



## Thome Aging Well Program – 2026 Call for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

[Thome Aging Well Program Grant Opportunity Now Open | Enterprise Community Partners](#)

[Informational Webinar Recording](#)

*This final round of Thome Aging Well funding provides flexible, one-year grants to support urgent or emerging needs facing older adults with lower incomes in Maryland and Michigan. Funding is intended to strengthen housing-based programs, services, and supports that help older adults maintain housing stability, health, safety, and well-being during a period of rapid change. To learn more click [here](#).*

### Eligibility & Applicant Types

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#### 1. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit affordable housing providers or community development corporations
- Tribal Housing Authorities or Tribal Designated Housing Entities
- Community-based organizations serving Tribal communities through housing-based programs
- Previous Enterprise Thome Aging Well grantees

Applicants must serve:

- Adults age 55 and older
- Household incomes at or below 80% Area Median Income
- Residents of Maryland and/or Michigan

#### 2. How are "affordable housing providers" defined?

Affordable housing providers include nonprofit, public, Tribal, or community-based organizations **that create, operate, preserve, or support and connect low-income individuals or families to affordable housing** to help them remain stably housed as part of **the core work** done by their organization.

### **3. Do applicants need to own or operate housing to be eligible?**

In a few cases, applicants that do not own or operate housing may still be eligible, including if:

- The organization fits into one of the defined categories of eligible organizations (e.g., a previous Enterprise Thome Aging Well grantee) even though it does not own or operate housing.
- The organization does not own or operate housing, but it does connect individuals with lower incomes to affordable housing as a core part of their work.

### **4. Are previous Enterprise Thome Aging Well grantees eligible to apply, and may funding support a continuation of a previously funded program?**

Yes. All former Enterprise Thome Aging Well grantees are eligible to apply. Funding requests may support the continuation of a previously funded program, provided the proposal clearly demonstrates an ongoing urgent or emerging need and aligns with the goals and eligibility requirements of this one-year funding opportunity.

### **5. Can non-housing organizations apply?**

Yes, if:

- They are a previous Thome Aging Well grantee, or
- They partner with an eligible housing organization as the main applicant.

### **6. Can public housing authorities apply?**

Yes.

### **7. Are organizations focused on helping older adults age in place eligible?**

Organizations that meet the requirements listed under eligible applicants are eligible to apply. Focusing on older adults aging in place does not make you eligible on its own.

## **Funding Amount, Term & Budget**

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### **8. How much funding is available and for how long?**

Organizations may apply for up to \$200,000 in total funding for a one-year period of performance.

### **9. Is there a minimum grant request?**

No. Applicants should request the amount needed for their proposed program, up to \$200,000.

## **10. How will grant funds be disbursed?**

Grant funds will be distributed in two installments:

- 50% at the start of the grant period
- 50% at the midpoint

## **11. What are the anticipated grant dates?**

Awards are expected to be announced in Spring 2026. The grant period will begin once contracting and paperwork are completed, typically about one month after award notification.

## **12. Is this funding intended for new programs or existing ones?**

This round is especially well suited for:

- Sustaining essential services that have lost funding
- Stabilizing programs during transitions
- Programs that can be implemented quickly within one year

## **13. How many awards per state are expected?**

The number of awards made in each state has not been predetermined. Award decisions will be based on the strength of applications received, alignment with program goals, demonstrated need, and available funding. As a result, the number of awards will vary between Maryland and Michigan.

## **14. How many awards do you estimate making?**

The total number of awards has not been predetermined and will depend on the number, size, and quality of applications received, as well as available funding. Enterprise will make funding decisions based on alignment with program goals, demonstrated need, and overall impact rather than targeting a specific number of awards.

## **15. Is sustainability required for this one-year grant?**

No. While sustainability has been core to our application questions in past Thome Aging Well funding rounds, this opportunity is intentionally designed to address urgent and emerging needs facing older adults. Given the one-year scope of this grant, applicants are not required to demonstrate long-term sustainability or identify ongoing funding sources. Instead, proposals should focus on timely implementation, immediate impact, and meeting critical housing stability and service continuity needs without shifting ongoing costs onto low-income older adults.

