply?

Applications are accepted on a **rolling basis** via our grant portal, Submittable. You'll be asked to provide:

- A description of the need
- Impact on your organization and community
- Documentation of the funding loss
- Most recent 990
- Current organizational budget

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible if your organization is experiencing an urgent funding gap.

How quickly will I receive a decision?

Applications will be reviewed promptly. Our goal is to notify applicants of a decision within **5 business days** of submission.

Can I receive more than one Rapid Response grant?

Organizations may only receive **one Rapid Response** grant. If future urgent needs arise, please reach out to our team to discuss.

Is there a reporting requirement?

Yes. While we aim to keep the process streamlined, we will request a brief update or reflection during or at the end of the grant term. This helps us understand the impact of the funding and guide future support.

Who can I contact with questions?

We're here to help. If you have questions about eligibility, the application process, or your situation, please reach out to us directly at rapidresponse@thegrhf.org