

IMPACT GRANTS: INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND PLACE

2026 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 15, 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.

IMPACT GRANTS: INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND PLACE

Impact Grants provide general operating support to organizations making a measurable difference in the lives of individuals and families living in poverty and/or investing in the revitalization of targeted towns. General operating support is unrestricted funding provided to a nonprofit to advance its overall mission and sustain day-to-day operations, rather than to run a specific project or program. These grants are designed to strengthen organizations that are deeply rooted in their communities and address critical needs.

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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Impact 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.

Impact 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

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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.

Applicants must be in operation and actively serving the community for at least three (3) years to be eligible for funding.

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

GRANT RANGE

This is a competitive process and an estimated \$450,000 in grants will be awarded. Awards will be between \$50,000 to \$75,000 per organization.

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The entirety of the grant must be spent down within the grant period (July 2026 to December 2027). We encourage organizations to base their request on:

- Current budget
- Organizational needs
- Community needs
- Capacity to manage the grant

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and selected by members of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County’s Advisory Board and 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.
- Demonstration of how the organization’s programs and services meet the needs of the community and/or population served.
- Use of data to demonstrate need.
- Track record of success and impact in community revitalization and/or supporting individuals living in poverty.
- Organizational budget and justification align with request.
- Ability to demonstrate how the grant will help the organization meet their strategic goals.
- Plan for reducing reliance on this funding in the future.

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APPLICATION PROCESS

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

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
- Copy of audit/financial review for the most recently ended fiscal year
- OPTIONAL: Up to three (3) letters of support that testify to the organization’s success and need in the community

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

RFP Released and Application Process Opens	Monday, April 13, 2026
RFP Info Virtual Session	Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 1-2pm
Applications Due	Friday, May 15, 2026 by 11:59pm
Grants Announced	Monday, June 22, 2026

QUESTIONS?

For technical assistance regarding the use of the online application, please email systemsupport@pghfdn.org.

For questions and guidance regarding the application itself, please contact McCrae Martino, Executive Director at martinom@cfwestmoreland.org or 724-836-4400 x125.

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
Seward borough	142	59%
Arnold city	2116	58%
Vandergrift borough	2180	58%
West Newton borough	1311	57%
Jeannette city	4293	55%
Mount Pleasant borough	2055	55%
New Kensington city	6069	54%
North Irwin borough	393	54%
Avonmore borough	461	53%
Derry borough	1181	53%
East Vandergrift borough	303	53%
Monessen city	3182	53%
North Belle Vernon borough	783	53%
St. Clair township	528	53%
New Florence borough	265	51%
Hunker borough	125	50%
Export borough	435	49%
Latrobe city	3835	49%
Scottdale borough	2036	49%
Sutersville borough	281	49%
Smithton borough	149	48%
Cook township	955	46%
Bell township	973	45%
Delmont borough	1354	45%
Greensburg city	6778	45%
Southwest Greensburg borough	1005	45%
Youngwood borough	1428	45%
Bolivar borough	148	40%
East Huntingdon township	3577	40%

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Irwin borough	2052	40%
Mount Pleasant township	4761	40%
Trafford borough	1422	40%
Donegal township & borough	940	43%
Oklahoma borough	418	43%
South Greensburg borough	1191	43%
Derry township	5803	42%
Hyde Park borough	207	42%
New Alexandria borough	218	42%
Ligonier township	2789	41%
Youngstown borough	104	41%
Sewickley township	2375	40%
Rostraver township	4823	39%
South Huntingdon township	2364	39%
Fairfield township	872	38%
Ligonier borough	809	37%
Salem township	2782	37%
Lower Burrell city	5152	36%
Unity township	8518	36%
Hempfield township	17732	35%
Loyalhanna township	714	35%
Madison borough	163	35%
New Stanton borough	1060	35%
West Leechburg borough	565	35%
Washington township	2737	34%
Allegheny township	3473	33%
Penn borough	220	31%
Arona borough	125	29%
North Huntingdon township	13037	27%
Upper Burrell township	779	25%
Penn township	8047	24%
Murrysville municipality	8331	22%
Manor borough	1283	18%

Laurel Mountain and Adamsburg are not included in the alics 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.