

# Rural Impact Investment Fund (RIIF) Application

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*Central Texas Community Foundation - Grants*

*Help us customize your RIIF application experience.*

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**Please select the option that best describes you.\***

**Established, small nonprofit** – A tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3) in good standing.

**New or low-capacity nonprofit with fiscal sponsor** – A newly formed or smaller 501(c)(3) applying with a fiscal sponsor.

**Grassroots leader with fiscal sponsor** – An individual community leader applying with the support of a fiscal sponsor.

## Choices

Established, small nonprofit

New or low-capacity nonprofit with a fiscal sponsor

Grassroots leader with a fiscal sponsor

## *Eligibility Criteria*

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**Do you meet the RIIF eligibility criteria? Please review and answer the questions below.**

### **Eligibility Question 1\***

I/We are working to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families navigating economic hardship as well as marginalized and historically underrepresented communities and groups in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and/or Williamson County.

#### Choices

YES - Proceed to the next question.

NO - You are not eligible to apply.

### **Eligibility Question 2\***

I/We have a physical address in at least one of the four rural counties: Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and/or Williamson County.

#### Choices

YES - Please proceed to the next question.

NO - You are not eligible to apply.

### Eligibility Question 3\*

I/We have an annual operating budget of \$250,000 or less.

#### Choices

YES - Please proceed to the next question.

NO - You are not eligible to apply.

*Stop - You are not eligible for this funding opportunity.*

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**Stop! You are not be eligible for this funding opportunity. Log-off the system and contact us for more information.**

#### Amy Mizcles

Program Office for Rural Community Investments

Central Texas Community Foundation

amy.mizcles@ctxcf.org | (512) 514-0046 ext. 1007

### Project Information

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#### Project Name\*

*Character Limit: 100*

#### Organization Name

**DELETE**

*Character Limit: 250*

#### Mission Statement\*

*Character Limit: 1000*

#### What is your core mission?\*

Help us understand how your work impacts the health and well-being of rural communities.

Select one category that best describe your core mission.

- **Economic Stability** – Helping people meet basic financial and employment needs (examples: job training, financial literacy, food access, childcare, small business support).
- **Education Access & Quality** – Expanding opportunities for learning and skill-building (examples: early childhood programs, tutoring, literacy, language access, vocational training, college readiness).

- **Health Care Access & Quality** – Making health care easier to find, afford, and understand (examples: access to clinics, dental or mental health care, health education, telehealth, culturally appropriate care).
- **Neighborhood & Built Environment** – Creating safe, healthy, and supportive places to live (examples: housing, transportation, food access, clean water or air, safety and violence prevention, environmental justice).
- **Social & Community Context** – Building strong, inclusive, and supportive communities (examples: leadership development, civic engagement, community organizing, immigrant/refugee support, mentorship, advocacy).

### Choices

Economic Stability  
Education Access & Quality  
Health Care Access & Quality  
Neighborhood & Built Environment  
Social & Community Context

### Website

*Character Limit: 2000*

### Social Media

*Character Limit: 2000*

### County or Counties Served\*

Check all that apply

#### Choices

Bastrop  
Caldwell  
Hays  
Williamson

## *Primary Contact*

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**We may have questions about your application. Who is the main point of contact for this application?**

### Name\*

*Character Limit: 100*

**Title\****Character Limit: 100***Email\****Character Limit: 254***Phone\****Character Limit: 10*

## *Commitment to Rural Communities*

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### **RIIF Commitment to Rural Communities**

The Rural Impact Investment Fund is committed to ensuring that all rural communities have fair and consistent access to opportunities and resources. We recognize that some communities face greater challenges in achieving health, economic stability, and overall well-being, and we strive to expand opportunity and strengthen resilience across rural areas.

Through our grantmaking, we aim to:

- Listen to and include the voices of community members.
- Support local organizations and grassroots leaders who know their communities best.
- Direct resources in ways that increase opportunity and stability across rural regions.
- Build relationships based on transparency, accountability, and respect.

