

Advancing Economic Opportunity among Older Adults—AARP Foundation Seeks Field-Building Projects

Vision: A country free of poverty where no older person feels vulnerable.

Mission: AARP Foundation serves vulnerable people 50 and older by creating and advancing effective solutions that help them secure the essentials.

Required Pre-Application Accepted on a Rolling Basis, Deadline: September 17, 2021, 5:00pm ET

Invited Full Application Deadline: October 15th, 2021, 5:00pm ET

AARP Foundation Grantmaking Overview

As AARP's charitable affiliate, AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping people over 50 build economic opportunity and maintain financial resilience. Through our grantmaking, we collaborate with organizations to advance equitable, evidence-based projects that can become sustainable solutions to the challenges facing older adults with low income.

AARP Foundation Focus on Building Economic Opportunity

AARP Foundation has specific objectives to achieve increasingly equitable outcomes for the population we serve — namely people over 50 who have low income. These objectives focus on increasing income/earnings, securing benefits and accessing refunds for this population and prioritize strategies that increase equitable access and outcomes in our programs and services to address systemic barriers, racial and ethnic disparities and other biases that perpetuate economic instability. AARP Foundation is focusing efforts in 22 U.S. states and territories: CA, FL, TX, NY, NC, MS, LA, PA, OH, GA, TN, AL, AR, KY, MI, SC, NM, WV, IL, AZ, DC and Puerto Rico.

With this Request for Applications (RFA), AARP Foundation seeks field-building projects that advance economic opportunity among older adults with low income on a systemic level, to increase income/earnings or secure benefits. For example, AARP Foundation recently funded a field-building project to organize a state-wide network of service providers to access and share resources, and provide technical assistance, to assist older adults apply for and receive SNAP benefits.

Please note: there is a separate funding opportunity for Direct Service projects, which includes any project that directly serves individual low-income older adults. Applications for Direct Service projects will not be considered under this RFA. Application requirements and funding levels vary based on the type of project (see RFA page 3).

Advancing Equitable, Effective Solutions

Grant Project Classifications

AARP Foundation funds grant projects that align with its mission and strategic objectives. For this funding opportunity, AARP Foundation seeks field-building projects, as defined in the chart below

Classification Definition	
Field-Building	Projects that may not directly serve low-income older adults, but advance the work of one or more organizations serving older adults with low income to achieve measurable and sustainable results (i.e., infrastructure support, capacity building, training, instructional material development).

Reporting & Payment

Award recipients will be required to submit calendar-year quarterly reports by the 8th of the month following the calendar year quarter that provide programmatic and financial status of their project. Grant payments will be provided in fixed amounts and in accordance with the payment schedule outlined in the award letter. Final payments will be made based on demonstrated ability to expend all awarded grant funds by the end of the project term.

Funding Eligibility

AARP Foundation will prioritize applications that serve populations disproportionately impacted by systemic barriers, racial and ethnic disparities and other biases in programs and policies. Additionally, AARP Foundation will give priority to applications that serve older adults in 22 U.S. states and territories: CA, FL, TX, NY, NC, MS, LA, PA, OH, GA, TN, AL, AR, KY, MI, SC, NM, WV, IL, AZ, DC and Puerto Rico.

This funding opportunity is primarily intended for national or regional organizations with built-in distribution channels, such as affiliates, members, chapters or collaborative partnerships.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Grants for individuals;
- Debt retirement or operating deficits;
- Endowments or reserve funds;
- Political organizations or campaigns;
- Lobbying legislators or influencing elections;
- Sponsorship of fundraising events;
- Marketing endeavors and personal research;
- Organizations located outside the United States or its territories; or
- Indirect expenses unrelated to the project being funded.

Grant Award Information

AARP Foundation is committed to investing in equitable, effective projects that advance economic opportunity among older adults with low income on a systemic level. The final investment amounts

will depend on a combination of factors including: the strength of the theory of change, the reach of the proposed project, ability to apply an equity lens to the project, and alignment with the objectives of increasing economic opportunity among older adults with low income.

A typical grant award range for Field-Building projects is up to \$150,000 per year, for up to two years.

FIELD-BUILDING	
Narrative Sections	
Contact	X
Organizational Details	X
Project Details (Pre-Application)	X
Project Details (Full-Application)	X
Financial Information	X
Attachments	
Theory of Change	X
Detailed project budget	X
Most recent audited financial statements	X

Grant Application Process

The application will consist of two parts:

- Required pre-application: deadline September 17, 2021
- Invited full application: deadline October 15, 2021

Eligible applicants are invited to submit a pre-application that contains background about their organization, basic information about their project model and its implementation, and it aligns with AARP Foundation’s mission and the objectives specified on page 1 of this funding opportunity. The full application will require additional information and supporting attachments.

