

COMMUNITY GRANTS: TIMELY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2026 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

WHO WE ARE

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County was founded in 1995 by local leaders of Westmoreland County to encourage philanthropy, build a sense of place and embrace the spirit of community. Our mission is to encourage residents to become philanthropists, provide grants that support a wide variety of charitable organizations and serve as a community leader. Having merged with The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2010, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County continues to work with county residents to encourage that spirit of giving and investment in community organizations and residents.

In 2025, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County reviewed our grantmaking strategy to better align with the needs of our community and nonprofit organizations. We considered best practices in grantmaking and our grant requests over time, conducted focus groups with nonprofit organizations, held one-on-one conversations with nonprofit CEOs and surveyed the sector. As a result of this work, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is launching a revised grantmaking strategy in 2026 that better meets the needs of nonprofits as well as increases overall impact.

At the heart of our mission, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is called to serve the most vulnerable of our population in Westmoreland County. Often, vulnerable populations in our communities are those individuals living in poverty who experience barriers to achieving educational attainment, economic prosperity and positive quality of life. With more than a third of our population in this category¹, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is committed to investing in organizations that revitalize communities and expand opportunities for individuals and families experiencing poverty.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: TIMELY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Community Grants provide short-term project and program support to organizations that are making a measurable difference in the lives of individuals and families living in poverty and/or investing in the revitalization of targeted towns. These time-limited awards are intended to help nonprofits respond to near-term opportunities that will occur within the next six months, such as expanding or stabilizing high-demand services, piloting or strengthening a specific program, or addressing a critical gap that threatens community well-being. Funding must be tied to a

¹ Using ALICE as the threshold. Westmoreland County overall has 39% of households below the ALICE Threshold (poverty + ALICE). www.uwp.org/alice/about-alice/

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clearly defined project or program with specific objectives, budget, and outcomes rather than general operating support.

Community Grants will continue to share the same framework as our prior opportunities: Healthy Communities and Revitalizing Westmoreland. Since 2022, these two initiatives have supported the needs of vulnerable populations in the county while helping to develop the places in which they live. By investing in people and place, the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County is committed to making Westmoreland County a vibrant community where citizens are enthused and energized to live, work, and share in its resources.

Community Grants will only support organizations that:

- Address the physical, social, environmental and emotional needs of our most vulnerable populations to move them out of poverty and assist them to live with dignity **and/or**
- Foster revitalization of areas in Westmoreland County with a high percentage of the population living in poverty.

TARGET COMMUNITIES AND POPULATION

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County defines eligibility using a methodology based on both ALICE and 225% of federal poverty guidelines.

[ALICE](#)² data is used to identify the Westmoreland towns experiencing the greatest financial hardship. ALICE data goes beyond traditional poverty measures to include households where family members are working yet still unable to afford the basic cost of living. By grounding this opportunity in ALICE data, we aim to ensure that the Foundation's limited resources are directed to organizations serving residents and neighborhoods where a high percentage of households struggle to meet essential needs like housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology.

According to the United Way, 39% of total households in Westmoreland County live at or below ALICE threshold.³ Aligning with the countywide statistics, **all applicants must provide services in and/or revitalize communities where 39% or more households are living at or below ALICE.** The Westmoreland ALICE report can be found [here](#). Appendix A includes a list of all towns and percentage of households below ALICE.

² Developed by the United Way, ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. This describes households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). To learn more about ALICE: <https://www.uwp.org/alice/about-alice/>.

³ https://www.uwp.org/wp-content/uploads/County_ALICE_PDFs/Westmoreland%20County%20ALICE%20County%20Fact%20Sheet%20Final.pdf

In addition, applicants are eligible if they address the physical, social environmental and emotional needs of individuals in our targeted communities, who **live below 225% of the federal poverty level**. Guidelines on federal poverty level can be found in Appendix B.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations
- Community Development Corporations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Civic or Community Groups
- Neighborhood Organizations

Groups without nonprofit status will need to partner with a 501(c)(3) organization to serve as their Fiscal Agent. The Fiscal Agent must be a 501(c)(3) in good standing with the IRS, provide a letter indicating willingness to serve as a fiscal agent and an IRS determination letter.

Organizations must be headquartered in Westmoreland County.

Applicants must be in operation and actively serving the community for at least three (3) years to be eligible for funding. Organizations who received their 501c3 IRS determination after July 2023 are NOT eligible to apply.

Funding awarded through this RFP **cannot** support the following:

- Capital campaigns
- Endowments
- Fundraising events
- Lobbying
- Grassroots organizing
- Staff support for government units or public agencies
- Scholarships

The following are **NOT** eligible to apply for funding:

- For-profit entities
- Individuals
- Political Groups
- Religious Organizations for Religious Purposes
- Individual Businesses

Limitations

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- One Community grant per organization in a calendar year.
- Organizations that received an Impact Grant in 2026 are **NOT eligible** for funding during this round.
- Requested funds must be spent within the grant period (October 2026 to March 2027)

GRANT RANGE

This is a competitive process and an estimated \$125,000 in grants will be awarded. Awards up to \$15,000 per organization are available during the year.

