



## **Yolo County America's Rescue Plan Mini Grants Frequently Asked Questions**

Yolo County has opened the Yolo County American Rescue Plan Mini Grants program. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors will allocate \$250,000 in grants (\$50,000 in each of the five supervisorial districts), with a target grant size of \$1,000 to \$10,000. Applications are due by March 31 at 5pm. More information, including eligibility requirements and a link to the application, is available [here](#).

The Yolo Community Foundation is partnering with Yolo County to support this program. YCF is conducting outreach to local nonprofits to spread awareness of the program and providing support for applicants via information sessions and office hours sessions. A recording and written summary of the information sessions and the link to register for office hours is available [here](#).

In the information session and office hours, prospective applicants raised a number of questions, which we've compiled in order to share the answers with all applicants.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**How do I apply?** Submit the application available [here](#) by March 31 at 5pm. Please note that you cannot save and return to the application; please draft in Word or a similar program and fill out the application when you are ready to submit.

**Must applicants be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations?** No, anyone can apply - nonprofit, government entity, business, individual, etc. However, the proposal must be for a service to be delivered to the Yolo County community, not a request to benefit the applicant alone. All proposals must meet the [federal eligibility requirements](#) and the [Yolo County Board of Supervisor's Guiding Principles](#).

**Are organizations that are not headquartered in Yolo County eligible to apply?** Yes, so long as the funded program is executed in Yolo County and serves Yolo County residents.

**May applicants submit applications in multiple districts?** Yes, applicants may request funding in multiple districts. If the program to be funded is the same across the districts, submit one application and check off multiple districts at the top of the application. If the program to be funded is different across the districts, you may submit separate applications. In response to the question "Funding Amount Requested," please be sure your request for each district is clear – e.g., "\$5,000 per district," or "\$10,000 in District A and \$3,000 in District B," etc. Please note that the supervisor in one district might choose to fund you, while the supervisor in another district might not, so the proposals should be independent of one another. That is, if you are funded in District A and not in District B, you should still be able to run your program in District A.

**If I submit a proposal in multiple districts, can the total amount requested exceed \$10,000?** Yes, the target grant size is \$1,000-\$10,000 per organization per district. This range is a target; applications for



larger and smaller amounts will be reviewed. However, please note that one of the goals of this program is to fund a wider range of organizations, as opposed to making larger grants to a smaller number of applicants.

**May applicants submit more than one proposal in the same district, for separate (eligible) programs?** Yes. Applicants should be sure to delineate the difference between the programs clearly.

**Can organizations that have previously applied for ARP funding (outside of the mini grants program) apply?** Yes. If an organization has previously received County ARP funding, they are eligible to apply for the Mini Grants, but they should apply for a different project or to address a different need. That is, please do not submit a proposal that just adds \$10,000 to a project already funded. Organizations that were previously turned down for ARP funding or that have not heard back are also eligible to apply. However, if the previous project was substantially larger in scope and budget (as is the case with many previous ARP proposals), be sure to request funding for a different project, or substantially revise the scope and budget to fit within the Mini Grant parameters.

**Will the grants be decided by each individual Supervisor or by the Board of Supervisors as a group?** Each supervisor and their staff will review the proposals for their respective district and create a slate of grantees, totaling \$50,000 per district. Once each district's slate is finalized, the board will vote on all five districts together as a complete slate, totaling \$250,000.

**What is the anticipated timeline for grant decision-making and disbursement?** County staff anticipates that the proposed slate of grantees will come to the Board for approval in May or June, with grant payments to be made in July or August.

**Will grantees be asked for a final report?** Yes, grantees will be asked to submit a final report, both to share results with the Board of Supervisors and to enable the County to satisfy federal government ARP reporting requirements. The details of the report template have not yet been finalized, but County staff anticipates the requirements will be short and simple.

**Do I have to show that my organization was harmed by the pandemic in order to apply? Or, if my organization was financially harmed by the pandemic, can I apply for funds to recoup some of our losses?** The purpose of the ARP Mini Grants is to enable applicants to deliver an eligible service to the Yolo County community. The Mini Grants are NOT designed to address the impact of the pandemic on the applicants themselves. As such, applicants do not have to show that their organization was harmed by the pandemic in order to apply, and organizations should not apply with a proposal to address their own pandemic-related losses.

**What does it mean that funding is one-time funding? I'm hoping to repeat the program in future years.** Some funding is truly one-time – for instance, purchasing equipment, or a program that will only be offered one time. In other cases, the program may be repeated, but the applicant must demonstrate confidence that the program will be able to be repeated without funding from the Mini Grants, for instance because mini grants funding will go to a demonstration project or a pilot.



**I'm working on a really important program that meets critical needs in Yolo County, but isn't really related to the pandemic. Can I apply?** The ARP Mini Grants are designed specifically to meet pandemic-related needs among Yolo County residents – the need applicants are seeking to address MUST be related to the pandemic, specifically as outlined in the [federal eligibility requirements](#).

**Does my organization have to meet all of the eligibility requirements? How can I be "transformational" with a \$10,000 grant?** There are two sets of eligibility requirements for the ARP Mini Grants. The first is the requirements set by the federal government for all ARP spending; you can find that list [here](#). Proposals MUST fit into at least one of the five eligible uses outlined at that link. However, they need to meet only one of the five eligible uses. The second set of requirements is the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Guiding Principles, available [here](#). A competitive proposal will meet as many of these guiding principles as possible. However, these principles were developed to guide the process of granting more than \$40 million, and the board of supervisors recognizes that a \$10,000 project is unlikely to hit all seven principles, or to fully embody some of these principles at all. For instance, the Board recognizes that a \$10,000 program may not be "transformational," but should still be impactful; similarly, the data expectations of a \$10,000 grant are much lower than the expectations for a \$2 million grant. In summary, applicants MUST meet one of the federal requirements, but only one; the county guiding principles are more of a spectrum, where meeting more principles will make a proposal more competitive for funding, but there are no hard and fast requirements.

**How can I make sure my application is competitive for funding?** Please review both sets of eligibility requirements (links above) carefully and be sure your proposal meets the requirements. In addition, please make sure your application covers the following: What need do you seek to address and why does it matter in this supervisorial district? How does this problem relate to the pandemic? What is the expected impact on the participants/beneficiaries? How many Yolo County residents do you seek to serve through this program? Who are you/your organization? Share some context about your ability to carry out this project. If the total budget of the program is substantially more than the grant amount, please indicate briefly how the money will be spent and/or how the balance of the funds will be raised. (Please note that there is a question on the application that allows you to provide "Any other relevant information." While most of your answers to the above questions will fit naturally into the questions asked on the application, you can add additional context there.)

**Is the Board still accepting applications for the larger ARP grants?** The County isn't actively accepting proposals for new projects, but will accept them if they are submitted. The County has allocated about 50% of the funding and anticipate closing the rest out by the end of this calendar year.

**What is the Yolo Community Foundation's role in the Yolo County ARP mini grants?** YCF is partnering with the County to conduct outreach to prospective applicants and provide assistance with the grant application process. YCF is NOT involved in reviewing applications or distributing grants.

**I have more questions! Where else can I learn about this process and how to develop a competitive proposal?** The Yolo Community Foundation offered information sessions for prospective applicants. A recording is available [here](#) and a written summary [here](#). Still have questions? Attend YCF's virtual office hours on 3/31 from 1-3pm, where YCF staff will be answering questions from applicants; register [here](#).