



## 2027 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 2027 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 2027 Grants Program?

Yes. The significant changes, continued from the 2026 Grants Cycle, are listed below.

- **Tiered funding:** Two tiers of funding (up to \$10,000, and \$10,001 to \$20,000) are available. Please see the 2027 Keiro Grant Program Guidelines for further information.
- **Ineligible submission types:** The following are now ineligible to apply for the 2027 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, 2027 through December 31, 2027).
- **Capital projects:** Capital projects will not be funded for the 2027 cycle. Capital projects include facility/building renovations; facility and/or property purchases; mortgages, loans, and/or mission-related investments; 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.

Additionally, during the grant application review period, applicant organizations may be contacted directly by members of the 2027 Keiro Grants Review Committee as well as Keiro staff for follow-up regarding the application submissions.

#### 3. Why have these changes been made to the 2027 Keiro Grants Program?

As the Keiro Grants Program enters its eleventh 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, July 17, 2026.

Organizations and groups who submit applications by Friday, June 19, 2026 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 our organization's application?**

Yes. If you submit your organization's application by June 19, 2026 with the indication that you would like a preliminary review, Keiro 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 June 19, 2026 will not receive preliminary review.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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

No.

**9. Do you give grants to organizations outside of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties?**

Yes. Organizations that receive grants do not need to be based in Los Angeles, Orange, or Ventura counties. However, the majority of 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 fund capital projects?**

No. 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 2027 grant cycle. Please see the 2027 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 priority 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 we know if you received our 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. How are applications submitted?**

We appreciate electronically-submitted applications. If the application file exceeds maximum capacity in one email, please send the application in multiple emails.

Applications may also be faxed or mailed. However, all applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, July 17, 2026. Please see the 2027 Grants Program Guidelines for further instructions on submitting by fax or mail.

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

Yes. Keiro will accept multiple applications for distinct programs or projects submitted by 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.

**25. 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.

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

Yes, as long as your organization meets the 2027 Grants Program eligibility requirements. Declination during a previous Keiro Grants Cycle does not disqualify your organization.

**27. What communication can we expect from Keiro following submission of our organization's application?**

Following application submission, applicant organizations may be contacted directly by Keiro staff and/or a member of the 2027 Keiro Grants Review Committee. The intent of this communication is to follow up on any missing information and/or documents and clarification on application responses, as needed. If contacted, timely response would be appreciated, so as to assist the Committee with their application review and funding deliberations.

**28. When and how will we know if our organization's application has been accepted or rejected?**

All applicants will receive an email 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 by November 2026.

**29. 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.