



Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the application process open for GO! Grants?

GO! Grants are open all year long. We accept applications on a rolling basis until funding runs out. We have \$350,000 in 2019 allotted for these grants.

What are general operating funds?

GO! Grants and Sponsorship grants are general operating funds. This means that we are not interested in reviewing a budget or concerned with your receipts. We want you to spend the funds in a way that will serve your organization best so that you can keep doing the good work that you do. To receive general operating funds from Headwaters Foundation, your organization must be mission-aligned. Our mission is to work side-by-side with western Montanans to improve the health of our communities.

What is Headwaters Foundation's definition of rural when it comes to applying for a GO! Grant?

If your organization serves 50 percent or more of your community from rural areas outside of the cities of Missoula, Helena, Kalispell and Butte, then your organization would meet our definition of rural. We ask that you can confidently say that you serve the rural community. Here is an example: You serve 100 clients. 60 of them are from the Bitterroot and 40 of them are from Missoula. This technically means that you serve a mostly rural community. Please do not apply for GO! Grants if less than 50 percent of the population you serve is rural.

If I'm applying for a sponsorship grant does my organization need to meet the same rural requirement as GO! Grants?

No.

How do I apply for a sponsorship grant?

Review the sponsorship grant section on our website and follow the instructions. We will let you know if you can apply for the grant by sending you an invitation to apply. This initial inquiry can take up to a month for us to process. After you receive the invite, it is up to you to apply and submit the application with plenty of lead time for us to process and pay the grant. This usually takes another month so please inquire about events or conferences that are at least three months away.

What are Headwaters grant focus areas?

- *Behavioral health early interventions for children and families (ages 0-18)*
- *Housing support for families (ages 0-18)*
- *Effective parenting/caregiver support for families (ages 0-18)*
- *Youth development programs (ages 0-18)*

- *School-based wellness programs (ages 0-18)*
- *Resiliency for children (ages 0-5)*
- *Our Zero to Five strategic initiative builds resiliency for children ages 0-5 by focusing on one of the following three areas: healthy pregnancies, resilient parenting and school readiness.*

What is the foundation’s service area?

We serve the 15 western-most counties in Montana and the Flathead Indian Reservation.

- *Beaverhead*
- *Deer Lodge*
- *Flathead*
- *Flathead Indian Reservation*
- *Granite*
- *Jefferson*
- *Lake*
- *Lewis and Clark*
- *Lincoln*
- *Madison*
- *Mineral*
- *Missoula*
- *Powell*
- *Ravalli*
- *Sanders*
- *Silver Bow*

What type of nonprofit organizations are eligible for a grant from Headwaters?

- *Organizations that are mission-aligned. Our mission is to work side-by-side with western Montanans to improve the health of our communities.*
- *Organizations that are nonprofits and tax-exempt organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (IRC) and defined as a public charity under 509(a) 1, 2, or 3 (types I, II, or a functionally integrated type III), or a governmental, tribal, school or public entity.*
- *Organizations that serve the people of western Montana.*

What types of organizations, people or projects are not eligible for grants from your foundation?

- *Individuals*
- *Capital construction or endowment campaigns*
- *Basic biomedical research, drug therapies or devices*
- *Public, private or parochial educational institutions, including their foundations, except when support is essential to programs or projects that align with our strategic framework*
- *Organizations or projects that unlawfully discriminate with regard to employees, volunteers, delivery of programs or services or clients served based on age, sex, religion/creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, military or veterans status, pregnancy or genetic information*
- *Any organization or project that is inconsistent with our mission, vision, values or strategic framework*
- *Lobbying as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (IRC), section 4945(d)(1) (insert link to IRS code)*
- *Activities supporting political candidates or voter registrations drives, as defined in IRC section 4945(d)(2)*

- *Pass-through grants*

Does your Foundation accept unsolicited grants?

- *Yes. Our GO! Grants and Sponsorship grants are unsolicited grants.*
- *All other inquiries are invite only.*

How does my organization apply for a policy grant?

If your organization is interested in a policy grant, please reach out to Stephanie Schilling – stephanies@headwatersmt.org to schedule a time to meet with our CEO, Brenda Solorzano.

How does my organization become a part of your Zero to Five strategic initiative?

If your organization is interested in our Zero to Five initiative, please reach out to Erin Switalski - erins@headwatersmt.org

Does your foundation make grants to for-profit organizations?

No.

If my organization already has a grant from Headwaters, can we apply to another program or receive more funding before the grant term is over?

- *Most of our programs are invite only.*
- *GO! Grants are a once a year application process.*
- *Sponsorships are a once a year application process.*

My GO! Grant application was declined, why?

- *Most of the GO! Grant applications that we decline are due to the organization not serving a truly vulnerable population like American Indian or poor*
- *Or the organization is not truly aligned with our mission of resiliency for children and families in western Montana.*

How does Headwaters define a vulnerable population?

- *Low-income people who live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (Example: In 2018 a family of four who lives on less than \$50,200 a year would be living at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.)*
- *American Indians*

Who have you funded in the past?

Check our [GO! Grants](#) and [Sponsorship](#) grants pages to see our previous grant awards.