The entirety of the grant must be expended within the grant period (October 2026 to March 2027).

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and selected by the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County staff.

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria with each element being rated on a four-point scale.

Rating Scale

1. Insufficient
Response is missing, unclear, or does not address the criterion in a meaningful way.
2. Developing
Some relevant information but major gaps, limited detail, or weak alignment; raises notable concerns.
3. Well Defined
Clear, well-defined response that addresses the criterion with appropriate detail; represents a solid, competitive answer.
4. Exceptional
Highly detailed, compelling response that demonstrates exceptional clarity, alignment, and potential impact; stands out compared to typical proposals.

Criteria

- Alignment with the target population and communities as identified in the *Target Population and Communities* section of this RFP.
- Clarity and urgency of the project/program need within the next six months (what happens if this is not funded, and why now).
- Strength and feasibility of the project/program design, including clear objectives, activities, timeline (within October 2026–March 2027), and realistic implementation plan.
- Program / project budget aligns with the requested funds and proposed activities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Additional information, including access to the RFP and online application portal can be found at <https://cfwestmoreland.org/communitygrants>.

All applications must be submitted using the online application portal.

The application consists of a series of questions regarding your organization and submission of the following documents:

- Current Board Member roster or Advisory Board if fiscally sponsored
- Organization's current fiscal year budget
- Most recent balance sheet (Example from Board Source:
<https://blog.boardsource.org/blog/making-financial-statements-less-scary>)
- Copy of audit/financial review for the most recently ended fiscal year

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

RFP Released and Application Process Opens	Thursday, July 30, 2026
RFP Info Virtual Session	Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 2-3pm
Applications Due	Friday, August 21, 2026 by 11:59pm
Grants Announced	Thursday, September 17, 2026

QUESTIONS?

For questions and guidance regarding the application or online portal, please contact McCrae Martino, Executive Director at martinom@cfwestmoreland.org.

APPENDIX A: Westmoreland communities Ranked by Percentage of Households Under ALICE Threshold*

* Communities highlighted in green are eligible under this RFP.

Township, Borough, City or Municipality	Total Households	% of households under ALICE threshold
Allegheny township	3473	33%
Arnold city	2116	58%
Arona borough	125	29%
Avonmore borough	461	53%
Bell township	973	45%
Bolivar borough	148	40%
Cook township	955	46%
Delmont borough	1354	45%
Derry borough	1181	53%
Derry township	5803	42%
Donegal township & borough	940	43%
East Huntingdon township	3577	40%
East Vandergrift borough	303	53%
Export borough	435	49%
Fairfield township	872	38%
Greensburg city	6778	45%
Hempfield township	17732	35%
Hunker borough	125	50%
Hyde Park borough	207	42%
Irwin borough	2052	40%
Jeannette city	4293	55%
Latrobe city	3835	49%
Ligonier borough	809	37%
Ligonier township	2789	41%
Lower Burrell city	5152	36%
Loyalhanna township	714	35%
Madison borough	163	35%
Manor borough	1283	18%
Monessen city	3182	53%
Mount Pleasant borough	2055	55%
Mount Pleasant township	4761	40%
Murrysville municipality	8331	22%
New Alexandria borough	218	42%

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Township, Borough, City or Municipality	Total Households	% of households under ALICE threshold
New Florence borough	265	51%
New Kensington city	6069	54%
New Stanton borough	1060	35%
North Belle Vernon borough	783	53%
North Huntingdon township	13037	27%
North Irwin borough	393	54%
Oklahoma borough	418	43%
Penn borough	220	31%
Penn township	8047	24%
Rostraver township	4823	39%
Salem township	2782	37%
Scottdale borough	2036	49%
Seward borough	142	59%
Sewickley township	2375	40%
Smithton borough	149	48%
South Greensburg borough	1191	43%
South Huntingdon township	2364	39%
Southwest Greensburg borough	1005	45%
St. Clair township	528	53%
Sutersville borough	281	49%
Trafford borough	1422	40%
Unity township	8518	36%
Upper Burrell township	779	25%
Vandergrift borough	2180	58%
Washington township	2737	34%
West Leechburg borough	565	35%
West Newton borough	1311	57%
Youngstown borough	104	41%
Youngwood borough	1428	45%

Laurel Mountain and Adamsburg are not included in the ALICE data as they have fewer than 100 households. Given the poverty rate of Laurel Mountain is only 1.8% it is not eligible.

