



2025 KEIRO GRANTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why is Keiro doing a grants program?**

The Keiro Grants Program is a component of Keiro's strategy to enhance the quality of senior life in Our Community. There are many organizations and agencies providing excellent programs and services for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.

For the 2025 cycle, we continue our focus on supporting accessible programs that improve the quality of life for older adults and caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community. Keiro understands that a culturally-sensitive and person-centered approach incorporates key elements contributing to a high quality of life – these include health/wellness, purpose, connectedness, security, and autonomy.

Our grants program enables Keiro to use its resources to support these organizations so they can strengthen current services, develop new, innovative programs, and expand access within their local communities.

2. **Are there any significant changes to the 2025 Grants Program?**

Yes. There are two significant changes to the 2025 Grants Program.

The grant period, during which funded projects must be completed, is up to 10 months (March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025).

Capital projects will not be funded for the 2025 cycle. Capital projects include facility renovations; purchase, lease and/or maintenance of vehicles and related costs; and purchase, lease and/or maintenance of large equipment (including but not limited to stoves, refrigerators, HVAC systems, etc.) and related costs.

GENERAL APPLICATION

3. **What are the deadlines for grant applications?**

Keiro's deadline for grant applications is 5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, September 6, 2024. Organizations and groups who submit applications by Friday, August 16, 2024 will receive a preliminary, non-binding review and feedback by Keiro staff.

4. **Are grant guidelines available?**

Yes. We have guidelines with in-depth explanations for this year's cycle. The guidelines and grant application are available at keiro.org/grants.



5. **Can we speak to someone at Keiro to help us write our application?**

Staff will assist with any questions related to the application requirements. We also invite you to attend one of our informational workshops where we will review guidelines and answer questions. However, Keiro staff will not help you answer specific application questions or give advice on programs/projects to submit for funding. For a schedule of online workshops and to register, please visit keiro.org/grants.

6. **Will Keiro staff provide feedback on my organization’s application?**

Organizations and groups may submit applications by Friday, August 16, 2024 to receive a preliminary, non-binding review and feedback from Keiro staff. Input from Keiro staff may help you consider how to approach questions or clarify guidelines – however, this feedback is non-binding and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Grants Review Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

7. **Do you provide grants to individuals?**

No.

8. **Do you give grants to organizations outside of Los Angeles County?**

Yes. Keiro is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults and their caregivers by providing grants to organizations and groups in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. Organizations that receive grants do not need to be based in these counties. However, the older adults and/or caregivers who benefit from the program, service or project **MUST** reside in Los Angeles, Orange and/or Ventura counties.

9. **Does Keiro grant money to commercial businesses?**

No. Keiro does not fund for-profit organizations or businesses.

10. **We are a new organization and don’t yet have 501(c)(3) status. May we still apply?**

No. Please consider partnering with an existing 501(c)(3) that would agree to serve as a fiscal sponsor for your organization. Fiscal sponsors are allowed, but must be secured prior to the application deadline. A written acknowledgement from the fiscal sponsor must be submitted with your grant application.

11. **How does Keiro define “Our Community”?**

“Our Community” refers to the Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties, and includes those who embrace our culture and values.



12. Will organizations receive preferential treatment based on their history with Keiro?

No. Funding decisions will be based solely on the merit and impact of the proposal, in accordance with the Grants Program guidelines. Any previous partnership or relationship will not be considered when evaluating applicants. Being a past grant recipient or applicant does not influence funding deliberations during this current cycle.

TYPES OF FUNDING

13. Do you fund general operating expenses?

Yes. Keiro makes grants for general operating expenses, often called core operating support, in addition to program development and capacity building. Support for staffing is also eligible for funding, through the capacity building category.

14. Will Keiro consider loans?

No. Loans, or mission-related investments, are not considered.

15. Do you prefer to fund capital projects or programs?

Capital projects will not be funded for the 2025 cycle. Grant funds can be used for program development, capacity building (including staffing), and core operations. Please see question #2 for a detailed definition of “capital projects.”

