



CHEFA

Connecticut Health & Educational
Facilities Authority

FY 2026 CHEFA Nonprofit Grant Program

Request for Letters of Interest (LOI)

RFP for LOI Release Date: **November 24, 2025**

LOI Submission Due: **December 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

Notification to Apply for Selected Applicants: **By February 16, 2026**

Application Due Date: **March 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

Awards Announcement: **By May 29, 2026**

Payment of Grants: **By June 30, 2026**

Grant Period: Date that Financial Assistance Agreement is Fully
Executed through **June 30, 2027**

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INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (“CHEFA”) provides access to tax-exempt financing and other financial assistance to educational institutions, healthcare providers, childcare providers and other eligible not-for-profit entities.

CHEFA established the Nonprofit Grant Program to provide nonprofit organizations in Connecticut with the opportunity to access funding through competitive grants. Funding for this program is derived from CHEFA’s own resources and does not include any State funding.

Through this RFP, CHEFA is inviting Letters of Interest for the FY 2026 Nonprofit Grant Program. The grant program funds capital projects/purchases and programs operating within the state of Connecticut.

Letters of Interest will be accepted from organizations whose mission statement is related to any of the following focus sectors, as determined by CHEFA in its sole discretion:

- **Childcare**
- **Cultural Institutions**
- **Education**
- **Healthcare**
- **Human Services Providers**
- **Long-Term Care/Senior Living Facilities**

AND the proposed project/program must fall within one of the following priority areas for FY 2026:

- **Infant/Toddler & Preschool Childcare**
- **College/Career Readiness & Workforce Development**
- **Community-Based Navigation Services**
- **Performing Arts Venues & Art Studios**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. CHEFA reserves the right to reject Letters of Interest that are incomplete or incorrect.
2. Any organization that is awarded a grant from CHEFA must not discriminate or prevent participation in a program or activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, status as a veteran, status as a

victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in person, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability.

3. Letters of Interest and Applications must be submitted by the deadline date and time or will be considered ineligible. For this reason, we strongly suggest early submission.
4. If you have questions, please email Jen Chapman, Grants Program Manager, at jchapman@cheffa.com.

AWARDS

- Grant requests must range from **\$5,000 up to a maximum of \$75,000**
- Funding must be used for capital projects/purchases acquired or programs effective during the grant period of the date the Financial Assistance Agreement is fully executed through June 30, 2027.
- The CHEFA Board of Directors reserves the right to award less than any applicant's requested amount.
- Grant awards are subject to funding availability.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Grants will be awarded based on criteria that include, but are not limited to:

- Project need
- Target population impact
- Likelihood of success
- Responsivity to the population served
- Metrics of success
- Organizational financial and managerial strength

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant organizations must have current IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt designation.
- **This grant cycle is for nonprofit organizations that are NOT CHEFA clients. There is a separate grant program for CHEFA clients.**
- Funding is restricted to capital projects/purchases or programs operating within Connecticut.

- If an organization was **AWARDED** a grant in **EACH** of the past three fiscal years (i.e. FY 2023, 2024, 2025), the organization must take one year off from applying and may thereafter apply in the following fiscal year (i.e. FY 2027).

