

FY27 Opportunities Grant

Technical Assistance Session

Overview

December 4, 2025



Overview and Background

■ **WHAT is the program?**

- An equity-based competitive grant process for County Board-awarded funding.
- Supports opportunities for Arlington residents to thrive.
- Aims to reduce, eliminate, and/or prevent inequities in direct response to demonstrated community or human services needs.

■ **WHO is eligible to apply?**

- Nonprofits and faith-based organizations serving Arlington County.
- Proposals may be submitted in collaboration, maximizing collective impact.

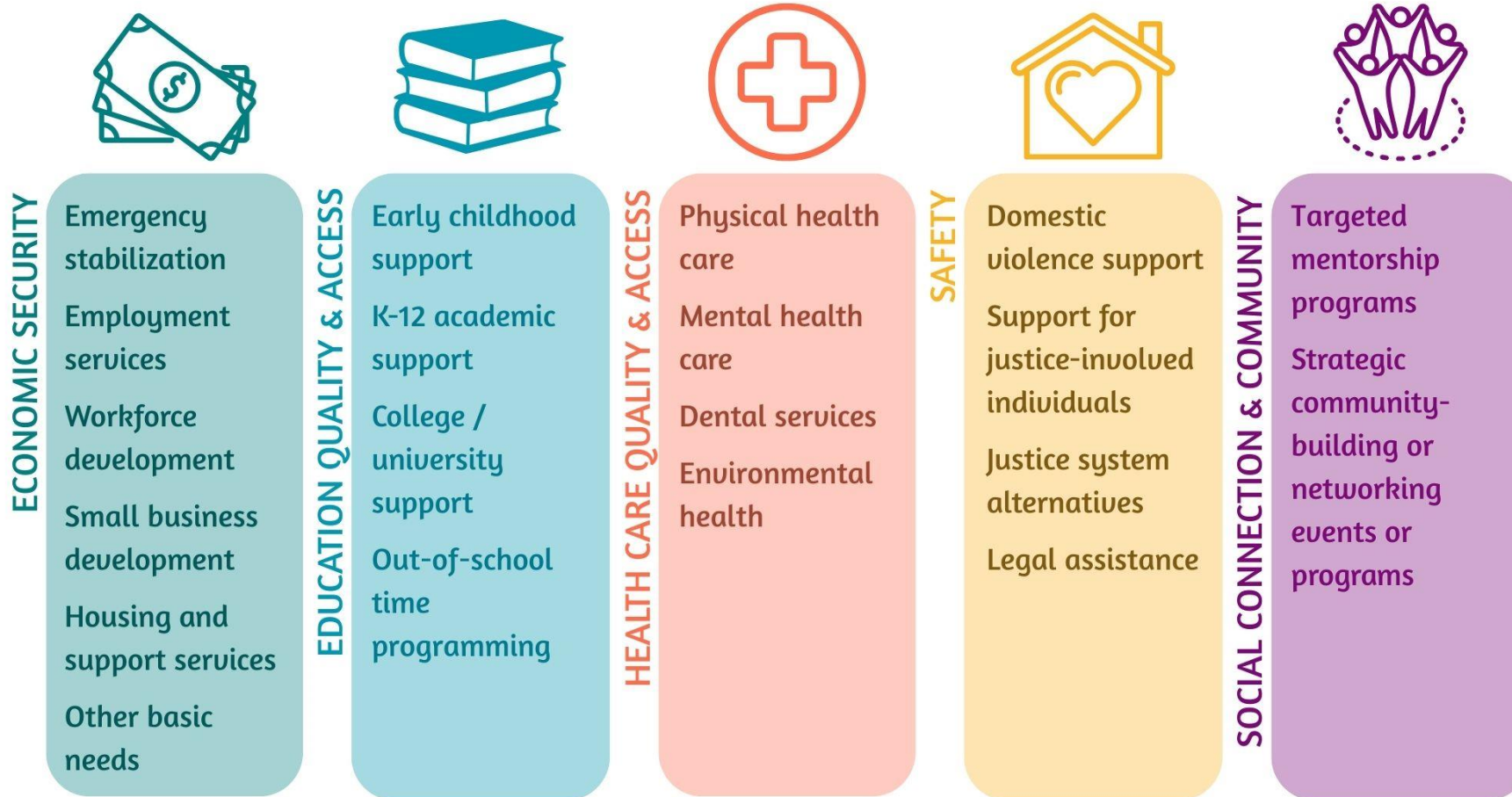
■ **HOW MUCH funding is available?**

- Anticipate \$1.25 million is available.
- No cap on requests, although \$50,000 or less is recommended.
- We do not anticipate awarding more than 4 larger requests.

Background, Questions 1-8

- Basic organization information
- Contact information, although **most contact will occur through Submittable**
- Executive summary – **this will be used for community focus groups!**
- Requested funding amount

Proposal Category, Questions 9-10



Proposal Category, Questions 9-10

STABLE



Economic Security: Do individuals have stable income, employment, and housing; are basic needs met; and can they be resilient when faced with emergent needs?