## Allowable Activities & Budget Guidelines

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### **16. Must services be tied to specific housing properties?**

Services may be property-based or delivered across a broader community or multi-county area, as long as they clearly support the urgent needs of older adults (aged 55 +) with lower incomes living in Michigan or Maryland.

### **17. What types of activities are a good fit for this grant?**

Eligible activities include (but not limited to):

- Food access and nutrition programs
- Community care networks and resilience initiatives
- Energy-cost reduction or weather-resilience improvements
- Continuity of housing-based services that lost funding
- Housing stability and homelessness prevention efforts
- Shared housing or cohousing models that support aging in place

### **18. Can we use this funding to continue an existing food distribution program for low-income older adults while seeking additional funding for long-term sustainability?**

Yes. Existing food access and nutrition programs serving low-income older adults may be supported through this grant, provided all other eligibility criteria are met. This one-year funding opportunity is intended to help stabilize and sustain essential services addressing urgent needs, and applicants are not required to secure long-term sustainability funding as part of this application.

### **19. Are home repairs and safety upgrades eligible?**

Yes. Home repairs and safety upgrades may be eligible when the work supports housing stability or safe aging in place and payments are made directly to contractors rather than to residents. Examples may include accessibility modifications such as grab bars or other safety-related improvements.

### **20. Is transportation an allowable expense?**

Yes.

### **21. Is there a percentage of funds that may be allocated for administrative costs, or must all funds be used for direct program expenses?**

Indirect (administrative) costs are allowable. Indirect costs may not exceed the organization's approved indirect cost rate. If an organization does not have an approved

rate, indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the total grant budget. The remaining funds should be allocated to direct program expenses.

**22. What expenses are allowable? Are not allowable?**

A full list of eligible and ineligible expenses is available on pages 7 and 8 of the [Call for Applications](#).

## Payments & Direct Assistance

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**23. Can funds be used for tax arrears, down payments, security deposits, rent, or mortgage payments?**

No, these direct housing expenses are not allowable. A full list of eligible and ineligible expenses is available on pages 7 and 8 of the [Call for Applications](#).

**24. Can funds be used for utility assistance?**

Yes.

## Application Submission Guidelines

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**25. How do we apply?**

Applications must be submitted via SlideRoom by February 18, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow time for technical support. Please see page 3 of the [Call for Applications](#).

**26. Can the application be previewed in advance?**

Yes. All application questions can be previewed on SlideRoom before submission. All application questions are also available on pages 5 -7 of the [Call for Applications](#).

**27. Can applicants apply across multiple funding categories?**

Applicants should submit one integrated proposal. Activities may span multiple focus areas if they form a cohesive approach aligned with program goals.

**28. Can an organization submit more than one application? For example, if we have multiple locations serving older adults across southeast Michigan, can more than one location apply?**

Organizations are generally expected to submit one integrated application per organization. Applicants with multiple sites or locations should describe how the proposed activities will

serve older adults across those locations within a single, cohesive proposal. Submitting a unified application helps ensure a clear scope, coordinated approach, and effective use of funds.

**29. Is a video submission required?**

Yes. The video is required but does not need to be professionally produced. A simple smartphone video is acceptable. Applicants unable to complete a video should contact the program team.

**30. Can previously submitted videos be reused?**

Yes, if the video remains relevant.

**31. Are office hours available?**

Yes. Enterprise will host a virtual office hour on January 23, 2026. Enterprise cannot provide individualized proposal coaching.

**32. Where can questions be submitted?**

Questions may be emailed to [AgingWell@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:AgingWell@enterprisecommunity.org) through February 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM ET. Frequently asked questions will be posted periodically before the deadline.

## Miscellaneous Clarifications

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**33. Are there geographic priorities within Maryland and Michigan?**

Programs may operate anywhere within Maryland and/or Michigan.

**34. Is this the final round of Thome Aging Well funding?**

Yes. This is the final round of Enterprise's Thome Aging Well funding.

**35. What makes a strong proposal?**

Strong proposals address a clear urgent or emerging need, can begin serving residents within one month, incorporate older adult voice and leadership, demonstrate cultural responsiveness, leverage strong partnerships, and include realistic timelines and staffing plans. Aligns with our principles and values shared in the RFP.