



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
The SEA Change Fund

The Health Foundation for Western & Central New York invites applications for the **Sharpening Every Angle (SEA) Change Fund**.

Through the SEA Change Fund, the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York will provide 16 organizations with a grant of \$100,000 each for general operating support and capacity-building assistance focused on strengthening collection and use of data, storytelling and advocacy.

This funding opportunity is **limited to direct service providers** that provide health and social services to pregnant people, children up to age five, older adults and informal caregivers supporting older adults.

To apply for funding, applicants must be located within and providing services in one or more of the 16 counties the Health Foundation serves. Selection will be based on several factors, including alignment with the Health Foundation's mission, service population, financial need, and potential for capacity building success.

Deadline for Submission:
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Applications must be completed and submitted online at:

<https://hfwcnny.fluxx.io>

About the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York

The [Health Foundation for Western & Central New York](#) began in 2002 with a mission to improve the health and health care of the people and communities of western and central New York. Based in Buffalo, NY, with a second office in Syracuse, NY, the Foundation serves the following 16 counties:

Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

Central New York: Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Tompkins

The Health Foundation's vision is a healthy central and western New York where racial and socioeconomic equity are prioritized so all people can reach their full potential and achieve equitable health outcomes.

The Foundation's focus populations are children age 0 to 5, and older adults. We are currently prioritizing work that improves maternal and infant health outcomes, advances age friendly communities and policies, and increased access to high quality affordable healthcare.

Overview of RFA Opportunity

Nonprofits are grappling with sustainability concerns due to funding cuts. Throughout 2025, Health Foundation staff worked with community partners to better understand emerging nonprofit needs in the wake of recent cuts. Conversations pointed to a desire for greater flexibility in using grant funds and a wide array of organizational capacity building needs. In response, we developed the SEA Change Fund.

The SEA Change Fund will provide a combination of **general operating grants and targeted capacity building assistance**. We will provide a total of \$1.6 million in grants. Through this Request for Applications, we will select sixteen organizations that will receive \$100,000 each in general operating support. In addition, each grantee will receive one on one and group-based technical assistance and skill building focused on improving collection and use of data, strengthening storytelling and advocacy skills, and other areas to be identified in partnership with selected grantees.

Our goal is to identify direct service organizations that need assistance pivoting to maintain success in the current policy and funding landscape. Priority will be given to organizations with demonstrated interest in new business models that have a need to strengthen internal systems and business acumen, especially related to strengthening how they use data and communicate their impact. By providing tailored resources and

support, this investment aims to help nonprofits navigate ongoing challenges, enhance sustainability, and continue delivering vital services to vulnerable populations in western and central New York.

Eligibility and Funding

Through the SEA Change Fund, we will select a total of sixteen organizations to receive a \$100,000 general operating support grant—eight in western New York and eight in central New York. All recipients must agree to fully participate in capacity building efforts offered in addition to grant funding. We anticipate that half of the award, \$50,000, will be awarded in 2026 and half in early 2027.

This funding opportunity is limited to direct service providers that deliver health and social services to pregnant people, children up to age five, older adults and informal caregivers supporting older adults.

To apply for funding applicants must:

- Be located within **and** providing services in one or more of the 16 counties the Health Foundation serves (see page 2);
- be a non-profit with 501(c)3 status;
- work with pregnant and birthing people, young children, or older adults and their caregivers.

This opportunity is not intended for governments, academic institutions, network entities such as IPAs, social care networks and community care hubs, or community-based organizations that do not provide direct services.

Due to the limited amount of funding available, we will not fund current Health Foundation grantees that have active grants with awards in excess of \$50,000.

We are exploring future capacity building opportunities for current grantees.

What Awardees Can Expect

Selected organizations will be notified by June 22, 2026. Grant contracts will begin July 1, 2026. We anticipate that technical assistance will begin in August, after some initial information gathering.

Awardees can expect monthly sessions with technical assistance providers along with periodic group sessions throughout the twelve-month grant period.

