

# Rapid Response Fund: Guidance



The **Rapid Response Fund** is a short-term funding opportunity created by 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 provide space for planning on how to continue to provide essential services to the community. The fund is **not intended to sustain programs impacted by funding cuts** or support planned or known funding reductions from state or federal sources.

## **What types of needs does this fund support?**

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

- Transition planning for organizations experiencing funding reductions or cuts
- Costs associated with the discontinuation of services or workforce reductions
- Strategic litigation or community defense
- Client transitions to new providers
- Costs related to nonprofit mergers or collaborations to sustain programming

## **What are the grant amounts?**

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

## **When should 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 recent funding from the Health Foundation i (2022 – present. Includes any grant, community event sponsorship, or donation)
- Be a tax-exempt 501c(3) 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 recent loss of federal or state funding

## **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 reduction.

### **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, but this may vary at times during the year.

### **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 should 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](mailto:rapidresponse@thegrhf.org)