**By clicking “Yes”, I confirm that I have read and understand the Rural Impact Investment Fund’s Commitment and I affirm my belief that all rural communities should have fair access to resources, and that fairness and care should guide how we listen, learn, and invest together.**

#### **Choices**

Yes

No

## *Stop - You may be ineligible.*

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**Stop! You may not be eligible for this funding opportunity. Contact us for more information.**

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## *Nonprofit Applicant*

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As part of our due diligence, several documents are required.

### IRS Determination Letter\*

Please upload a copy of your IRS Determination Letter.

- If you do not have this document, type **“Not Available”** in the space provided.
- A member of our team will follow up with you to provide support.

\*1 MB = 1 MiB

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### Board-Approved Annual Budget

Please upload a copy of your Board-Approved Annual Budget.

- If you do not have this document, type **“Not Available”** in the space provided.
- A member of our team will follow up with you to provide support.

\*1 MB = 1 MiB

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### Statement of Activities

Please upload a copy of your recent Statement of Activities.

- If you do not have this document, type **“Not Available”** in the space provided.
- A member of our team will follow up with you to provide support.

\*1 MB = 1 MiB

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### Balance Sheet

Please upload a copy of your current Balance Sheet (a snapshot of what your organization owns and owes).

- If you do not have this document, type **“Not Available”** in the space provided.
- A member of our team will follow up with you to provide support.

\*1 MB = 1 MiB

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### Your most recent 990.

Please upload a copy of your most recent 990.

- If you do not have this document, type **“Not Available”** in the space provided.

- A member of our team will follow up with you to provide support.

\*1 MB = 1 MiB

*Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## *Applicant with a Fiscal Sponsor*

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**Thank you for applying with a fiscal sponsor.**

As part of our due diligence, several documents are required from your fiscal sponsor. As a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing, your fiscal sponsor should have all of these documents readily available.

Please use the **collaborate feature** on the top right hand side of your screen to invite your fiscal sponsor to complete this section. As a collaborator on this application, your fiscal sponsor will upload the required documents.

Be sure to scroll to the top of the page to see the **COLLABORATE** button. A tutorial for using the collaborate feature can be found [here](#).

### **IMPORTANT TIPS:**

- Plan ahead and let your fiscal sponsor know to expect an email from the Central Texas Community Foundation inviting them to collaborate on your RIIF application.
- Ask your fiscal sponsor to follow the instructions in the email. Once they are in the system, they need to **scroll down to the APPLICANT WITH A FISCAL SPONSOR section** to upload the requested documents. Note: They will be able to see the entire application, but ask that they focus only on the **APPLICANT WITH A FISCAL SPONSOR section**
- After uploading their information, your fiscal sponsor must click **SAVE** on the bottom right-hand side of the screen.
- Remind your fiscal sponsor that the deadline this application is October 31, 2025 at 5:00 CST.

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### **SECTION FOR FISCAL SPONSORS**

**Thank you for serving as a fiscal sponsor!**

As a part of our due diligence process, several documents are required. See below. Please enter and upload the required contact information and documents at your earliest convenience. The application deadline is October 31, 2025 at 5:00PM CST.

### **IMPORTANT TIPS:**

- You will be able to see the entire application, but we ask that you focus only on the **APPLICANT WITH A FISCAL SPONSOR** section
- After entering your contact information and uploading the required forms, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click **SAVE**.
- Thank you for completing this portion of the application at your earliest convenience. Remember, the deadline for this application is October 31, 2025 at 5:00 CST.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact us with any questions you may have.

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## Fiscal Sponsor Executive Officer Name

*Character Limit: 250*

## Title

*Character Limit: 250*

## Email Address

*Character Limit: 250*

## Phone Number

*Character Limit: 250*

## Organization Name\*

*Character Limit: 250*

## Fiscal Sponsor - Letter of Determination\*

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

## Fiscal Sponsor - Annual Board-Approved Budget for Current Fiscal Year\*

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## Fiscal Sponsor - Most Recent 990\*

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## Fiscal Sponsor - Most Recent Audit Report\*

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

## Fiscal Sponsor - Fiscal Sponsor Agreement with the Applicant\*

For a template MOU and other resources for fiscal sponsors, visit [www.ctxcf.org/riif](http://www.ctxcf.org/riif).

