

Dartmouth Cancer Center



Dartmouth
MEDICAL SCHOOL
MEDICINE

2026 Request for Applications:

Mini-Grants to Support Community-Driven, Cancer-Relevant Projects

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Background

About Dartmouth Cancer Center

Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC)'s mission is to accelerate transdisciplinary research to prevent and cure cancer, enhance survivorship, promote cancer-relevant health equity, and train an ever more diverse oncology workforce for the future. We seek to optimally serve our local and regional communities while creating important new knowledge and clinical impact for the world.

In serving our local and regional communities, we are focused on improving cancer-relevant outcomes and reducing cancer-relevant inequities impacting community members throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Much of our work in this area is led by our Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) team through their efforts to:

- Work with community partners to understand how cancer affects our community,
- Support research to address community cancer issues and inequities, and
- Address cancer issues through outreach efforts.

To learn more about our work in the community and to access resources to use in your community, visit <https://cancer.dartmouth.edu/patients-families/cancer-community>.

DCC's COE team is collaborating with the Center for Rural Equity (CARHE) at Dartmouth Health on this grant opportunity. CARHE's mission is to make sure that people in rural areas have the chance to live healthy lives. A healthy life includes living a life free from discrimination and unfair treatment. CARHE fosters partnerships and programs to make sure everyone has a fair shot at a healthy life, no matter who they are or where they live. CARHE values commitment, action, respect and humility. CARHE strives to be inclusive, transparent, accountable, a good steward of resources, and to co-create the best solutions through shared leadership with partners and the wider community.

Purpose of Funding

Beginning in 2025, DCC began distributing up to \$25,000 in annual grant funding to stimulate new community-based, cancer-relevant projects that have the potential to improve health equity in New Hampshire and Vermont. The total funding pool available annually is \$25,000. Applicants can request up to \$25,000 per project. The goal of these projects is to bring resources to community organizations seeking to improve health and health equity in their communities. Because the priority is to maximize the impact of grants across a range of projects that align with program's goals, it may not be possible to fully fund all grant requests.

In addition to one-year project funding, technical assistance will be available to grantees (described in more detail below) to support their project goals. This may be provided either directly by DCC's COE team or by CARHE.

Because we would like to support projects that are driven by community-defined needs, we are intentionally leaving funding guidance as broad as possible. With that in mind, proposed projects may be of a variety of types, including, but not limited to:

- Educational or outreach efforts/events,
- Infrastructure investments,
- Intervention delivery,
- Environmental or policy change, and
- Training programs.

Projects may focus on any areas of the cancer continuum—from prevention through end-of-life. We also encourage a range of project sizes, and budget requests can be for any amount, up to \$25,000. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use evidence-based programming, where applicable.

Key Definitions

By ‘**cancer continuum**,’ we mean anything related to the stages of cancer control and treatment, including: prevention, early detection/screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care, and end-of-life.

By ‘**cancer-relevant**,’ we mean anything related to aspects of cancer prevention, early detection/screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care, and end-of-life.

By ‘**health equity**,’ we mean *the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities* (Healthy People 2020, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services). Locally, the [2025 Vermont Cancer Plan](#) (Vermont Dept of Health) includes a goal to *ensure that all Vermonters have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy—including those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage, historical injustice, and other avoidable systemic inequalities that are often associated with Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) Vermonters, people living with disabilities and low-income Vermonters.*

By ‘**evidence-based**’ we mean practices or approaches that have been proven effective; sources of evidence-based approaches include [The Community Guide](#), the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps [What Works for Health](#) database, and the National Cancer Institute’s [Evidence-Based Cancer Control Programs](#). ‘**Evidence-informed**’ practices and approaches are broader and more inclusive to include those practices and approaches that hold promise, even if they have not yet been proven effective.

What We Fund

Applicant Eligibility

Government and non-profit organizations proposing projects that will have an impact on New Hampshire and/or Vermont are eligible to apply.

To prioritize community-driven projects, applications where Dartmouth College and/or Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (including its Heater Road facility) located in Lebanon, NH serve as the lead applicants will not be considered. However, Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center teams are encouraged to serve as project partners (not lead applicants). Applications from other Dartmouth Health facilities are eligible.