APPENDIX B⁴

2026 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States (all states except Alaska and Hawaii)

Dollars Per Year

Household/ Family Size	50%	75%	100%	125%	130%	133%	135%	138%	150%	175%	180%	185%
1	7,980.00	11,970.00	15,960.00	19,950.00	20,748.00	21,226.80	21,546.00	22,024.80	23,940.00	27,930.00	28,728.00	29,526.00
2	10,820.00	16,230.00	21,640.00	27,050.00	28,132.00	28,781.20	29,214.00	29,863.20	32,460.00	37,870.00	38,952.00	40,034.00
3	13,660.00	20,490.00	27,320.00	34,150.00	35,516.00	36,335.60	36,882.00	37,701.60	40,980.00	47,810.00	49,176.00	50,542.00
4	16,500.00	24,750.00	33,000.00	41,250.00	42,900.00	43,890.00	44,550.00	45,540.00	49,500.00	57,750.00	59,400.00	61,050.00
5	19,340.00	29,010.00	38,680.00	48,350.00	50,284.00	51,444.40	52,218.00	53,378.40	58,020.00	67,690.00	69,624.00	71,558.00
6	22,180.00	33,270.00	44,360.00	55,450.00	57,668.00	58,998.80	59,886.00	61,216.80	66,540.00	77,630.00	79,848.00	82,066.00
7	25,020.00	37,530.00	50,040.00	62,550.00	65,052.00	66,553.20	67,554.00	69,055.20	75,060.00	87,570.00	90,072.00	92,574.00
8	27,860.00	41,790.00	55,720.00	69,650.00	72,436.00	74,107.60	75,222.00	76,893.60	83,580.00	97,510.00	100,296.00	103,082.00
9	30,700.00	46,050.00	61,400.00	76,750.00	79,820.00	81,662.00	82,890.00	84,732.00	92,100.00	107,450.00	110,520.00	113,590.00
10	33,540.00	50,310.00	67,080.00	83,850.00	87,204.00	89,216.40	90,558.00	92,570.40	100,620.00	117,390.00	120,744.00	124,098.00
11	36,380.00	54,570.00	72,760.00	90,950.00	94,588.00	96,770.80	98,226.00	100,408.80	109,140.00	127,330.00	130,968.00	134,606.00
12	39,220.00	58,830.00	78,440.00	98,050.00	101,972.00	104,325.20	105,894.00	108,247.20	117,660.00	137,270.00	141,192.00	145,114.00
13	42,060.00	63,090.00	84,120.00	105,150.00	109,356.00	111,879.60	113,562.00	116,085.60	126,180.00	147,210.00	151,416.00	155,622.00
14	44,900.00	67,350.00	89,800.00	112,250.00	116,740.00	119,434.00	121,230.00	123,924.00	134,700.00	157,150.00	161,640.00	166,130.00
Household/ Family Size	200%	225%	250%	275%	300%	325%	350%	375%	400%	500%	600%	700%
1	31,920.00	35,910.00	39,900.00	43,890.00	47,880.00	51,870.00	55,860.00	59,850.00	63,840.00	79,800.00	95,760.00	111,720.00
2	43,280.00	48,690.00	54,100.00	59,510.00	64,920.00	70,330.00	75,740.00	81,150.00	86,560.00	108,200.00	129,840.00	151,480.00
3	54,640.00	61,470.00	68,300.00	75,130.00	81,960.00	88,790.00	95,620.00	102,450.00	109,280.00	136,600.00	163,920.00	191,240.00
4	66,000.00	74,250.00	82,500.00	90,750.00	99,000.00	107,250.00	115,500.00	123,750.00	132,000.00	165,000.00	198,000.00	231,000.00
5	77,360.00	87,030.00	96,700.00	106,370.00	116,040.00	125,710.00	135,380.00	145,050.00	154,720.00	193,400.00	232,080.00	270,760.00
6	88,720.00	99,810.00	110,900.00	121,990.00	133,080.00	144,170.00	155,260.00	166,350.00	177,440.00	221,800.00	266,160.00	310,520.00
7	100,080.00	112,590.00	125,100.00	137,610.00	150,120.00	162,630.00	175,140.00	187,650.00	200,160.00	250,200.00	300,240.00	350,280.00
8	111,440.00	125,370.00	139,300.00	153,230.00	167,160.00	181,090.00	195,020.00	208,950.00	222,880.00	278,600.00	334,320.00	390,040.00
9	122,800.00	138,150.00	153,500.00	168,850.00	184,200.00	199,550.00	214,900.00	230,250.00	245,600.00	307,000.00	368,400.00	429,800.00
10	134,160.00	150,930.00	167,700.00	184,470.00	201,240.00	218,010.00	234,780.00	251,550.00	268,320.00	335,400.00	402,480.00	469,560.00
11	145,520.00	163,710.00	181,900.00	200,090.00	218,280.00	236,470.00	254,660.00	272,850.00	291,040.00	363,800.00	436,560.00	509,320.00
12	156,880.00	176,490.00	196,100.00	215,710.00	235,320.00	254,930.00	274,540.00	294,150.00	313,760.00	392,200.00	470,640.00	549,080.00
13	168,240.00	189,270.00	210,300.00	231,330.00	252,360.00	273,390.00	294,420.00	315,450.00	336,480.00	420,600.00	504,720.00	588,840.00
14	179,600.00	202,050.00	224,500.00	246,950.00	269,400.00	291,850.00	314,300.00	336,750.00	359,200.00	449,000.00	538,800.00	628,600.00

⁴ Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.