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## *Strategic Priority Alignment*

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**Please select the strategic priority that best matches your project from the options below:**

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### **Priority 1: Organizational Capacity Building**

Purpose: To strengthen an existing rural nonprofit or to start a new 501(c)(3) organizations focused on health & wellbeing.

Examples of Eligible Activities: Start-up funding (including first-year leader salary), legal services, board/staff training, strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, technology, equipment, program evaluation, communications, partnerships, collaborations, etc.

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### **Priority 2: Community Leadership Development**

Purpose: To support grassroots leaders and mentorship for emerging leaders.

Examples of Eligible Activities: Leadership training/workshops, coaching, peer mentorship, financial literacy, communities of practice, leadership institutes, assessment tools, etc.

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### **Priority 3: General Operating Support**

Purpose: To provide unrestricted funding for mission-related needs (Maximum request: 10% of annual operating budget. For example, a nonprofit with an annual budget of \$250,000 may request up to \$25,000.).

Examples of Eligible Activities: Strengthening core capacity, managing uncertainty, pursuing strategic opportunities, or any activity that supports your organization’s mission.

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## **Choices**

Priority 1: Organizational Capacity Building

Priority 2: Community Leadership Development

Priority 3: General Operating Support

## *We're excited to learn about your project!*

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### How would you like to apply?

As part of our effort to break down traditional philanthropic barriers, we are simplifying the application by streamlining the number and types of questions we ask. We are also excited to share that you can choose how you want to respond - either in written form or as a video upload. **Only one format is required.**

#### Choices

I would like to submit written responses.

I would like to submit a video.

## *Tell Us About Your Project (Written Responses)*

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### What's Holding Your Organization Back?

**Question 1: What internal challenges are limiting your effectiveness and how does this affect your work (e.g., equipment, staffing, technology, software, leadership training, community building training, fundraising, evaluation, board development)? Please be as specific and concise as possible, as there is a 500-word maximum for this question.**

*Character Limit: 3250*

### What Capacity Building Support is Needed?

**Question 2: What support could strengthen your organization's capacity? Please be as specific and concise as possible.**

*Character Limit: 3250*

### How Will This Support Impact Your Mission?\*

**Question 3: How will addressing this need increase your ability to deliver on your mission? Please be as specific and concise as possible, as there is a 500-word maximum for this question.**

*Character Limit: 3250*

## *Tell Us About Your Project (Video Upload)*

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We are looking forward to learning about your project. A simple video recorded on your phone is just fine — no fancy production needed. In your video, please answer the following questions:

### What's Holding Your Organization Back?

Rural Impact Investment Fund (RIIF)

**Question 1: What internal challenges are limiting your effectiveness and how does this affect your work (e.g., equipment, staffing, technology, software, leadership training, community building training, fundraising, evaluation, board development)? Please be as specific and concise as possible.**

What Capacity Building Support is Needed?

**Question 2: What support could strengthen your organization's capacity? Please be as specific and concise as possible.**

How Will This Support Impact Your Mission?

**Question 3: How will addressing this need increase your ability to deliver on your mission? Please be as specific and concise as possible.**

**Tip: Relax and speak from the heart!**

### Video Link

Videos must be **no longer than five (5) minutes** in length.

Tip: Save your video on YouTube, SharePoint, Google Drive, or some other platform, and then share a link to your video in the field below.

*Character Limit: 2000*

## *Total Requested Amount*

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**What is your total funding request? (Maximum grant awards total \$25,000.)**

*Character Limit: 20*

**How will you use RIF funding? Enter your proposed budget below.**

#### **Example #1:**

Item = ABC Leadership Institute

Purpose = Leadership and coalition-building training.

Cost = \$3,500

#### **Example #2:**

Item = XWZ Commercial Supply Store

Purpose = Two (2) commercial freezers.

Cost = \$6,800

#### **Example #3:**

Item = Your Name  
Purpose = Partial salary for 12 months.  
Cost = \$25,000

**Example #4:**

Item: Fiscal Sponsor Name  
Purpose: Fiscal Sponsor Fee  
Cost = \$1,250

**If you have any questions or need help completing this section, please contact us.**

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Item	Purpose	Cost