16. Does Keiro award multi-year funding?

No. The grant period is limited to 10 months.

LEVELS OF GRANT FUNDING

17. Does an organization need to apply for a minimum level of funding?

No. Applications are welcome for any amount up to \$20,000 for the 2025 grant cycle.

18. Is there a difference in how applications will be reviewed?

Yes. Priority will be given to organizations and groups with annual operating budgets of less than \$1 million. If the organization is under fiscal sponsorship, the annual operating budget of the fiscal sponsor will not be taken into consideration. Additionally, funding for recurring or periodic programs/projects will be given priority over funding for one-time events – this is to provide sustained support for quality of life.



APPLICATION PROCESS, PROCEDURES & REVIEW

19. How will I know if you received my organization's application?

We acknowledge receipt of every application by email.

20. Do you require a letter of inquiry (LOI) before submitting an application?

No. A letter of inquiry is not needed.

21. Shall we wait to hear from you before applying to other sources of funding?

No. It is recommended to apply for multiple sources of funding.

22. Will you come for a site visit?

This year, we will conduct follow-up with all organizations when an application is under active review. This follow-up may be done via email, phone call, video conference and/or an in-person visit. The staff person reviewing your organization's application will initiate the follow-up.

23. Are applications accepted by fax or email?

Yes. Keiro is able to accept electronically-submitted applications. We appreciate electronic copies of applications for our records. If the application file exceeds maximum capacity in one email, please send the application in multiple emails. Applications may be faxed to 213.873.5799, and notice of your organization's submission must be provided by emailing grants@keiro.org.

24. May we submit additional applications for different projects within the same year?

We understand that a number of community centers, churches, and temples have multiple programs for older adults and caregivers. Keiro will accept multiple applications for distinct programs or projects that fall under the same organization. Although multiple applications may be submitted, funding per organization will not exceed a total of \$20,000.

We also accept applications from fiscally-sponsored organizations who may be applying under a larger nonprofit organization. If the fiscal sponsor organization is also applying for a grant, the fiscal sponsor organization will be considered separately from the organization(s) or group(s) they are sponsoring.

25. When and how will I know if my organization's application has been accepted or rejected?

All applicants will receive electronic communication regarding the status of their application after the Grants Review Committee deliberates and makes recommendations regarding the request. We anticipate that final decisions will be announced in February 2025.



26. In addition to the application, what kind of supporting documents will we be asked to submit?

Please download our grant application guidelines at keiro.org/grants, which outlines the required documents.

27. We recently submitted an application and were declined. May we re-submit?

Yes. Your organization is eligible to apply again for the 2025 cycle, regardless of if an application was declined in a previous cycle. Please sign up for Keiro's email newsletter to stay up to date on our next grants cycle.

FEEDBACK ON APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS & DECLINATIONS

28. If we submit an application early, will we receive feedback from staff?

Yes. If you submit your application by August 16, 2024 with the indication that you would like a preliminary review, Keiro Grants Program staff will review the submitted materials and provide you feedback on any items that may require further refinement. Preliminary review by staff does not include review by the Grants Review Committee. Input from Keiro staff is non-binding and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Grants Review Committee.

Any application submissions received after August 16, 2024 will not receive preliminary review.

29. Our application was declined. Can you tell us why?

Yes. If requested, we can share the Grants Review Committee's feedback on applications that were not funded. Please contact Heather Harada at grants@keiro.org to schedule a meeting.

REPORTING & REAPPLYING

30. If our organization is awarded funding, how long do we have to complete the final report?

Final reports are due at the conclusion of the 10-month grant period. The grant period begins March 1, 2025 and ends December 31, 2025. There will also be a mid-year report requirement. If any changes need to be made to the original project timeline, please contact Heather Harada at grants@keiro.org.

31. How will I know if you received my organization's final report?

We acknowledge receipt of every report by email.