Eligible Projects

Projects that meet the following required criteria will be considered:

- Must be a new project
- Must be cancer-relevant, focusing on one or more areas of the cancer continuum—from prevention through end-of-life;
- Must impact one or more New Hampshire and/or Vermont community(ies) or population(s);
- Must have the potential to improve one or more aspects of health equity;
- Must use evidence-based or evidence-informed practices or approaches;
- Must propose a reasonable budget of no more than \$25,000; and

- Must demonstrate ability to complete the project within the 12-month project period.

Additionally, projects that demonstrate the following will be prioritized:

- Engagement of community members or other community partners in the project planning, implementation, and/or evaluation; and
- Sustainability beyond the project period.

Ineligible Projects

Though we are leaving the project eligibility criteria intentionally broad to support community-driven needs, the following projects are not eligible for funding:

- Applications from for-profit organizations (see ‘Applicant Eligibility’ section above);
- Applications where Dartmouth College or the portion of Dartmouth Health known as the “Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center” in Lebanon, NH serve as the lead applicants (see ‘Applicant Eligibility’ section above);
- Projects that do not meet all required project criteria (see ‘Eligible Projects’ section above);
- Existing programs or projects (including those that constitute expansions of existing or pilot programs or projects), as we would like to stimulate new initiatives; and
- Research projects.
 - Note: If you have a research project in mind, please contact DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu, as DCC may have other funding opportunities to support research projects.

Technical Assistance

We recognize that grantees will have varying levels of experience with planning, conducting, and evaluating projects. To help grantees achieve their project goals, DCC and CARHE offer optional, on-demand technical assistance throughout the funding period. DCC and/or CARHE will work with grantees to understand their unique needs and create a plan for what can be accomplished together through technical assistance. Technical assistance will be tailored based on the grantee’s needs but may include:

- Best practices to advance health equity;
- Program evaluation planning;
- Data collection tools and processes (quantitative and qualitative);
- Approaches to authentically engaging community members and those receiving services;
- Plain language communications and dissemination of information; and/or
- Other support to help achieve the project goals.

Review Process and Criteria

Applications will initially undergo administrative review by DCC’s COE team to ensure the applications meet all required eligibility criteria and to assess appropriateness of the proposed budget. Applications that meet eligibility criteria will be reviewed by a committee of DCC members, CARHE members, and community partners; the committee will use the following criteria and scoring system (on page 5) in reviewing applications and making funding recommendations.

Review Criteria	Score (0-4)
<u>Community need</u> : There is a clear, cancer-relevant community need to be addressed.	
<u>Evidence for project</u> : There is evidence to support the project as an appropriate approach to addressing the community need.	
<u>Health equity</u> : The project is likely to improve one or more aspects of health equity.	
<u>Impact</u> : The project is likely to make a positive impact on the population(s) or community(ies) described in the application.	
<u>Sustainability</u> : The project or its impact is likely to be sustained beyond the funding period.	
<u>Community engagement</u> : There are reasonable plans to engage community members or community partners in the project planning, implementation, and/or evaluation.	
<u>Feasibility</u> : The scale of project is feasible given the proposed timeline.	
Scoring: 4: Excellent — Strong with essentially no weaknesses 3: Very Good — Strong but also has one or more <i>minor</i> weaknesses 2: Good — Some strengths but also has one or more <i>moderate</i> weaknesses 1: Satisfactory — Some strengths but also has one or more <i>major</i> weaknesses Minor Weakness: An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact of the project. Moderate Weakness: A weakness that lessens impact of the project. Major Weakness: A weakness that severely limits impact of the project.	
<u>Evaluation</u> : The evaluation plan is appropriate to determine if the project was successful.	Yes No

Final funding decisions will be based on the review committee’s recommendations and administrative review of the proposed budget, which will be presented to DCC’s Community Advisory Board for consideration and endorsement.

To support alignment with existing community initiatives and facilitate connections, DCC may share a summary of all applications received, including applicant contact information, with CARHE and/or other community partners.

How to Apply

The application process includes two steps, described below.

