

2025 Expanding Engagement Grant Q&A

Note: We do not have a set number for how many grants we will award for each level. We will likely only award a small number of level 4 grants to ensure we are equitable in distributing this funding across the city.

Q: Are all City of Boston departments moving to this new application platform (Wizehive) or only Age Strong?

A: All City departments will eventually be moving to Wizehive. Some departments (e.g. Arts and Culture) may not use Wizehive until further into the future since they have their own platform that they currently use.

Q: Can a MA based but not Boston based 501(c)3 with a service site at Boston be able to apply for this grant?

A: Organizations can be based outside of Boston, as long as they can demonstrate that the program funding is specifically for Boston residents. This could be done, for example, by identifying a Boston-based site/address where the services/program would be offered in the application.

Q: Does a fiscal sponsor need to be located in Boston?

A: Fiscal sponsors may be located anywhere. What is most important is that your fiscal sponsor must be able to agree to and sign the grant terms and are comfortable sponsoring the programming.

Q: I created an organizational profile on Wizehive to apply for a grant with another City department. Do I need to create another profile for this application?

A: You do not need to create a new profile for the organization if you have already created one. Please double check that all of the information on the organizational profile is up to date.

Q: When you said the new consumers, or unserved communities, do you mean served by the agency, or not served at all by any other organization?

A: This is in relation to the consumers you are currently serving, and would refer to a client who is new to your organization.

Q: Are there neighborhoods where there are gaps in programming that the proposed grant program should focus on?

A: There are neighborhoods where there are gaps in programming, and parts of the city that Age Strong funding is not reaching, however, for this grant funding, we don't have

specific neighborhoods we are focusing on. We do not use neighborhood/the location of programming as a criteria to decide the programs we are funding.

Q: Is there a precedent for programs that may not just serve the older adult population, but includes older adults in programming?

A: This programming is designed to support older adults. If your proposed program includes other populations that are not older adults, we'd like to see in your application how other populations are involved and how much of the project and budget is focused on older adults versus another population.

Q: If you have a program that has not been solely older adults focused, but has been inclusive to older adults, and the program is looking to expand to an exclusively older adult population, should this be a level 3 program, or would that fall under level 2?

A: We recommend that you apply for the funding you feel is necessary for the new type of program you would be providing.

Q: Are support groups for older adults that are needed to engage a community typically not included in other supports appropriate for this grant?

A: We would need more information to provide a definite answer. If your application aligns with the purpose/goals, this could be an appropriate program.

Q: Are the required reports a monthly or quarterly submission.

A: For level 1 and 2 grants there is a mid-year one page report year-end impact report. For levels 3 and 4 grants, there are quarterly reports. Information about reporting requirements is also listed in the grant application.

Q: Is intergenerational programming appropriate for this funding?

A: Yes, this could be appropriate if the emphasis of the program is on older adults.

Q: Can funding be used to improve/update equipment for programming (such as new screens for playing movies)?

A: Equipment is an allowable expense. The budget section of the application lists allowable/non-allowable costs for grants.

Q: Will this program be affected by federal funding cuts?

A: This grant is funded through city operating dollars, so it is not tied to federal funding and will not be affected.

Q: How do you submit the SMART goals within the application- is it a document to upload, or a copy/paste?

A: The response option for this question is a text box, so you can type your response directly into the application or copy/paste from a google or word document.

Q: Are there limitations on what funds can be used for, depending on the tier of funding?

A: In the budget section of the application, there is a list of what costs are and are not allowable for this grant program.

Q: What does the fiscal agent aspect look like if an organization is a non-profit 501(c)3 and has a fiscal agent? Does the organization include their own information, or their fiscal agent's?

A: If you are your own 501(c)3, you should be able to submit your own information, and not your fiscal agent's information.

Q: Is there a narrative about the leadership/staffing demographics that needs to be completed in the application?

A: When creating an organizational profile, there is an optional question where you select the organization's leadership demographics. You do not need to write a narrative about the leadership demographics, and we do not use this information as evaluation criteria.