GROWING



Education Quality and Access: Are there opportunities to grow in knowledge and ability at every stage of life (early childhood, K-12, university)?

HEALTHY



Health Care Quality & Access: Are basic health needs - physical, mental, dental - accessible and affordable, and is the environment healthy?

SAFE



Safety: Can individuals thrive in a safe home and community, and do legal systems work effectively and with fairness?

CONNECTED



Social Connection and Community: Do individuals have opportunities to build meaningful social connections within and outside of their direct communities?

Proposal Description, Questions 11-13



Community
Description



Community
Need



Proposed
Services



Proposal Evaluation, Questions 14-15

Outputs

- Things you will do
- Actions taken towards your goal
- Work towards the outcomes
- Easily quantifiable
- You have direct control over outputs
- Demonstrates activity

Outcomes

- Value added, impact made
- Measurable results
- May be quantitative and/or qualitative
- You have less control – you hope your proposal will influence the outcome, but there are variables
- Demonstrates big picture success

Equity, Questions 16-17

- How will your outcomes impact inequities in the community?
- What barriers can be identified (who is missing or burdened?) **and** how will you reduce or eliminate them?

County Equity
Training here:



Capacity & Readiness, Questions 18-20

- Budget
- Timeline
- Staff and Organizational Experience

	Opportunities Grant	Other Revenue Sources
Salaries		
Benefits		
Professional & Contracted Services		
Travel & Transportation		
Supplies & Equipment		
Direct Client Expenses		
Communications & Marketing		
Other		

Larger Requests (Above \$50K), Questions 21-23

- Is the proposal scalable?
- Is the proposal sustainable?
- Do you have any partnerships to enhance impact?

Appendix Resources

- Rubric
- Sample Grant Agreement

Timeline & Selection Process



IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 25, 2025 – Grant Announcement

Jan 13, 2026 – Grant Applications Due

Award recommendations go to County Board for approval

Jul 1, 2026 - Grant period begins

DEC 2025

JAN – MAR 2026

MAY - JUN 2026

NOV 2025

JAN 2026

APR 2026

JUL 2026



TA Sessions

- **Dec 4, 2025**– Overview
- **Dec 10 and 15** – Office hours (use QR code to sign up)

Community Engagement

Review Period

Community Focus Groups Meet

Review panels meet and form recommendations

Opportunity for application feedback

Kick-off meeting and background work for awardees

Review Process

1. Grant staff screen applications for completeness.
2. Community input:
 - Engagement identifies priority focus areas.
 - Focus groups provide feedback on application summaries.
3. Staff review panels:
 - Read and score written applications based on rubric.
 - Discuss scores and community input.
 - Develop funding recommendations.
4. County Board receives funding recommendations.
5. County Board approves grant awards (tentatively April 2026).
6. Applicants can review scores and receive feedback.

Application Review

- County staff from multiple departments will form review panels which will score a subset of proposals.
- Review panels will discuss their respective scores and community input.
- Funding recommendations will be based primarily on review panels' rubric scores, with potential adjustments for:
 - Community input
 - Equity considerations
 - The diversification of award focus areas
 - Significant identified community need &/or impact
 - Level of responsiveness as a past grantee.



	1 Poor	2 Incomplete	3 Acceptable	4 Good	5 Excellent
11. Describe the community that you are serving, including any shared geography (such as specific neighborhoods and zip codes), shared identity, and/or shared needs. Use relevant demographic data. If your proposed services benefit residents from outside of Arlington County, please give an estimate of how many of those served are residents of Arlington County.	No clear community described; lacks any demographic or geographic data.	Basic identification of community served, but missing or confusing demographic or geographic data. Data may be outdated. Unclear how many Arlington County residents may be served.	Community served is identified and includes basic demographic and/or geographic data. Some data may be outdated. Clearly identifies the number of Arlington County residents served.	Community served is identified and includes sufficient demographic and/or geographic data. Data is current. Clearly identifies the number of Arlington County residents served.	Community served is clearly identified and includes significant and relevant demographic and/or geographic data. Data is current and from a variety of sources. Clearly identifies the number of Arlington County residents served. Demonstrates a deep understanding of and familiarity with the identified community.

Funding Requirements

Before funding is disbursed, the awardees must:

- Be up to date on County business license taxes per the Commissioner of Revenue, if applicable.
- Confirm or update banking information with the County's Finance Department.
- Complete and sign a grant agreement with the County Manager (a sample is included in the Grant Guidelines).
- Attend or review a kick-off meeting for training on reporting.

Final Tips

- Reference the rubric!
- Make sure to answer every part of each question.
- Use current, local qualitative and quantitative data when available.
- Clearly tie your identified need to your proposed services and outputs/outcomes.
- Ask a person outside of your organization to review your proposal with the rubric.

Questions?

Thank you for attending!

Contact Elizabeth Matlock
(ematlock@arlingtonva.us) with additional
questions as you work through your proposal!

