

Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders Kadimah Grants - 2026

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation - Grants

Instructions



KADIMAH GRANTS

Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders (RFJE) supports community organizations and initiatives by funding programs that enhance the lives of elders in the Jewish community of greater Portland and Southwest Washington by supporting their social, spiritual and physical well-being. To achieve its mission, RFJE offers funding through three grant track opportunities:

1. **ChikChok** ("fast-track") grants are designed to support time-sensitive opportunities that benefit elders. These grants are intended to respond to emerging needs or unexpected opportunities, fund short-term programs, events, or pilot activities; and provide quick-turnaround support with minimal administrative burden. ChikChok applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with decisions made quarterly.
2. **Nitzan** (blossom) grants are designed to support early-stage ideas and modest program expansions. These grants are intended to pilot new concepts with room to grow, expand existing programs in a limited but meaningful way; and bridge the gap between small, rapid-response funding and larger investments.
3. **Kadimah** (move forward) grants are designed to support growth, innovation and capacity-building to better serve elders. These grants are intended to launch new programs or expand existing ones, address identified community needs or service gaps; and invest in strategic planning, infrastructure and organizational capacity. There are two Kadimah grant cycles per year.
4. **Kulanu** (all of us) grants are designed to support cross-organizational collaboration and create lasting, system-level impact. Kulanu grants support significant program growth, innovation and capacity-building. These grants are intended to fund collaborative, multi-organization initiatives, address systemic challenges and service gaps; and focus on sustainable, communitywide solutions.

This Request for Proposal relates to Kadimah grants

The Purpose of the Kadimah Grants

Grant awards for this Kadimah cycle will be \$20,000-\$50,000 per year, with multiyear commitments possible. There will be two grant cycles per year. We strongly encourage organizations to self-evaluate how they can effectively use grant funds-given existing organizational constraints-and ask for funding accordingly.

- RFJE will limit funding of a program to no more than 10% of an organization's overall budget during this grant cycle for their solo grant application.
- For collaborative grants, RFJE will fund up to 50% of a program's overall budget, irrespective of the organizational budget.

RFJE understands that effective planning is vital to nonprofit success. Thoughtful strategic planning strengthens and sustains vibrant community institutions. To support this work, RFJE will offer Kadimah planning grants—covering up to 100% of costs—to organizations with proven impact on community elders and sound fiscal management. We invite organizations seeking strategic, capacity-building support to expand services for elders to apply for funding.

We believe that overreliance on a single funder can undermine a nonprofit's long-term stability and encourage you to share how others are supporting your work. RFJE does not guarantee a specific award amount and reserves the right to decline any or all proposals. We hope *Kadimah* grants will serve as a catalyst to inspire new projects and activities or expand and enhance existing programs that address the community's priority needs. We strongly encourage collaboration between local agencies to mitigate deficits, close service gaps, and create sustainable solutions to address the needs and interests of elders in our Jewish community.

At this time, we are especially interested in supporting growth, innovation and capacity-building to better serve elders. These grants are designed for these purposes:

- Launching new programs or expanding existing ones
- Addressing identified community needs or service gaps
- Investing in strategic planning, infrastructure and organizational capacity

Grant Size and Timeframe Parameters

RFJE will consider funding proposals for up to three years and encourages applicants seeking multi-year support to request reduced funding amounts in the second and third years ("step-down funding"). For approved multi-year grants, RFJE will commit to funding for the full proposed term, contingent on annual reporting requirements and on agreed-upon criteria and conditions established by RFJE and the applicant to assess the program's progress.

May 13, 2026: The grant cycle will open.

May 28, 2026: We will be hosting an applicant info session virtually.

July 1, 2026: We will close the cycle.

By July 30, 2026: We will notify applicants of decisions.

If you have additional questions, please contact info@rfje.org.

ELIGIBILITY QUIZ

Eligibility

- Applicants must be qualified charitable nonprofit 501[c][3] organization or tax-exempt religious organization as determined by IRS regulations. If you are a fiscally-sponsored organization, please contact us before you begin an application process.
- Synagogues may apply for grant funds for projects to serve older adults, but proposals must demonstrate intentional, non-traditional engagement that exceeds routine services.
- Organizations may submit only one stand-alone grant application and may submit up to three additional grant applications in collaboration with other organizations in Greater Portland and SW Washington.
- Applicant organizations or collaborators need not be Jewish or Jewish-affiliated, but programs or services must prioritize or directly serve Jewish seniors.
- Programs may serve both Jewish and non-Jewish seniors, provided Jewish participation is documented at 75% or higher.
- Grant funds must be expended within 12 months or less of award allocation, or longer with permission. Upon project completion or up to 12 months from notification of award, grantees must submit a Final Report. To apply for additional funds within one-year of a grant award, a progress report will be requested.
- Collaboration with other aligned non-profit organizations in a joint grant application is encouraged. Funds will be awarded to the lead applicant who will also be responsible for measured outcomes reporting.

