



## 2026 KEIRO GRANTS PROGRAM

### Guidelines

**Tier 1: up to \$10,000 Tier 2: \$10,001 to \$20,000**

**Application Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. PDT**

For over 60 years, Keiro has focused on improving the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. Since 2016, the grants program has been one of several key strategies to support the evolving needs of older adults and their caregivers, by increasing accessibility to programs and services within local communities. Keiro supports the efforts of other organizations and agencies working in alignment with our mission and goals, within our service area, to enhance the quality of senior life in Our Community.

The following guidelines provide an overview of Keiro's Grants Program for the 2026 grant cycle. We will be hosting three virtual informational workshops – two workshops will discuss the application process and changes to the grants program, and one workshop will focus on tools and ideas to conduct needs assessments and to measure the program or project's impact on participants. Keiro staff may also be contacted to ask questions during the application process. Please check Keiro's website for workshop dates and times.

### GRANTS PROGRAM GOALS

- Enhance the quality of life of older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.
- Build new and strengthen existing connections with and among older adults and caregivers through support of community programs/services and increased capacity to offer these programs/services.
- Promote accessible, culturally-sensitive programs and services to Our Community.

### 2026 CYCLE FOCUS

For the 2026 Grants Program, organizations must:

- Demonstrate the benefit of their proposed program/project for older adults and/or caregivers ("program areas"); AND
- Align their proposed program/project with at least one of the elements of Keiro's definition of quality of life.

We recognize that the program areas and quality of life elements often intersect, and we encourage applications that have alignment with one or both of the program areas, and one or more quality of life elements.

### PROGRAM AREAS

- **Services to Older Adults**

Asian Americans have the highest life expectancy of all races at 83.5 years, compared to the overall U.S. life expectancy of 76.1 years. Keiro seeks to support individual Japanese American and Japanese-speaking



older adults to live healthier and more fulfilling lives, by equipping them with knowledge, resources, and assistance, so they can effectively manage their lives and wellbeing wherever they call home.

Grants will be awarded to support programs, services, and projects that enhance the quality of life of older adults in need.

- **Support of Caregivers**

One in seven people in the U.S. are caregivers. Caregiver demands and burdens are increasing as people live longer and choose to live at home. Keiro seeks to support caregivers in the community who are taking on this challenge.

Grants will be awarded to organizations that provide support to informal, family caregivers or that provide formal (often paid) caregiving services to older adults.

#### QUALITY OF LIFE ELEMENTS – DEFINITION

At Keiro, quality of life includes five key elements:

1. **Health/Wellness:** A person's health/wellness is defined by their physical, mental, and emotional state of being. Health/wellness includes the presence, absence and/or risk of disease and symptoms, as well as the individual's perception of their health status.
2. **Purpose:** An older adult should have at least one self-defined purpose – something that brings meaning and joy to their life. Purpose can include family and friends, community engagement, hobbies, and spirituality. While it is often revisited throughout one's lifetime, a lack of purpose can contribute to a decline in wellbeing.
3. **Connectedness:** Humans are inherently social and need engagement through social networks to thrive. Connectedness – whether at an individual, family, or community level – is vital to physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Lack of social connection, including in-person and virtual, has been shown to have significant negative impact on overall health/wellness.
4. **Security:** A sense of security is necessary for older adults to live a healthy and fulfilling life. Security includes financial stability; consistent housing; a reliable social network; and access to high quality, affordable services. A lack of security in even one of the previously listed areas can impede an older adult's quality of life.
5. **Autonomy:** As older adults age, autonomy and the ability to choose how one wishes to live their life should be maintained as much as possible. Although physical and/or cognitive limitations may make this difficult, lacking even a feeling of autonomy can lead to a decline in quality of life.

Examples of programs and services that address a specific element of Keiro's quality of life definition can include, but are not limited to\*:

- Health/Wellness
  - Older Adults: Improving access to vital community programs and services, such as health education, nutritious meals, or exercise opportunities
  - Caregivers: Providing opportunities for family caregivers to care for themselves physically and emotionally
- Purpose
  - Older Adults: Encouraging older adults to find things that bring meaning and joy to their lives



- Caregivers: Encouraging caregivers to find joy and meaning both in their roles as a caregiver and in their lives outside of caregiving
- Connectedness
  - Older Adults: Providing opportunities to develop or rekindle relationships among Japanese American and Japanese-speaking older adults to help reduce isolation and loneliness
  - Caregivers: Enhancing support systems for caregivers to ease the physical, psychological, and financial burdens of caregiving
- Security
  - Older Adults: Supporting older adults who desire to live independently in a safe environment
  - Caregivers: Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable older adults who lack access to adequate culturally-sensitive caregiving services
- Autonomy
  - Older Adults: Educating older adults and their families to make informed decisions and thoughtful plans, including end-of-life decisions
  - Caregivers: Empowering caregivers to confidently make decisions for themselves and their families

\*Note: These are examples of programs and services. Applications with similar proposed projects to these examples are not guaranteed funding – they will undergo the same review and deliberation process as all other grant applications received.

### **FUNDING AMOUNT & CRITERIA**

Up to \$350,000 will be distributed during the 2026 cycle. Two tiers of funding are available.

