

## Garman Family Foundation Spring 2026 Grant Information and Schedule

The Garman Family Foundation supports initiatives and invests in programs that create lasting, meaningful outcomes—enhancing the quality of life for individuals, fostering long-term growth, and building stronger, more resilient communities. The Garman Family Foundation (GFF) will consider requests that address:

- Mental Health
- Food Security
- Housing

### **Applicants may apply for funding to support:**

- Capital
- General Operations
- Programming

Applications **MUST** be submitted electronically online. No paper, email, or PDF applications will be accepted. Outcome reporting will also be online when closing the grant. For your convenience, an outline of the questions you will be required to address when completing your electronic application starts on p. 5.

### **Focus Areas**

- I. **Mental Health** (Mental health includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being, and how a person thinks, feels, acts, and handles stress.)
  - a. Request must address one of the following:
    - i. **Clinical Care**
      1. Services delivered by qualified mental health professionals. May include therapy, counseling, medication management, and skill-building programs to help clients live independently and participate fully in their communities.
      2. Aims to support individuals in managing mental health conditions and improving functioning
      3. Trauma-Informed Approach to Care
        - a. Provides services in a safe, supportive, and empowering way, recognizing and addressing the impact of trauma on individuals' health and well-being
    - ii. **Diagnosis, Treatment, and Rehabilitation/Support Services**
      1. Provide comprehensive services for mental health, including assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation/support to promote recovery and independent living
        - a. Clinical assessments and screenings
        - b. Individual, group, and family therapy; evidence-based interventions (e.g., Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing)

- c. Medication management and psychiatric care
- d. Rehabilitation and support services: life skills training, vocational programs, peer support, and case management
- e. Integrated care and telehealth services to enhance access and coordination

iii. **Workforce Shortage**

- 1. Increase the capacity and accessibility of mental health services by expanding the number of qualified and diverse providers, enhancing their training and education, and using technology to deliver care more effectively and equitably
- 2. Early Exposure & Career Pathways
  - a. Early Exposure – providing opportunities to explore mental health careers, helping to build a future workforce pipeline
  - b. Career Pathways - Structured programs that provide guidance, education, and training to help individuals progress toward a career in mental health. May include certifications, higher education, apprenticeships, internships, and professional development opportunities
- 3. Licensing, Credentialing, Payor Enrollment
  - a. Support mental health clinicians in obtaining licensures, verifying credentials, and enrolling with insurance payors to ensure they can provide qualified, reimbursable care
  - b. System or software to manage billing and payment from insurance payors (public or private) to streamline the process of getting paid for clinical services

**II. Food Security**

- a. Request must address one of the following:

i. **Community Gardens**

- 1. Products, Training, and Manpower - production of fresh produce, training programs, and the necessary manpower to maintain and grow the gardens

ii. **Food System Change Initiatives**

- 1. Promote comprehensive responses to challenges related to local food systems
  - a. Develop and implement strategies to address local food, food access, and farm-related issues in a coordinated and sustainable way
  - b. Improve access to healthy food, supporting local farms, reducing food insecurity, and strengthening the overall food supply chain
- 2. May involve policy advocacy, community programs, education, or partnerships to create sustainable, long-term solutions for food-related challenges in the community
- 3. Meet the food needs of food-insecure individuals through food distribution

- a. Provide food distribution services to support individuals and families experiencing food insecurity
- b. Deliver food directly to individuals and families who do not have reliable access to sufficient, nutritious food. May include food pantries, meal programs, mobile food delivery, or community food boxes.
- c. Aims to reduce hunger and improve food security while ensuring recipients have access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods

### iii. Technology and Capacity Needs

- 1. Implement data tracking and system management tools to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of food programs

## III. Housing

- a. Request must address one of the following:

### i. Emergency Housing Needs

- 1. Support for individuals and families facing immediate housing crises
  - a. Provide safety and basic needs (shelter, food, and hygiene) while helping individuals connect with longer-term solutions

### ii. Transitional Housing Supports

- 1. Assistance that helps individuals move from temporary to stable, long-term housing
- 2. Includes supportive services such as case management, job training, counseling, or life skills development

## Eligibility

- Applicants must be in or serving one of the eight counties of Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.
- Grants are awarded only to organizations that have current Section 501(c) (3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Organizations with a current open Garman Family Foundation grant are not eligible to apply for this cycle. Your final report must be submitted, and all funds spent down, before applying for another grant.
- On a very limited basis, the Foundation will offer the opportunity for two-year support, with second-year support contingent upon year-one outcomes.

