

**Q: How can I apply for the grant? Is there a copy of the application that I should fill out or should I email Age Strong directly?**

A: Please visit the following page on our website:

<https://www.boston.gov/news/creating-connections-and-reducing-social-isolation-grant-announced>

When you click on "Apply for the Grant," you will be taken to a Google Form, which includes instructions and a link to a Google Doc, which you can make a copy of or download to Word to fill in (like a worksheet) before entering information into the application Google Form. Please complete the application through the Google Form as opposed to emailing an application document.

Q: The goals and parameters are vague. Can you provide a few examples of what you're looking for with this grant?

A: We are looking for creative ideas that meet the listed goals, which are intentionally vague to foster creative programs. We encourage groups that feel their program ideas meet the goals and eligibility apply.

Q: Is this grant only for non-profit organizations?

A: The grant is for nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or organizations with an official fiscal sponsor.

Q: Is this grant for housing improvements?

A: This grant is for organizations and individuals who are working to build social connections and community for Boston's older adults. That does not include housing improvements.

Q. Can City of Boston departments apply for this grant?

A. If a City of Boston department wants to work with a 501(c)(3), that would make an application eligible for consideration.

Q. Can organizations apply who serve older adults in other towns in the Greater Boston Area, not within the City of Boston?

A. No, this opportunity is only open to organizations that serve older adult residents of the City of Boston.

Q. Can youth-focused organizations apply for the grant?

A. If your program meets the eligibility guidelines and addresses the reduction of social isolation and the creation of connection among older adults in Boston, then, yes.

Q. How much money will be awarded?

A. Up to \$300,000.

**Q. How many programs will be granted?**

A. We do not have a total number of programs in mind. We will be awarding grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and are planning to award additional funds for participation in data collection and evaluation.

Q. Would food/grocery or restaurant gift cards be funded as part of a program?

A. While gift cards could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Will personnel salaries count as expenses of a funded program?

A. Yes.

Q. What are the grant's reporting requirements?

A. Grantees will need to sign a grant agreement. In that agreement, data collection and reporting will be outlined. Age Strong will provide additional, separate funding toward data collection and evaluation.

Q. Will Age Strong consider funding programs partially (not fully)?

A. Potentially. If so, the applicant will be asked to revise their budget.

Q. What is the time period where the granted programs must take place?

A. May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

Q. Does Age Strong give preference to nonprofits with smaller operating budgets?

A. Age Strong does not consider an agency's budget size as a grant criteria.

Q. Would Age Strong consider granting a program that supported case management services?

A. While case management could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Will Age Strong consider granting multiple projects from one organization/applicant?

A. Yes.

Q. Does Age Strong have plans beyond this first granting round for social isolation?

A. Not at this time.

**Q. Can you expand on the additional funding for evaluation? Should my grant application include expenses for data collection/reporting?**

A. Each funded organization will be given an additional \$2,000 to participate in data collection and evaluation, which will include workshop sessions. This amount should not be included in your program budget.

Q. If my organization is already a AAA Grantee, can we still apply?

A. Yes, but applicants proposing programs should target older adults that are not already being served by your organization will be prioritized, if you are an existing funded partner of the Age Strong Commission.

Q. Why is the turn-around time to apply for this grant so short?

A. Because we want to get the programs funded & running quickly. The grant was announced on March 16, so there are three full weeks to write the proposal.

Q. Can multiple groups/organizations apply as one?

A. Assuming at least one of the groups or organizations is a non-profit or the group has an official fiscal sponsor, yes.

Q. Will Age Strong prefer to fund new or existing programs?

A. Either.

Q. Can funds be used for stipends?

A. While stipends could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Would this funding cover providing technology for older adults, like tablets or laptops?

A. While tablets and laptops could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Does Age Strong prefer to grant programs that are direct service, or would you consider funding planning?

A. We would consider funding planning provided that it aligns with the focus of the funding, to create and build connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Can you describe criteria for how applications will be reviewed?

A. Evaluation criteria will correspond with the Project Description section of the application.

**Q. Does Age Strong prefer to be the sole funder to said program?**

A. No. Your organization is welcome to either receive other funding or to plan on Age Strong as the sole funder.

Q. Can local Councils on Aging apply for this grant?

A. Age Strong is Boston's Council on Aging. If a Council on Aging outside Boston wants to apply for a program that serves Boston's older adults, we welcome proposals.

