



2026 Incubator Grant

Eligibility & Application Guide

Program Funding	Up to \$25,000
Program Startup Support	Up to \$5,000, as needed
Grant Period	12 months
Application Deadline	Friday, September 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Applications must be submitted through the S'firot Foundation GivingData grantee portal

About the S'firot Foundation

The S'firot Foundation is a Jewish philanthropic foundation dedicated to improving the lives of Jewish older adults and their caregivers across Central Florida. Guided by Jewish values and informed by community research, we invest in innovative programs, meaningful partnerships, and sustainable solutions that promote health and wellbeing, dignity, connection, and a strong sense of belonging. Through thoughtful, evidence-informed grantmaking, we are committed to building a lasting legacy of impactful philanthropy that strengthens opportunities for Jewish older adults.

Jewish Aging in Greater Orlando

The Foundation's Jewish Aging in Greater Orlando report presents key findings and strategic implications from its comprehensive assessment of the experiences, priorities, and evolving needs of Jewish older adults and family caregivers across Greater Orlando. The research is intended to help community organizations better understand local needs, identify opportunities, and develop responsive programs and partnerships. Applicants are required to review the report before submitting a proposal and should use relevant findings, community insights, or identified opportunities to inform the design and rationale for their proposed program.

About the Incubator Grant

The Incubator Grant supports new, expanded, or adapted programs, services, and engagement opportunities that strengthen wellbeing, dignity, connection, and Jewish engagement among Jewish older adults age 60+ and their caregivers across Central Florida.

The grant is designed to foster innovation, encourage new approaches and support creative solutions. The Foundation is interested in programs that respond to identified community needs, create sustained engagement over the grant period, and generate measurable outcomes and useful learning that can strengthen future services and community investment. Funding is intended for programming delivered over a

full 12-month period. Proposals should include multiple touchpoints or recurring opportunities for participants rather than a single event or isolated activity.

Funding Available

Funding Component	Maximum	Purpose
Program Funding	\$25,000	Supports the activities, services, staffing, outreach, supplies, transportation, and other eligible costs required to deliver the proposed program.
Program Startup Support	\$5,000	Available as needed for eligible one-time costs that build the capacity or infrastructure required to establish and launch a new program.

The maximum combined request is \$30,000. Program Startup Support must be separately justified and budgeted and may not be used for ongoing salaries, recurring staffing, general operating expenses, or recurring administrative costs.

Eligible Applicants

The 2026 Incubator Grant is an invitation-only opportunity. Invited organizations must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a tax-exempt religious organization.
- Serve Jewish older adults and/or their caregivers in Central Florida.
- Propose a clearly defined program that provides a direct and measurable benefit to Jewish older adults and/or caregivers.
- Demonstrate sufficient organizational capacity, financial oversight, and leadership to manage the grant and complete all reporting requirements.
- Deliver the proposed program during a defined 12-month grant period.
- Proposed programs must serve Jewish older adults and/or caregivers within Central Florida. The Foundation's primary service area includes Orange, Seminole, Lake, Osceola, and Volusia Counties.
- Use grant funds only for approved activities described in the application.

Funding Priorities and Examples

Proposals should respond to a demonstrated community need or opportunity and may include, but are not limited to:

- Social connection, community-building, and efforts to reduce isolation
- Physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual wellbeing
- Shabbat, holiday, Jewish cultural, and Jewish learning experiences
- Family caregiver support, education, resilience, or respite
- Transportation, mobility, navigation, and other access solutions
- Intergenerational engagement and community belonging
- Technology training, digital access, or innovative service-delivery models
- Programs that reach isolated, vulnerable, or underserved Jewish older adults

Ineligible Requests

- Requests from individuals
- For-profit ventures or activities that primarily create private benefit
- Capital campaigns, endowment campaigns, or major capital improvements
- Expenses reimbursable through insurance or government programs
- General operating support not connected to a defined program
- One-time events without a broader program strategy
- Expenses incurred before the approved grant period or unrelated to the approved proposal

How Applications Will Be Reviewed

The S’firot Foundation Board will review eligible applications using a structured grant assessment rubric. The rubric supports fair, consistent, and evidence-informed funding decisions by assessing the strategic alignment, quality, feasibility, anticipated impact, and overall merit of each proposal.

Applications will be considered across the following areas:

Review Area	What the Board Will Consider
Strategic alignment and community need	Alignment with the Foundation’s mission and priorities, and a clear, well-supported need or opportunity.
Innovation and learning	A thoughtful new, expanded, or adapted approach and meaningful learning that could strengthen future programming.
Program design and organizational capacity	A clear, feasible implementation plan supported by appropriate leadership, experience, staffing, and infrastructure.
Participant reach, engagement, and partnerships	Realistic recruitment and engagement strategies, as well as participant reach.
Outcomes and evaluation	Clear goals, measurable participant outcomes, and a practical approach to collecting evidence and using learning.
Equity, access, and community fit	Attention to barriers, inclusion, dignity, underserved populations where relevant, and contribution to the Jewish aging-services ecosystem.
Budget and value	A realistic, responsible budget aligned with program scope, anticipated impact, and the amount requested.

Expectations of Grantee

- Participate in grant communications and provide requested information throughout the grant period.
- Notify the Foundation of material changes to the approved program, leadership, timeline, or budget.
- Track participant reach, program delivery, outcomes, lessons learned, and use of grant funds.
- Submit required grant reports and financial information through the GivingData portal.
- Use awarded funds solely for the purposes approved by the Foundation and comply with the grant agreement.

Application Deadline and Submission

Completed applications and all required supporting documents must be submitted online through the S’firot Foundation GivingData grantee portal no later than Friday, September 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Applicants are encouraged to begin early, review all application questions and upload requirements in advance, and confirm that the organizational profile and contact information in GivingData are current before submission.

Application Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time