



2026-27 Human Services Grant (HSG) Program Grant Information – Updated Draft – 8/6/25

PURPOSE

The City of San Luis Obispo Human Relations Commission (HRC) Human Services Grant (HSG) Program provides financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social well-being of its citizens.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Main Funding Priority:

For the **2026-27 Fiscal Year**, the main funding for the City of San Luis Obispo will be preventing and addressing homelessness. More specifically, the City will prioritize funding services that:

- 1) Provide **permanent housing solutions** that can prevent homelessness or serve those experiencing homelessness
- 2) Provide **homelessness prevention activities** that can prevent homelessness or serve those experiencing homelessness
- 3) Provide **interim housing solutions** that can prevent homelessness or serve those experiencing homelessness
- 4) Provide **non-housing solutions** that can prevent homelessness or serve those experiencing homelessness

Category 1: Permanent Housing Solutions

Eligible Use Category	Examples
Rapid Rehousing/Rental Subsidies	Rental subsidies; landlord incentives (such as security deposits, holding fees, funding for needed repairs, landlord relationship management costs); and move-in expenses.
Operating Subsidies for Permanent Housing	Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, new or existing residential care facilities.
Permanent Housing Services and Services Coordination	Supportive services for people in Permanent Housing, including, but not limited to, intensive case management; coordination of mental health, substance use, or primary care treatment; other evidence-based supportive services.

Category 2: Homelessness Prevention Activities

Eligible Use Category	Examples
Prevention and Diversion	In addition to rapid rehousing and rental subsidies, prevention programs that prioritize households with incomes at or below 30% AMI; problem solving and diversion support programs that prevent people at risk or recently experiencing homelessness from entering homelessness (such as legal aid).

Category 3: Interim Housing Solutions

Eligible Use Category	Examples
Interim Housing/Motel or Hotel Vouchers	Operating expenses for congregate and non-congregate shelters, emergency shelters, and transitional housing; vouchers for motels or hotels for short-term stays for people experiencing homelessness.
Interim Housing Services and Services Coordination	Supportive services for people in Interim Housing, including, but not limited to, intensive case management; housing navigation; coordination of mental health, substance use, or primary care treatment; other evidence-based supportive services.

Category 4: Non-Housing Solutions

Eligible Use Category	Examples
Services and services coordination	Street outreach; engagement services; case management; housing navigation; hygiene services; harm reduction services; etc.
Operating or administrative costs for organization	Includes costs incurred to administer homeless services to City residents, such as salaries, office supplies, rent, etc.

Secondary Funding Priorities:

The following secondary funding priority areas are **not** listed in order of importance and **may not receive funding:**

- Hunger and malnutrition prevention
- Supportive physical and mental health services for those in need
- Services for seniors, veterans, and/or people with disabilities in need
- Supportive, developmental, and care services for children and youth in need
- Services encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusivity in marginalized communities, including access to language services

The Human Relations Commission will first fund all qualified applications that meet the main funding priority. After qualified main priority applications are funded, the HRC will consider applications for the secondary funding priorities.

FUNDING EXAMPLES

Examples of previously funded projects, programs, and activities include:

- Direct rental assistance and relocation stabilization housing services.
- Direct financial assistance to residents at risk of being evicted or needing support to secure housing with the first month's rent or security deposit.
- Direct financial support to secure and maintain permanent housing for youth and families.
- Funding to support transitional housing and incentives.
- Providing access to showers, clothing, and shower items to individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Residential advocacy, facility monitoring visits, complaint investigations, and resolution for individuals in long term care facilities.
- Covering costs of relocation expenses to independent living conditions after treatment.
- Providing food, household supplies, rent, and transportation cost services targeting the older adult population.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

1	Applicants must submit a complete application package within the deadline.
	1.1 One-page DEI Statement that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Applicant's understanding and application of DEI concepts/values. 1.1.2 Affirming language that creates access and a sense of belonging to all community members. 1.1.3 Explain how the proposal will advance DEI in the City of SLO. 1.2 One-page detailed budget for the proposal including how the total amount requested will be allocated. 1.3 Organizational chart 1.4 Document certifying Federal Tax-Exempt Status
2	Applications must be submitted through the online portal. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3	Grant recipients must comply with the HRC Bylaws which are to create an environment within the City in which all persons can enjoy equal rights and opportunities regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, physical, mental, or economic status. HRC Bylaws can be found on the City's website HERE .
4	Grant recipients <u>must enter into a contract</u> with the City prior to receipt of HSG funds, located HERE .
5	Grant recipients <u>must complete periodic reports</u> and provide them on a timely basis.
6	Grant recipients must submit a final report at the end of the project/service or at 12 months from start, whichever comes first. Grant recipients are expected to return unused funds.
7	Grant-funded programs must be available to all City residents, without regard to the resident's race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, or economic status.
8	Grant recipients must adhere to the following definitions when designing grant applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People literally experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness are defined under 24 CFR Section 578.3. 2. Supportive services are defined under 24 CFR Section 578.53.

FUNDING APPLICANT CRITERIA

1	Grants are made only to <u>501(c)(3)</u> organizations. Organizations without this status will need to partner with a 501(c)(3) as the lead applicant.
2	<u>100%</u> of the funded activities <u>must occur</u> in the City of San Luis Obispo.
3	Funded activities <u>must primarily serve</u> City residents. Applicants that provide services to neighboring communities, but also serve a significant number of City residents, will be considered.
4	Organizations that received previous HSG funding must be in good standing and have complied with all reporting requirements.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING INFORMATION

1	Applicants may submit a minimum request of \$5,000 and a maximum request of \$20,000. If applying in a partnership, the maximum request amount will be \$40,000.
2	A maximum of one (1) grant award is allowed per organization (or per partnership if a collaborative project).
3	If applying in a partnership, a lead organization must be identified in the application. The lead organization must be an eligible entity and must act as the fiscal agent. All parties must enter into the contract.
4	Projects, programs, concepts, and initiatives that leverage existing or other funding sources to supplement proposal are highly encouraged.
5	Consideration may be provided to proposals who have matching grants secured.
6	Consideration may be provided to projects/programs that have low overhead and administrative costs.

PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS

1	Funds CANNOT be used for advancing, campaigning, advocating, promoting, or highlighting political entities, ballot measures/initiatives, or candidates.
2	Funds CANNOT be used for advancing, advocating, promoting, or highlighting religious causes, entities, individuals, or activities. Funding CANNOT be used for the purpose of disseminating religious information in any form.
3	Funds CANNOT be used for profit or personal gain.

FUNDING DECISIONS

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) will exercise discretion when developing funding recommendations.

The HRC will review, with support from the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, all applications (that are completed, timely submitted, and meet the funding criteria) and develop funding recommendations based on the answers and attestations provided in each application, with guidance and direction from City Council. Please be as specific and detailed in your applications as possible. Recommendations will be presented to the City Council for approval. Final funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the City Council. Grants are awarded by available funding for current grant cycle. **Previous grant awards do not guarantee continued funding. This is a competitive grant process.**

The HRC encourages organizations to take innovative, creative approaches to solving the most prevalent health & human service needs in our community!