



## 2026 KEIRO GRANTS PROGRAM

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. Why is Keiro doing a grants program?

The Keiro Grants Program is a component of Keiro's strategy to enhance access to aging services across Our Community. There are many organizations and agencies providing excellent programs and services for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.

For the 2026 cycle, we continue our focus on supporting accessible programs that improve the quality of life for older adults and caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community. Keiro understands that a culturally-sensitive and person-centered approach incorporates key elements contributing to a high quality of life – these include health/wellness, purpose, connectedness, security, and autonomy.

Our grants program enables Keiro to use its resources to support these organizations so they can strengthen current services, develop new, innovative programs, and expand access within their local communities.

#### 2. Are there any significant changes to the 2026 Grants Program?

Yes. The significant changes are listed below.

- Tiered funding: Two tiers of funding (up to \$10,000, and \$10,001 to \$20,000) are available. Please see the 2026 Keiro Grant Program Guidelines for further information.
- Ineligible submission types: The following are now ineligible to apply for the 2026 Keiro Grants Program.
  - Organizations with a 501(c) tax exemption other than 501(c)(3). These include, but are not limited to, 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) organizations.
  - Organizations with annual operating budgets that are greater than \$5 million
- Grant funding period: The grant funding period, during which funded projects must be completed, is up to 12 months (January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026).
- Capital projects: Capital projects will not be funded for the 2026 cycle. Capital projects include facility/building renovations; purchase, lease and/or maintenance of vehicles and related costs; and purchase, lease and/or maintenance of large equipment (including but not limited to stoves, refrigerators, HVAC systems, etc.) and related costs.

#### 3. Why have these changes been made to the 2026 Keiro Grants Program?

As the Keiro Grants Program enters its tenth funding cycle, staff and leadership continue to evaluate the impact of the Grants Program. Additionally, feedback from Keiro grant recipients and applicants as well as grantmaking best practices have been considered to further advance the Grants Program. These changes are intended to support both the recipient community organizations doing great work and alignment with Keiro's priorities and vision.



## **GENERAL APPLICATION**

**4. What are the deadlines for grant applications?**

Keiro's deadline for grant applications is 5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, August 1, 2025. Organizations and groups who submit applications by Friday, July 11, 2025 will receive a preliminary, non-binding review and feedback by Keiro staff.

**5. Are grant guidelines available?**

Yes. We have guidelines with in-depth explanations for this year's cycle. The guidelines and grant application are available at [www.keiro.org/grants](http://www.keiro.org/grants).

**6. Can we speak to someone at Keiro to help us write our application?**

Staff will assist with any questions related to the application requirements. We also invite you to attend one of our informational workshops where we will review guidelines and answer questions. However, Keiro staff will not help you answer specific application questions or give advice on programs/projects to submit for funding. For a schedule of online workshops and to register, please visit [www.keiro.org/grants](http://www.keiro.org/grants).

**7. Will Keiro staff provide feedback on my organization's application?**

Organizations and groups may submit applications by Friday, July 11, 2025 to receive a preliminary, non-binding review and feedback from Keiro staff. Input from Keiro staff may help you consider how to approach questions or clarify guidelines – however, this feedback is non-binding and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Grants Review Committee.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**8. Do you provide grants to individuals?**

No.

**9. Do you give grants to organizations outside of Los Angeles County?**

Yes. Keiro is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults and their caregivers by providing grants to organizations and groups in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. Organizations that receive grants do not need to be based in these counties. However, the older adults and/or caregivers who benefit from the program, service or project MUST reside in Los Angeles, Orange and/or Ventura counties.

**10. Does Keiro grant money to commercial businesses?**

No. Keiro does not fund for-profit organizations or businesses.

**11. We are a new organization and don't yet have 501(c)(3) status. May we still apply?**

Yes. However, a fiscal sponsor is required and must be secured prior to the application deadline. The fiscal sponsor must be a 501(c)(3) organization. A written acknowledgement from the fiscal sponsor must be submitted with your grant application.

**12. How does Keiro define “Our Community”?**

“Our Community” refers to the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties, and includes those who embrace our culture and values.

**13. Will organizations receive preferential treatment based on their history with Keiro?**

All funding decisions will be based on the merit and impact of the proposal, in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines, and as recommended by an independent Grants Review Committee. However, priority for Tier 2 (\$10,001 to \$20,000) funding consideration will be given to returning applicant organizations who submit proposals for existing, ongoing programs and services; core operations; and/or capacity building, and have received a Keiro grant within the past five years.

## **TYPES OF FUNDING**

**14. Do you fund general operating expenses?**

Yes. Keiro makes grants for general operating expenses, often called core operating support, in addition to program development and capacity building. Support for staffing is also eligible for funding, through the capacity building category.

**15. Will Keiro consider loans?**

No. Loans, or mission-related investments, are not considered.

**16. Do you prefer to fund capital projects or programs?**

Capital projects will not be funded for the 2026 cycle. Grant funds can be used for program development, capacity building (including staffing), and core operations. Please see question #2 for a detailed definition of “capital projects.”