Q. Does the project have to be one single project, or can it be a series of programs?

A. We anticipate and hope that applicants will propose programs of many shapes and sizes, so programs are not limited to single projects.

Q. How will the grant be awarded?

A. Following the identification of grant recipients, programs will be notified by email with an award letter indicating award amount. The program will need to return a signed grant agreement, which will be provided in the email with the award letter, and any budget revisions if a program is partially funded. After the grant agreement has been returned, we will request a program invoice including all aspects of your budget that will be paid for through this funding, after which a check/direct deposit will be issued to your program.

Q. Is money for microbusinesses to make changes to receive the age-friendly certification would be an allowable grant expense?

A. While changes to receive age-friendly certification could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Will you consider funding translation services through this grant?

A. While translation could potentially be part of a program, the main focus of the funding and project should be creating and building connections with older residents to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Q. Can indirect costs be covered by this grant? (i.e. facilities and administration costs related to the grant project)

A. The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect (F&A) costs. Direct charging of these costs may be appropriate only if conditions as outlined in 2 C.F.R. §200.413 are met. In general agencies can spend 10% to 18% on indirect costs.

Q. Why can I not access the grant application?

A. If you are getting the following error message, it may be a problem with a shared organizational Google Drive. Please try using a different browser and reach out to us if you still cannot access the application.



Error message: “You can't respond to Creating Connections & Reducing Social Isolation Grant Application. Uploading files is not permitted when data loss prevention is enabled for your domain. Contact your domain administrator if you think this is a mistake.”

Q. How do we find a fiscal sponsor?

A. There are a number of online resources that list fiscal sponsors. We aren't able to guide you to a specific fiscal sponsor, but encourage you to explore online resources that might be able to.

Q. Can money be put towards existing staff, as well as hiring new staff?

A. Yes, funds can be allocated to new or existing staff working on the proposed program.

Q. Is there a percentage that we should not exceed for staffing purposes?

A. There are no limits on the percentages that can be allocated to project-specific staff time.

Q. How will the grant money be distributed?

A. The grant will be paid in one lump sum following the return of a signed grant agreement, finalized budget, and program invoice, which will be included with award letters.

Q. Our organization operates within a larger institution. Who should I list for organization information, our organization or the larger institution?

A. The information for the organization should be the organization that is delivering the program, not the larger institution. If the larger institution will serve in a fiscal sponsor capacity, you can list it there.

Q. We are part of a large agency. When describing the organization, should we describe the entire organization or only our division?

A. You should describe the organization and the division. We want to understand the organization as a whole, as well as the division through which the program will be delivered.

Q. When asking for the budget, are you asking for the entire agency or just our division?

A. The entire organization budget.

Q. At what time is the application due? I saw Thursday at 11:59 PM listed in some places and Thursday at 12 PM (noon) listed in another.

A. The deadline is Thursday, April 7 at **11:59 PM** (midnight). We have corrected the discrepancy.



Q. I am having trouble downloading the budget form for the application. It says it is “redirecting.”

A. When you click the link to the form, your browser should say "redirecting" while the form is downloaded to your computer. You may be able to find the download at the bottom of your screen or the top right corner, depending on your computer and browser. You can also check your downloads folder. If you still cannot download, please feel free to email Melissa at melissa.berlin@boston.gov to send the document directly to you.

Q. If our program will serve multiple locations, should we submit one overarching application or should each location apply separately?

A. This depends whether your organization plans to operate one program out of multiple locations or whether you are considering multiple different programs out of different locations. For the first, we would recommend one grant application. For the latter, separate applications.

Q. If our organization is working with partner(s) on the project we are requesting funding for, should one organization act as the "primary" partner? If so, should we still include the other organization's information in the application (budget, address, etc)?

A. There is a question on the application that asks whether you will engage outside partners. Please include all partners and their information in the application. All questions about budget, address, etc. refer to the primary organization leading the project.

Q. Are we required to use the budget template or can we use our own spreadsheet?

A. Please use the provided budget template.