Initiative Timeline

Wednesday, February 18, 2026	RFA Released
Thursday, February 19 through Wednesday February 25, 2026	Questions may be submitted to rfp@hfwcny.org for inclusion in FAQ document.
Monday, March 2, 2026	FAQ document released to the public
Monday, March 2, 2026	Online application portal opens
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	Applications due
April 6 through May 15, 2026	Discussions and site visits with applicants
June 22, 2026	Award announcements
July 1, 2026	Grant contracts begin

How to Apply

Interested organizations are invited to complete and submit the full application through Fluxx (<https://hfwcny.fluxx.io>) no later than **Tuesday, March 30, 2026**. Applicants who do not already have an account in Fluxx can [establish one](#).

Applicants are required to respond to the following questions in the online application:

- Organization Name, Address, Phone, Website
- Primary Contact Name, Phone, Email
- WNY and/or CNY county(s) served.

This first set of questions will help us understand who you serve and what services you provide.

1. Briefly describe the services you provide to children age 0 to 5, pregnant people, older adults and/or informal caregivers of older adults, along with the source of core funding for those services. Please provide links to additional information that is available.
2. Briefly describe who you serve including total served annually, geographic reach, and any key demographics you collect (age, race/ethnicity, income). You may attach or provide a link to demographic data.

The next set of questions will help us understand how recent changes in public funding and policies have impacted your organization.

3. Did you experience cuts in public funding in 2025? If so, please tell us a bit about these cuts including the amount of the cut, the percentage of the budget the cut represents, and the funder. Please indicate if these cuts were unanticipated or if they were time limited grants that were not renewed.
4. Do you anticipate funding cuts in 2026? If so, please share with us more information so that we can better understand what you see ahead.
5. How have changes in the public funding landscape impacted your organization's ability to provide services?
6. How is your organization responding to funding cuts and policy changes?

The SEA Change Fund will be providing capacity building support in addition to grant funding. The following questions will help us understand your organization's current capacity to collect and use data for decision making, quality improvement, and communicating impact.

7. Thinking about the **programs and services** you offer to the community, please describe your organization's collection and use of data for understanding community need, tracking service provision, outcomes, and quality.
8. Thinking about your **internal operations**, please describe your organization's collection and use of data for understanding the overall health and capacity of your organization.
9. Please tell us a bit about how you use both programmatic and operational data for advocacy, contract negotiation, fundraising, and other forms of communication.
10. What are the most significant challenges you face in collecting and using data? Being aspirational, what would your ideal use of data look like?
11. Which of the following types of data does your organization collect? Check all that apply.

Type of Data Collected:	Do you collect this type of data?	Where is it stored? Please name a program (e.g., Excel, QuickBooks, etc.)
Financial		
Human Resources		
Contacts (clients, donors, etc.)		
Fundraising		
Program activities		
Program outcomes		
Photo and other digital assets		
Success stories and other qualitative data		

12. Which aspects of your organization’s data capacities would you most like to strengthen?

- Data collection systems and processes
- Data quality
- Data governance (policies and practices to ensure data accuracy, security, privacy, and appropriate use)
- Data analysis
- Data-informed decision-making
- Data communication
- Data integration (pulling data from multiple sources into one centralized data management framework ie. one dashboard that shows productivity and costs using fiscal data, program data, HR data is an example))
- Other: _____

This final set of questions will help us to understand how your organization is participating in current opportunities and planning for the future.

13. Is your organization a member or collaborator of one of the New York State Social Care Networks established under the Medicaid 1115 waiver? If so, please tell us which one(s) and how your organization is participating.
14. How has your organization been thinking about revenue generation and diversification in the new political climate? Please include all relevant information that will help us to understand including any new business or service models you are exploring.
15. **What else do we need to know?** What do you want us to understand that wasn't covered under the previous questions? This is your opportunity to share important context about your organization that wasn't captured in previous questions.

Applicants are asked to be prepared to upload the following information:

- List of all current philanthropic grants, including amount and funder (if none, please upload statement indicating 0 philanthropic awards)
- Most recent filed IRS Form 990 return.
- 2025 yearend Financial Statements or fiscal yearend Financial Statements
- Most recent Reviewed or Audited Financial Statements including Auditor's letter to Management.
- Is your organization a parent company or subsidiary under a parent company? If yes, please provide 2025 yearend or fiscal yearend consolidated financial statements and most recent reviewed or audited financial statements.
- 2026 annual budget summary