The pre-application is located in Appendix A of this funding opportunity. *Please note: this funding opportunity is for Field-Building projects only. There is a separate funding opportunity for Direct Service projects.*

All pre-applications must be completed online in the [AARP Foundation Community Portal](#). The required pre-application deadline is September 17, 2021. Selected pre-applications will be invited to submit a full application due by October 15, 2021

[Click here to access the online pre-application.](#)

Applicants that are currently funded or have previously been funded by AARP Foundation should have an existing Community Portal account. After clicking on the application URL above, please sign in **using your same username and password login credentials**. Failure to do so may result in the creation of a duplicate account for your organization.

Newly applying organizations must create an account in [AARP Foundation's Community Portal](#). After clicking on the application URL above, select the '**Register**' button on the login page and follow the prompts to enter your contact information and organizational details.

NOTE: Once you have initiated the application process by selecting the above link and creating an account, you should not click on the link again. To access your in-progress application, simply navigate directly to the [AARP Foundation's Community Portal](#) and sign in using your login credentials.

Review Process

Application submissions undergo a thorough review process, from which a limited number of organizations are selected as finalists. During the review, you may be asked to respond to clarification questions and participate in follow up (via video conferences).

Timeline

August 2021: Funding opportunity announced and online pre-application made available

September 17, 2021, 5:00pm ET: Required Pre-Application Deadline

Week of September 27th, 2021: Full Applications Invited

October 15, 2021, 5:00pm ET: Invited Full Application Deadline

November 2021: Clarification period (as needed)

December 2021: Applicants notified of award decisions and funding determinations

Contact

For questions related to this funding opportunity or relating to pre-application submission in the AARP Foundation Community Portal, please send an email to the AARP Foundation Grants Management mailbox at aarp_foundation_grants@aarp.org.

Appendix A: Pre-Application Questions

The pre-application allows you to provide basic details on the proposed project for which you are seeking funding from AARP Foundation based on the type of project proposed (see grant classification definitions on page 2 of this funding opportunity). Please be specific and concise.

Funding Eligibility

AARP Foundation does not support funding requests for any of the following:

- Grants for individuals;
- Debt retirement or operating deficits;
- Endowments or reserve funds;
- Political organizations or campaigns;
- Lobbying legislators or influencing elections;
- Sponsorship of fundraising events;
- Marketing endeavors and personal research;
- Organizations located outside of the United States or its territories; or
- Expenses unrelated to the project being funded.

A. Contact

1. Primary Contact Name
2. Title of Primary Contact
3. Primary Contact Phone Number
4. Primary Contact Email

B. Organization Details

5. Organization Name
6. Address
7. Website
8. Organization EIN
9. How did your organization learn about this funding opportunity?
Select from the list below
 - AARP Foundation directly
 - AARP State Office
 - Twitter
 - Chronicle of Philanthropy
 - Professional Association
 - Other: *please list* (255 character limit)

C. Project Details (Pre-Application)

10. Request Name (100 character limit)

Please enter a brief title of the project (e.g., Enhancing Benefits Access for Older Adults).

11. Objective

Please select **one**:

- Income & Earnings
- Benefits

12. Grant Classification

Please select:

- Field-Building

13. Description of Proposed Project (5,000 character limit). Give a summary of the proposed project you would undertake with funding from AARP Foundation. Include a description of the intervention from the participant's perspective, step by step. Explain how your project aligns with AARP Foundation's goals and objectives. Discuss your data collection and evaluation plans, such as how and what data you will collect for the project.

14. Statement of Outcomes (500 character limit).

Please provide a brief summary of the project's short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term outcomes, (as applicable). This should include a projection of the number of people served that will attain a specific outcome as a result of the proposed intervention (e.g., 3,000 of 5,000 LI50+ individuals who participated in a class will increase their knowledge of available benefits as measured by a pre- and post-program survey).

15. Commitment to Equity (2,500 character limit).

Please describe the proposed project's commitment to achieving equitable outcomes for populations that have faced systemic racism and discriminatory barriers. For example, how will the project secure earnings or benefits consistent with their share of participants served and any relevant factors, such as education or experience? Describe your framework or methodology for measuring how your project will achieve equitable outcomes. Please describe the population that will be served and be specific in terms of age ranges, income levels, race, ethnicity, disability status and any other factors you wish to highlight.

****After completing the pre-application, please be sure to click *Review and Submit* to review your responses and print the pre-application, if desired. Then click *Submit* to submit the pre-application.**