Ineligible for Funding:

- Applications will not be accepted from individuals.
- Unrestricted general operations and not eligible for funding in this cycle.
- Projects which are for political purposes, capital campaigns, or for-profit ventures will not be funded.
- Projects seeking funds for costs usually covered by insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid are highly unlikely to be funded.

You must submit a full grant application before the deadline. No exceptions will be made for late applications. Organizations are strongly encouraged to contact Robison Foundation Executive Director, Sonia Marie Leikam at soniamarie@rfje.org to schedule a phone session before submitting the full grant application to discuss your proposal and to strengthen your application.

Is your organization a public charity, or religious organization or sponsored by a public charity?*

Choices

yes
no

Does your organization have a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status?*

Choices

yes
no

Is your organization based in and primarily serves the Portland Oregon metro area or SW Washington?*

Choices

yes
no

INELIGIBLE

Thank you for your interest in applying for a grant from the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders. Because your answer to one or more of the questions was "no," your organization is not eligible for a grant without speaking with our team. If you are a fiscally sponsored organization or not based locally, but serve our local community, please reach out to info@rfje.org.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization Name*

Character Limit: 250

Is your contact information correct?*

Review the contact information associated with your organization's account.

Choices

yes
no

For first-time applicants:*

Who founded your organization and why?

Character Limit: 5000

Other organizations addressing similar issues*

Are you aware of other organizations, locally or nationally, that are addressing the same issues you are? If so, which ones and where? How does your organization complement or compare to these organizations?

Character Limit: 3500

Annual Budget*

Please upload your organization's annual budget for the current year.

File Size Limit: 25 MB

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program Type*

Please check all that apply.

Choices

- Address identified community needs or service gaps
- Invest in strategic planning, infrastructure and organizational capacity
- Launch new programs or expand existing ones
- Other

Other explanation:

If you chose "other" please explain in one or two sentences

Character Limit: 250

Concise Program Description*

Please tell us in one sentence how your program serves elders in the Jewish Community in the Portland metro Area and Southwest Washington.

Character Limit: 250

Complete Program Description*

Tell us about your organization's planned activities, goals, expected number of people served, and funding needs for the program. Include information about collaboration with other organizations. Refer to our applicant guide for further guidance.

Character Limit: 10000

Amount Requested*

Character Limit: 20

Program Budget*

Character Limit: 20

Program Budget*

Please attach the total budget for the program for the grant period covered. Include any existing funds or in-kind contributions.

File Size Limit: 25 MB

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENT

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENT

You may submit one additional *clearly-named* attachment. It must be a Word, Excel or PDF file and formatted to print on paper no larger than letter-sized (8.5" x 11"). List the attachment name with a description

File Size Limit: 25 MB

Description

Character Limit: 250

SIGNATURE

Affirmations:

By signing below you affirm:

- The organization is in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization and holds a valid 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- The person signing below is authorized by the organization to submit this proposal on its behalf.
- The organization grants RFJE, its employees, officers, directors, agents, partners, licensees, and assigns, the absolute, irrevocable, and unrestricted right to use, reproduce, publish, and distribute the Grantee's name, brand, logos, and mission statement, as well as any photographs, video recordings, audio recordings, testimonials, and other media supplied by or created in connection with the Grantee's funded project.
- The information in this proposal is true, complete and accurate.

Signature*

Sign by entering your full name, job title and today's date. (e.g. Ploni Almoni, Executive Director, 01/25/2025).

Character Limit: 100

Organization Address*

Character Limit: 250

Contact Phone Number

Character Limit: 250

Contact Email Address*

Character Limit: 254

Disclaimer: *Nothing in this application shall be construed as an endorsement by OJCF of any view, opinion, position, action, or information of the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders. OJCF makes no representation, warranty, or guaranty regarding the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders, the program, or the application.*