## Other Matters

- The maximum amount of funding that can be requested is \$50,000. Should an organization intend to request more than \$50,000, it **must** contact Jean McKeown, Special Advisor to President/CEO, at [jeanm@cfgb.org](mailto:jeanm@cfgb.org) in advance to discuss this request.
- The GFF will not consider funding for:
  - ❑ Higher education scholarships (Please see <https://www.cfgb.org/community-change/initiatives/scholarships/> for separate application, deadlines, and process)
  - ❑ Religious purposes
  - ❑ Projects outside Western New York (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties)
  - ❑ Schools not registered with the New York State Education Department
  - ❑ Attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events for organizations

- Annual events or festivals
- Any partisan political activity. Funds from the foundation cannot be used to support or oppose a candidate for political office.
- Projects and activities that have occurred. The GFF will not, except in extraordinary cases, provide payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to the funding decision being communicated to the applicant.
- Organizations that engage, participate, and/or are evidenced to participate in discriminatory practices
- The GFF reserves the right to pay grants in a single installment or in “draws” at its sole discretion.
- The GFF requires that all successful applicants obtain three bids for any equipment purchase.
- The GFF requires that all grants be closed out within one year of receiving funds, except for very limited two-year awards.
- At any given time, organizations can only have one open grant with the GFF.
- The GFF reserves the right to independently evaluate grant expenditures for up to four years. The grantee agrees to provide the information necessary to complete such an evaluation. Failure to submit requested information in a timely fashion may obligate the grantee to refund the grant.
- The use of grant funds for purposes not pre-approved by the GFF or not supported through required documentation will result in a request that those grant funds be returned to the GFF.
- The failure of an applicant to properly close out a grant in a timely manner will be a factor when considering new grant applications.

#### **Timeline**

Application opens online: January 26, 2026

Application deadline: February 23, 2026, at 4 PM

*NOTE: Applications in draft form after the deadline will be considered abandoned and will not be eligible to be considered for funding.*

Decision notification: Mid-June 2026

Grant-related questions may be directed to Jean McKeown at 716-852-2857, x 204 or [jeanm@cfgb.org](mailto:jeanm@cfgb.org)

For general information and technical questions, please contact Alexandra Osberg at 716-852-2857, x 261 or [alexandrao@cfgb.org](mailto:alexandrao@cfgb.org)

## Grant Application Questions

- Project name
- Amount requested
- Date grant required
- Purpose of organization
- One sentence summary of grant purpose
- Five-year history of prior grant requests to the Garman Family Foundation
  - Title of previous requests, date submitted, and action (approved or denied) taken on each.
- Financial background of the organization, including:
  - Annual operating expenses
  - Last fiscal year surplus/deficit
  - Accumulated surplus/deficit
  - Endowment market value

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 1) **Focus Areas**
  - a) Which focus areas will your project address? Select all that apply.
    - i) Mental Health
    - ii) Food Security
    - iii) Housing
- 2) **Project Type**
  - a) How will grant funds be used? Select all that apply.
    - i) Capital
    - ii) General Operations
    - iii) Program
- 3) **Geographic Area**
  - a) Which county/counties of Western New York will your project serve? Select all that apply.
    - i) Allegany
    - ii) Cattaraugus
    - iii) Chautauqua
    - iv) Erie
    - v) Genesee
    - vi) Niagara
    - vii) Orleans
    - viii) Wyoming
- 4) **Number to be served**
  - a) Indicate the number of unduplicated individuals to be served by the proposed project.
- 5) **Define need - why should this be done?**
  - a) Clearly identify the **problem or gap** in the community that your project aims to solve.
  - b) How does the project address local needs or leverage existing community assets?
  - c) Please include how this project/program goals align with the focus area(s) you have chosen, and who and how many will benefit (if applicable).
- 6) **What will be done?**
  - a) What actions/activities are proposed to meet this need?
  - b) What are the distinctive features of your approach/program?
  - c) Is collaboration a part of this application? If yes, please detail.
  - d) What is the timetable?

- 7) **Describe how this request aligns with the Garman Family Foundation's funding interests**
  - a) Clearly demonstrate how the project/program directly contributes to the focus area(s).
  - b) Does the project/program provide lasting benefits or solutions?
- 8) **Who will be involved?**
  - a) What are the qualifications of the people proposed for the project?
  - b) What other area providers deliver similar services?
  - c) What coordination has been/could be achieved with these providers? If none, explain why not.
- 9) **Impacts and Outcomes**
  - a) Clearly identify the intended impacts and outcomes of the proposed project and how they will be measured. Quantifiable changes are preferred.

#### ***PROJECT BUDGET***

- Provide a very specific, complete budget breakdown, identifying costs of the individual items that constitute your funding request for the Garman Family Foundation
- Budget narrative (required)
- What investment is your organization making in this project?
- Other funding sources from whom funds have been requested, and the status of these requests
- If ongoing, what are your plans for continuing funding?
- If the Garman Family Foundation could only partially fund your request, can you proceed?
  - If yes, how would your programming be affected? Please detail.

#### ***CERTIFICATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY***

- Certification that the executive director and a board officer have approved of the grant request submission and that all information provided is accurate
- Confirmation that the organization has a Conflict-of-Interest policy in accordance with New York State Law
- List of all board members

#### ***ATTACHMENTS***

- Resumes or CVs of project personnel – required
- Memoranda of Understanding or letters in support of your project from collaborators or letters from other funding sources who may have expressed interest in supporting the project – strongly advised
- Recent evaluations of your programs – optional