**17. Does Keiro award multi-year funding?**

No. The grant period is limited to 12 months.

## **LEVELS OF GRANT FUNDING**

**18. Does an organization need to apply for a minimum level of funding?**

No. Applications are welcome for any amount up to \$20,000 for the 2026 grant cycle. Please see the 2026 Grants Program Guidelines for further information about the two tiers of funding available.

**19. Is there a difference in how applications will be reviewed?**

Yes. Please see below for further information on Keiro’s funding priorities.

- Annual operating budget:
  - Funding priority will be given to organizations and groups with annual operating budgets that are less than \$1 million. If the organization is under fiscal sponsorship, the annual operating budget of the fiscal sponsor will not be taken into consideration.
  - Organizations with annual operating budgets of \$1 million to \$5 million may apply, but will not receive priority.

- Recurring programs: If applying for program development support, funding priority will be given to recurring or periodic programs which occur on a regular basis (versus one-time events) during the grant funding period.
- Tier 2 (\$10,001 to \$20,000) funding: Funding consideration will be given to returning applicant organizations who submit proposals for existing, ongoing programs and services; core operations; and/or capacity building, and have received a Keiro grant within the past five years.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS, PROCEDURES & REVIEW**

**20. How will I know if you received my organization's application?**

We acknowledge receipt of every application by email.

**21. Do you require a letter of inquiry (LOI) before submitting an application?**

No. A letter of inquiry is not needed.

**22. Shall we wait to hear from you before applying to other sources of funding?**

No. It is recommended to apply for multiple sources of funding.

**23. Will you come for a site visit?**

This year, we will conduct follow-up with all organizations when an application is under active review. This follow-up may be done via email, phone call, video conference and/or an in-person visit. The staff person reviewing your organization's application will initiate the follow-up.

**24. Are applications accepted by fax or email?**

Yes. Keiro is able to accept electronically-submitted applications. We appreciate electronic copies of applications for our records. If the application file exceeds maximum capacity in one email, please send the application in multiple emails. Applications may be faxed to 213.873.5799, and notice of your organization's submission must be provided by emailing [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org).

**25. May we submit additional applications for different projects within the same year?**

We understand that a number of community centers, churches, and temples have multiple programs for older adults and caregivers. Keiro will accept multiple applications for distinct programs or projects that fall under the same organization. Although multiple applications may be submitted, funding per organization will not exceed a total of \$20,000.

We also accept applications from fiscally-sponsored organizations who may be applying under a larger nonprofit organization. If the fiscal sponsor organization is also applying for a grant, the fiscal sponsor organization will be considered separately from the organization(s) or group(s) they are sponsoring.

**26. When and how will I know if my organization's application has been accepted or rejected?**

All applicants will receive electronic communication regarding the status of their application after the Grants Review Committee deliberates and makes recommendations to the Keiro Services Board of Directors regarding the request. We anticipate that final decisions will be announced in November 2025.

**27. In addition to the application, what kind of supporting documents will we be asked to submit?**

Please download our grant application and guidelines at [www.keiro.org/grants](http://www.keiro.org/grants), which outline the required documents.

**28. We recently submitted an application and were declined. May we re-submit?**

Yes, as long as your organization meets the 2026 Grants Program eligibility requirements. Declination during a previous Keiro Grants Cycle does not necessarily disqualify your organization. Please sign up for Keiro's email newsletter to stay up to date on our next grants cycle.

## **FEEDBACK ON APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS & DECLINATIONS**

**29. If we submit an application early, will we receive feedback from staff?**

Yes. If you submit your application by July 11, 2025 with the indication that you would like a preliminary review, Keiro Grants Program staff will review the submitted materials and provide you feedback on any items that may require further refinement. Preliminary review by staff does not include review by the Grants Review Committee. Input from Keiro staff is non-binding and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Grants Review Committee.

Any application submissions received after July 11, 2025 will not receive preliminary review.

**30. Our application was declined. Can you tell us why?**

Yes. If requested, we can share the Grants Review Committee's feedback on applications that were not funded. Please contact Heather Harada at [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org) to schedule a meeting.

## **REPORTING**

**31. If our organization is awarded funding, how long do we have to complete the final report?**

Final reports are due at the conclusion of the 12-month grant period. The grant period begins January 1, 2026 and ends December 31, 2026. There will also be a mid-year report requirement. If any changes need to be made to the original project timeline, please contact Heather Harada at [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org).

**32. How will I know if you received my organization's final report?**

We acknowledge receipt of every report by email.

**33. Why does the mid-year and final reporting formats differ, based on organization and/or program/project?**

In previous grant cycles, Keiro required all grant recipients to complete the same report form, regardless of the funded program/project. However, based on grantmaking best practices and feedback from past Keiro grant recipients, the 2026 grant report forms will be adapted to the funded program/project – allowing the grant recipient to better share the impact of the program/project, while also recognizing the time commitment needed to complete the reports.