- **Tier 1** (up to \$10,000): Tier 1 grants are designed to provide funding for new programs or projects and/or for organizations applying to the Keiro Grants Program for the first time. The following would be encouraged, but not required, to apply for Tier 1:
  - New applicant organizations
  - Returning applicant organizations who have not applied for a Keiro grant in the past five years
  - Returning applicant organizations who are proposing a new program that is different from one for which they have previously applied
- **Tier 2** (\$10,001 to \$20,000): Tier 2 grants are designed to provide support for existing, ongoing programs and services; core operations; and capacity building. Priority will be given to returning applicant organizations who have received a Keiro grant within the past five years.
  - Note: Returning applicant organizations may apply for either tier of funding.

There will be one grant application for both funding tiers, and both tiers require submission of the same required attachments. However, the required application questions for each tier will differ.

Grants will be awarded for program development, capacity building, and core operating support. Although organizations may apply for more than one grant, funding will be limited to a maximum of \$20,000 per organization.

**The grant period is up to 12 months (January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026).** Multi-year requests are not considered.

If awarded, grant recipients will be required to submit both mid-year and final reports during the 12-month grant period. However, the reporting format will differ, as explained below:

- New recipient organizations; returning recipient organizations who had not applied for a Keiro grant in the past five years; and returning recipient organizations who receive funding for a new program will be required to submit detailed mid-year and final reports.
- Returning recipient organizations who have received a Keiro grant within the past five years and who receive 2026 grant funding for ongoing programs and services; core operations; and/or capacity building may submit streamlined mid-year and final reports.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Keiro will prioritize:

- Applicant organizations with annual operating budgets that are less than \$1 million, to support grassroots organizations
  - Applicant organizations with annual operating budgets of \$1 million to \$5 million may apply, but funding priority will be given to those organizations with annual operating budgets of less than \$1 million.
  - Organizations with annual operating budgets that are greater than \$5 million are ineligible for the 2026 Keiro Grants Program.
- Funding for recurring or periodic programs (versus for one-time events)
  - Recurring or periodic programs and services are those which occur on a regular basis (such as quarterly, monthly, weekly or daily) during the grant funding period. The intent is to provide sustained, accessible support to enhance the quality of life of older adults and caregivers.

Funding priority will also be given to programs/projects and organizations that:

- Align with all Keiro Grants Program goals
- Address a pressing need and/or opportunity to serve older adults and their caregivers in Our Community
- Clearly define how the proposed program/project enhances quality of life for older adults and/or their caregivers
- Have a realistic project budget and ability to carry out the proposed program/project effectively
- Demonstrate measurable, compelling outcomes that connect to quality of life
- Establish clear efforts toward building sustainability and accessibility for the proposed program/project beyond the 12-month grant cycle
- Are sensitive to Japanese American and Japanese culture

## **TYPES OF SUPPORT**

Grant funds can be used for:

- **Program development** to design new programs and/or enhance or expand existing programs and services. Funding may be used for social and/or educational activities, outreach efforts, transportation services, translation of materials, case management, etc.
- **Capacity building** to help organizations plan, effectively manage, retool systems or methods, and/or build sustainability



- **Core operations** to maintain provision of high quality, high demand services with demonstrated outcomes and strong participation

For the 2026 cycle, capital projects will not be funded. 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.

### **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible organizations must meet one of the following criteria:

- Nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3)
- Community groups without a 501(c) tax exemption that have a 501(c)(3) organization serving as their fiscal sponsor
- Faith-based nonprofit organizations that welcome and serve all members of the community

Eligible proposals must be for programs, services, and projects that:

- Primarily serve older adults and/or caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community
- Serve Los Angeles, Orange, and/or Ventura counties

### **INELIGIBLE SUBMISSION TYPES**

Funds will not be granted to the following:

- Programs, services, and projects that are focused outside of Los Angeles County, Orange County, and/or Ventura County
- 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
- Government agencies and institutions
- Medical research
- Individuals
- Fundraising events
- Endowments
- Political campaigns and/or lobbying
- Grantmaking institutions and/or pass-through grants

### **GRANT TERMS & EXPECTATIONS**

If awarded funding through the Keiro Grants Program, recipient organizations will receive notification of the funding amount and a grant agreement outlining the terms and expectations of the funding, that must be signed before funding is dispersed.



The terms and expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Use Keiro grant funding for the sole purpose of the specific program/project outlined in the application and as restricted (if applicable) by the Grants Review Committee
- Make a good faith effort to complete the funded project within the agreed-upon guidelines
- Communicate in writing to Keiro, in a timely manner, whenever changes which may affect the outcome of the program/project have occurred or will occur, including, but not limited to, personnel changes or budget adjustments
- Be available for follow-up, check-ins, and in-person program visits related to the grant-funded program/project
- Positively represent Keiro to the general public
- Recognize Keiro as a funder in all forms of publicity about the grant-funded program/project
- Provide Keiro with a calendar of grant-funded programs and events (if applicable)

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Please submit all application materials electronically to [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org). Mailed hard-copy applications will be accepted, but applications must be received by the submission deadline.

If mailing hard copies, please notify Keiro staff by emailing [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org), and mail the hard copy to the address below:

Keiro  
ATTN: Grants Program  
420 East Third Street, Suite 1000  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

If faxing an application, please fax to 213.873.5799 and provide notice by emailing [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org).

#### **Application Submission Deadline**

Applications will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, August 1, 2025**. We encourage early submissions. Exceptions will not be made. Grant awards will be announced by November 2025.

For more information, please contact Heather Harada, Director of Strategy, at 213.873.5711 or [grants@keiro.org](mailto:grants@keiro.org).