WHAT CHEFA WILL NOT FUND

- Basic human needs (i.e. food/pantries/soup kitchens; housing/shelter; etc.)
- Annual giving or fundraising for non-specific projects or programs (i.e. annual Giving Day or Holiday appeal letters), or capital campaigns (defined as multi-million-dollar, multiple-year, brick-and-mortar campaigns)
- Debt reduction, endowment funding, conferences, trips or other one-time events
- Religiously sectarian services
- Scholarships (i.e. Pre-K-12, program scholarships, etc.) (college scholarships are provided on a competitive application basis through our CHESLA subsidiary)
- Indirect costs will be funded on a limited basis (not to exceed 15% of direct costs)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The award of any funding is subject to the discretion of the CHEFA Board of Directors.
- Only one application will be accepted from any organization.
- For a period of five years, the capital purchases obtained with CHEFA grant funds may not be transferred, sold, or disposed of without CHEFA consent, and must remain in Connecticut.
- Applicants must fully disclose all pending mergers and acquisitions, state or federal investigations, litigation and executive management changes to CHEFA during the LOI process, application process, and grant period.
- Funds not expended in accordance with the approved budget or any subsequent modification during the grant period must be returned to CHEFA.
- Interim and Final reports will be required of each grantee, the form and substance to be fully described upon award notification.
- CHEFA reserves the right to withhold funds or require repayment of funds if it is determined that the project is not meeting the goals, objectives, and timetable stated in the application, or that information provided in the application was false or misleading.
- Grantees will be required to enter into and abide by the terms of a Financial Assistance Agreement.

- The grantee must acknowledge CHEFA support in all press releases, media interviews, reports, or other publicity related to the funded project/program.
- The organization must demonstrate its ability to fully fund the proposed project/program within the specified timeframe (including CHEFA funding).
- State of Connecticut Nondiscrimination Requirements: Connecticut General Statutes Section 4a-60, requires (i) any entity or individual entering into a contract with the state or certain political subdivisions of the state, including quasi-public agencies, to comply with the provisions of the statute and (ii) the inclusion of the provisions set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 4a-60(b)(1)-(5), and 4a-60(d)(1) in any such contract. The Financial Assistance Agreement that must be executed in connection with a Grant award will include the provisions required by the above referenced statute.
- SEEC Notice: The Financial Assistance Agreement for a Grant award of \$50,000 or more, that must be entered into upon the award of a grant, constitutes a “State contract” as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-612(f)(1)(C). The authorized signatory to the Letter of Interest must expressly acknowledge receipt and review of the State Elections Enforcement Commission’s “Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations” and must agree to inform the applicant’s principals of the contents of the notice. Such notice is available at:
<https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/data/forms/ContrForms/SEECStateContractorNotice.pdf>
- Campaign Contribution Certification: Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-612(f)(2)(F) requires a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor to make the disclosures and certifications set forth on the Campaign Contribution Certification form available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Fin-General/OPM-Form1-CampaignContributionCertification-8-18-Final.pdf>. Each applicant, submitting a Letter of Interest for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 or more, must complete and submit the Campaign Contribution Certification form with their Letter of Interest.

PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

- Request for Letters of Interest Issued – November 24, 2025
- Letters of Interest will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on December 31, 2025
- Submitted Letters of Interest will be reviewed by CHEFA’s Management and Staff and by February 16, 2026, selected organizations will be invited to submit full applications
- Full applications from selected organizations will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on March 26, 2026

- Full applications will be reviewed by CHEFA's Management and Staff and recommendations will be presented to CHEFA's Board of Directors for selection of awards no later than May 29, 2026.

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST

The **LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI)** form is now available at:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=CHEFA>

- CHEFA utilizes the online Foundant Technologies Grant Management System. For optimal utilization please update your browser to the most recent version or utilize Google Chrome or Firefox.
- Auto-generated updates regarding your letter of interest and application will be sent from CHEFA's Grant Management System with the email of "administrator@grantinterface.com." Please allow this email in your "Safe Sender" addresses. **DO NOT reply or send correspondence to administrator@grantinterface.com** as messages will not reach CHEFA staff. Please direct questions or correspondence to jchapman@chefa.com.
- Please do not email, personally deliver, fax, or mail your Letter of Interest; it must be completed online. Hard copies of the Letter of Interest and/or application will not be accepted.
- Materials submitted to CHEFA are subject to public disclosure under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, unless an exception applies, and should not include information prohibited by HIPAA or in violation of other applicable laws or regulations.
- The Staff and Board of Directors reserve the right to request additional information as may be required during the grant program LOI/application and review process. CHEFA reserves its sole right to modify these guidelines and the program at any time.