Step 1: Intent to Apply Questionnaire

Organizations intending to apply for funding are asked to complete an optional but strongly recommended ‘Intent to Apply’ questionnaire. This brief online questionnaire asks for basic details about the organization and the proposed project. The purpose of this step is to help DCC assemble an appropriate review committee for anticipated applications. Details provided in the questionnaire can be updated/changed in the full application.

Applicants are asked to complete the Intent to Apply questionnaire by August 14, 2026. Questionnaires can be completed online at: <https://redcap.link/2026IntentToApply>. See page 10 to review the information requested in the questionnaire.

Step 2: Application

The grant application form is available for download at: <https://cancer.dartmouth.edu/cancer-community/resources>. Applicants should email a copy of their completed application form by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on September 11, 2026 to DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu. Please include 'Community Mini-Grant Application' in the email subject line.

Timeline

Key Dates

- **July 20, 2026:** RFA released
- **August 5, 2026 from 11 am – 12 pm (ET):** Pre-application information session via Zoom™ (Zoom™ connection information included in 'Contact & Support' section below)
- **August 14, 2026:** Intent to Apply forms requested
- **September 11, 2026:** Applications due
- **October 23, 2026:** Applicants notified of funding decisions
- **November 2026:** Meet and greet check-in meeting with DCC and awardees via Zoom™
- **November 2026:** First grant payment after DCC is in receipt of signed Grant Agreement from grantee. For grants, ≤\$5,000, payment will be full award amount. For grants >\$5,000, payment will be half the award amount.
- **December 1, 2026 – November 30, 2027:** Project period
- **May 2027:** Mid-point check-in meeting via Zoom™
- **June 2027:** For grants >\$5,000, second grant payment after demonstration of sufficient progress via mid-year check-in meeting
- **January 16, 2028:** End-of-project report due
- **January/February 2028 and/or at end of project:** Wrap-up check-in meeting via Zoom™

Grant Check-Ins & Reporting

Check-Ins

As noted above, DCC would like to support grantees with more than funding. We would like to get to know grantees and provide technical assistance where needed to help the projects be as successful as possible and to develop partnerships with grantees. To help with this goal, DCC will schedule check-in meetings with each grantee at the start, mid-point, and end of the project period and commits to maintaining open communication with grantees.

Reporting

After awards are made, DCC will provide all grantees with guidance regarding information that will be requested as part of the end-of-project reporting. The reporting will concentrate on key deliverables produced, outcomes achieved, and sustainability and future plans.

Grantees are encouraged to enrich their reporting with photos, quotes from community partners and community members impacted by the project, and project materials developed. In addition, grantees will have the opportunity to showcase their projects at a DCC Community Advisory Board meeting.

Contact & Support

Pre-Application Information Session

DCC will host a virtual information session on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (ET) via Zoom™. Organizations interested in applying for funding are encouraged to attend to learn more about this funding opportunity and to ask questions.

Join with the following Zoom™ connection information:

<https://dartmouth.zoom.us/j/98481144090?pwd=Sx3wqGiaM7m4yPv9f4d79lPfl4hTa4.1>

Meeting ID: 984 8114 4090

Passcode: 284976

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,98481144090#,,,,*284976# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,98481144090#,,,,*284976# US

Office Hours

DCC will also hold virtual office hours to discuss applications prior to submission. Office hours will be held during the timeframes listed below. To join, please use the same Zoom™ connection information as provided above for the pre-application information session.

- Tuesday, August, 18, 2026 from 12 – 1 pm (ET)
- Thursday, August 27, 2026 from 4 – 5 pm (ET)
- Wednesday, September 2, 2026 from 3 – 4 pm (ET)
- Wednesday, September 10 from 9 – 10 am (ET)

Contact Information

Applicants are welcome to discuss their ideas with DCC prior to submitting; we are happy to help applicants shape their projects before applying. Questions, comments, and suggestions can be directed to DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu.

Award Terms

Acknowledgement

We (the grantee) will:

- Reference DCC's support in any written or digital materials (e.g., press releases, social media posts, web content) about our proposed project.
- Use the following verbiage to formally acknowledge DCC's support in any academic abstracts, publications, presentations, or posters about our proposed project.
 - *This work was supported by the Dartmouth Cancer Center's Community Outreach and Engagement initiative.*
- Provide to DCC copies of any written or digital materials and any academic abstracts, publications, presentations, or posters referencing our proposed project.
- Permit DCC to include our organization's name, trade name, and logo in DCC's release of information about proposed projects, including, but not limited, to the general public, news media, and the National Cancer Institute.
- Provide to DCC a high-resolution organizational logo for use as described above.

