

Frequently Asked Questions – 2025 Grant Cycles

Note: This contains additional information not covered in the “What to Know about the Longwood Foundation’s Grantmaking” document. Please be sure to review that document as well, as many FAQs are addressed there.

How competitive will the grant cycles be?

While it is hard to predict, historically, our long-term average is that we have around \$2.50 of demand for every \$1 we have available to give.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Foundation accepts grant requests from nonprofit organizations located in and/or benefiting the state of Delaware and/or within a four-mile radius of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. To be eligible for a grant, your organization must have tax-exempt status with the IRS. Organizations that have previously applied are asked not to re-approach the Longwood Foundation with a funding request within two years of a previous request, regardless of whether the proposal was approved or declined. Prior grantees should reference their last Grant Agreement, which will name the grant cycle in which they are eligible to reapply.

If an organization is headquartered outside of the Longwood funding geography, but doing work inside of our region, are they eligible to apply?

Yes. If you are working to benefit the residents and/or communities in our region, you are eligible to apply. Please describe the nexus of operations and/or benefits that lies within our geography. If the program you're applying for is solely (or largely) based in our geographic region, then you are eligible and our other funding guidelines apply. If the programming you plan to apply for includes other geographic regions, we'd encourage you to think about a proportional request. For example: If the program you're applying for would cost \$100,000 across all participants and 20% of the participants are from within our geographic region (and it is expected to stay around that number throughout the grant), we're unlikely to contribute more than \$20,000.

What scale of requests is Longwood willing to entertain?

The maximum an organization may request is \$2 million. In 2024, we issued grants in a range between \$10,000 and \$2 million. The recent average is between \$250,000-\$400,000. We'll entertain the scale of request you need to succeed but encourage you to use these benchmarks in planning your request.

Does the amount of funding awarded impact the length of time an organization must wait before returning?

Organizations receiving funding greater than \$800,000 will be asked to wait more than two years before returning to the Foundation with another proposal. The details of this will be covered during a pre-meeting and/or site visit with Foundation staff.

Will you consider requests above 50% of the project/operating cost?

We continue to want to pay no more than 50% of the cash needed to a project or operations over the time period you define.

If an organization applies for a grant, when can they apply again?

If you apply in the Spring 2025 cycle, you will not be eligible to submit another request until the Spring 2027 cycle – whether funded or declined. Similarly, if you apply in the Fall 2025 cycle, you will not be eligible to submit another request until the Fall 2027 cycle – whether funded or declined.

Can organizations meet with a Longwood team member ahead of submitting an application?

Yes. Prospective applicants may request a pre-meeting ahead of the submission of a proposal. During this meeting, organizations may update the Foundation on their planned request and ask questions pertinent to drafting their application. Note that this meeting is optional for requests less than \$500,000 and requesting one neither improves nor harms an organization’s likelihood of receiving funding. **Organizations planning to request \$500,000 and above must have a pre-meeting prior to submitting an application.** If this is your organization’s first time applying to the Longwood Foundation and you are interested in having a pre-meeting, we will require that you attend an Information Session prior to attending a pre-meeting. To schedule a pre-meeting, please refer to the Foundation’s website.

How should organizations think about the timing of proposed outcomes?

We would suggest you review the [What to Know About Outcomes at the Longwood Foundation](#) document for additional information. The timing of your outcomes should coincide with the length of the grant. Funds for the spring cycle will arrive around June 2025, with those for the fall cycle arriving in December 2025. Outcomes tied to this grant request should not start before that date. Additionally, we ask that before you return to Longwood with a future request that performance against your last grant is known. If you are planning to time your project to run two years (the minimum length before being eligible to return to Longwood), you will be planning your outcomes around a spring of 2027 eligibility to return for a future request. In that case, we suggest your proposed outcomes span the time interval between June 2025 and year-end 2026. Similarly, because most organizations in the Fall cycle will not be eligible to reapply until the fall of 2027, we suggest your proposed outcomes span the time interval between January 2026 and summer 2027. See the chart below for additional information.

Grant Cycle Eligible to Return to Longwood:	Outcomes Known By:
Spring 2027	December 31, 2026
Fall 2027	June 30, 2027
Spring 2028	December 31, 2027
Fall 2028	June 30, 2028
Spring 2029	December 31, 2028
Fall 2029	June 30, 2029
Spring 2030	December 31, 2029

Should nonprofits partner with one another and/or will Longwood favor organizations that have partnered?

We believe it's likely that there will be more demand for services from nonprofits and less sources of funds in the years to come. Therefore, it's logical that new forms of partnerships should be explored and/or executed in the months to come. However, partnering is not a simple exercise. It can make execution more complicated and sometimes reduce the likelihood of success. So, it's not for everyone. We encourage you to explore any and all solutions that benefit your clients. If you do partner, as always, there needs to be a lead organization that is primarily accountable for the results. They should be the applicant organization.

Is there anything that Longwood specifically will not fund?

- Events
- Endowments
- Scholarships
- Reimbursement for previously purchased items
- Longwood will not provide funding for explicitly religious purposes or for membership-related endeavors of faith-based organizations. However, we do provide funding to religious entities and other faith-based organizations for social service endeavors.

If you're interested in additional clarification of the above parameters, please contact Foundation staff.

Will Longwood offer challenge grants?

If the Trustees decide to fund a grant and the applicant has requested a challenge or match format, the Trustees generally find this feature attractive.

How will awarded funds be paid?

Once you are notified of the award, you will be assigned a Grant Agreement and Electronic Payment Information form in our Grants Management System, where you will provide your organization's bank wiring information. All payments will be distributed electronically. If the funds are not contingent, the full grant award will typically be distributed within a month of the Trustee's funding decisions.