Budget & Expenditures

We (the grantee) will:

- Spend the funds provided only on expenses related to the proposed project.
- Not spend the funds on any in-direct (i.e., overhead) costs.
- Write to DCC at least 30 days prior to making any changes in the budget that result in >25% of the budget being spent differently than outlined in our application. DCC will approve or deny such requests at its sole discretion.
- Register as a Dartmouth College vendor through PaymentWorks, as described [here](#); this will include providing an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for tax reporting purposes.

If our grant award is ≤\$5,000, we (the grantee) will:

- Invoice DCC for the full award amount after signing the Grant Agreement.

If our award is >\$5,000, we (the grantee) will:

- Invoice DCC for half the award amount after signing the Grant Agreement.
- Invoice DCC for the second half of the award amount after demonstrating sufficient progress during our mid-point check-in, which shall be evidenced by completion of the milestones co-created by DCC and grantee during the first check-in meeting.

Extensions & Changes

As needed, we (the grantee) will:

- Write to DCC at least 30 days prior to the end of the award period (by October 31, 2027) to request changes to project scope and/or a no-cost extension. DCC will approve or deny such requests at its sole discretion.

Reporting & Check-Ins

We (the grantee) will:

- Participate in at least three check-in meetings with DCC (at the start, mid-point, and end of project).
- Complete a final project report following the template and instructions to be provided by DCC.
- Provide photos, as feasible, to capture the proposed project. Any photos depicting people's faces must include a photo release waiver (form available from DCC if grantee does not have their own).

Terms & Conditions

We (the grantee) agree:

- That, to the best of its knowledge and belief, all of the information submitted to DCC as part of the grant proposal is true, correct, and complete.
- That it is responsible for the acts and omissions of any of its trustees, director, officers, employees, subgrantees, subcontractors, agents, and affiliates assisting with administration and expenditure of the grant and will ensure their compliance with the terms of the grant.
- That it will not sue or proceed in any manner, in agency or other proceedings, at law or in equity, by way of administrative hearing or otherwise, to solicit others to institute any such actions or proceedings, or consent to be a complainant in any action or proceeding against DCC or its trustees, directors, officers, representative, or agents (collectively, "DCC Persons") because of, related to, or arising out of the grant.
- That when carrying out the activities funded by the grant, it will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and rules and will not infringe, misappropriate, or violate the intellectual property rights of any third party.
- That it will not transfer this grant, and that (except as disclosed in its grant proposal) it is not an agent or representative of DCC.
- That it fully releases, indemnifies, and holds harmless DCC and the DCC Persons from any and all actions, claims, damages, legal fees, and expenses of any nature whatsoever that DCC or the DCC Persons may ever have because of, related to, or arising out of the grant agreement, except with respect to actions or proceedings brought by Organization solely for the purpose of enforcing contractual rights explicitly provided for under this Agreement or gross negligence, willful misconduct, or fraud committed by DCC or the DCC Persons.

Intent to Apply Questionnaire (Recommended, Requested 8/14/2026)

To help you in preparing to submit your Intent to Apply Questionnaire, here is the list of information requested in the questionnaire. When your organization is ready to submit the questionnaire, please do so online at <https://redcap.link/2026IntentToApply> by August 14, 2026.

About Your Organization

1. Organization name
2. Type of organization (choose one)
 - ☐ Government
 - ☐ Non-profit
 - ☐ Other (describe)
3. Organization address

Project Contacts

4. Primary contact person
 - ☐ Name
 - ☐ Title
 - ☐ Email address
 - ☐ Phone number
5. Secondary contact person (optional)
 - ☐ Name
 - ☐ Title
 - ☐ Email address
 - ☐ Phone number

Project Details

6. In just a few sentences, can you tell us a bit about your project? It's okay if these details change later.
7. How much funding do you anticipate requesting, if known? It's okay if this amount changes later.

Questions

8. Do you have any questions for Dartmouth Cancer Center?