



Grief Reach 2026 Cycle 1

Focus Areas:

Changemaker Supported Community Expansion Cycle

November 3rd – December 1st 2025

**Grants awarded and Childhood Bereavement Changemaker Program
Begins March 2026**

1 of 9



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

We are excited to partner with the Judi's House/JAG Institute *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker (CBC)* Initiative for this grant cycle, which offers a comprehensive three-year timeline designed to maximize impact. In the first year, awarded organizations will participate in the *CBC* Initiative. This transformative program provides essential training and resources on program evaluation in the form of workshops, exercises, and individualized consultation. Participants will have the opportunity to refine their proposal and begin building out the tools to evaluate the impact. Recognizing the time commitment of 8-12 hours per month in this year, organizations will receive a \$10,000 payment.

Following this foundation-building year, organizations will transition into a two-year Grief Reach grant, during which funding will be allocated to the community expansion project identified in the proposal. Continued support from Judi's House/JAG Institute will be available for up to 4 hours of consultation each year, funding dependent.

Eligibility: In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in this RFP only organizations that have not participated in the *CBC* Initiative previously are eligible to apply. All organizations that are awarded a grant must participate in the *CBC* Initiative in year one.

Please direct inquiries to Megan Lopez at the National Alliance for Children's Grief
info@childrengrieve.org

Interested in knowing more about the *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker* Initiative? Visit:
<https://judishouse.org/research-tools/cbc/>



NEW THIS CYCLE

Eligibility & Application Process Overview - *Changemaker* Grant Program – Request for Proposals (RFP)

Before an organization is invited to submit a full application for funding for the *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker* Grief Reach Cycle (CBC), there are two required eligibility screenings based on a single form. These eligibility rounds ensure that applicants are a good fit for the CBC Initiative and are eligible based on the grant opportunities' financial requirements. We strongly encourage organizations to begin the process early, as both of these eligibility checks will close for submissions on November 21st. Late eligibility submissions will not be accepted.

- **Step 1: CBC Eligibility Review:** This initial screening evaluates whether your organization is a strong fit for the CBC Initiative.
- **Step 2: Financial Eligibility Review:** Organizations that pass the CBC eligibility review will move on to a financial screening to ensure they meet the minimum financial criteria for the cycle. This review includes:
 - Submission of most recent audited or reviewed financial statements/990
 - Verification of annual operating budget

Eligibility Outcomes

Based on the results of the eligibility screening, organizations will fall into one of the following categories:

- **Eligible for Both CBC and Financial Reviews**
Organizations that meet both eligibility requirements will be invited to submit a full application for the *Changemaker*/Grief Reach Grant Program.
- **Eligible for CBC, Not Financially Eligible**
Organizations that are aligned with the CBC Initiative goals but do not meet financial eligibility may still be invited to participate in the CBC-Only Track. This track offers evaluation building and support, but not direct funding through this grant cycle.
- **Not Eligible for Either Review**
Organizations that do not meet the criteria for either CBC or financial eligibility will not move forward in this grant cycle. We encourage such organizations to consider future opportunities and to stay connected with us for future support and engagement.



ABOUT THE GRIEF REACH PROGRAM

Grief Reach is a dedicated grant opportunity supporting childhood bereavement services in the United States.

This competitive funding opportunity has the following goals:

- Increase access to bereavement support services in local communities, especially diverse communities
- Enhance the capacity of organizations providing bereavement support service
- Expand bereavement support services to address unmet needs
- Support communities dealing with grief and loss with tangible resources
- This funding opportunity is offered twice a year

The competitive grant opportunity is open to any organization that currently serves young people who are grieving and is looking for funding to enhance access to and increase grief support for youth and their families. Each cycle has a dedicated focus area – please reference the focus area when making the decision to apply.

The New York Life Foundation, the *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker* Initiative and NACG look forward to partnering with you.

Eligibility and Priorities

- ☐ U.S. based 501(c)3 for at least three consecutive years.
- ☐ Provide 990 tax returns for at least two of the past three years.
- ☐ Provide audited financials for the most recent full fiscal year.
- ☐ Must provide a budget detailing specifically how requested funds will be used.
- ☐ Must be the entity that will provide the children's bereavement services.
- ☐ Must have at least one paid staff person.
- ☐ Annual grant payment amount must not be greater than **15% of the organization's most recent fiscal year actuals.** (See table below for details)
- ☐ The grant proposal must include cultural considerations of bereaved children based on the community you will be serving.
- ☐ If you are a part of a larger organization, for example, a hospice, hospital, university, etc., you will be required to submit your dedicated childhood bereavement program budget.

Please note: Applications that do not meet these standards will not be reviewed for funding, so please review carefully.



Disqualifications:

Grants are made only to private, nonprofit organizations, which have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and which are not private foundations.

Excluded organizations and areas:

- Individuals or government agencies.
- Organizations or activities whose services are limited to members of one religious or sectarian group.
- Fraternal, social, professional, athletic, or veterans' organizations.
- Seminars, conferences, trips, and memberships.
- Endowments, memorials, or capital campaigns.
- Fundraising events, telethons, races, or other benefits.
- Goodwill advertising.
- Basic or applied research.
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, or national origin.
- Organizations that have a current grief reach grant, and the final report has not been submitted.
- Previous participation in the *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker* Program.



CYCLE 1, 2026

CHANGEMAKER SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE

Cycle Focus:	Program expansion that is innovative for your community
Grant Term:	3 Years (Yr. 1: <i>CBC Initiative</i> Yr. 1, Implementation: Yrs. 2&3)
Grant Amounts:	\$110,000 (Yr. 1: \$10,000, Yr. 2: \$50,000, and Yr. 3: \$50,000) \$160,000 (Yr. 1: \$10,000, Yr. 2: \$75,000, and Yr. 3: \$75,000)
Application Opens:	November 3, 2025
Q&A Call:	<u>November 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time</u>
Eligibility Closes:	November 21, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Application Closes:	December 1, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Important Cycle Notes:

- There are two grant amounts available in this RFP. Each organization will only be eligible to apply to one.
- Must commit to participating in the Judi's House/JAG Institute *CBC Initiative* in the first year of the grant award.
- Must not have participated in the *CBC Initiative* previously.

Considerations regarding the cycle focus

The focus of this cycle is **community expansion through innovation**. In considering your application, we encourage you to take a closer look at your community's unique needs to better serve children who are grieving. What innovative approaches can you introduce to meet these needs? Or how can you expand current programs to have a greater impact? For this grant, innovation means thinking outside the box—rethinking traditional services and creating programs that align with your community's specific needs.

An example of this could be offering weekend programming to reach families with limited availability or hosting sessions in community spaces to increase accessibility. Consider your community's makeup and challenges and how you can tailor your approach to provide the most effective and inclusive support for grieving children.



Grant Budgetary Requirements for this cycle:

Total Grant Amount	Budgetary Requirements
\$110,000	Annual Organizational Budget must be at least \$333,000
\$160,000	Annual Organizational Budget must be at least \$500,000

Important application notes:

- Please limit your responses to the stated characters per question; the reviewers will **not** see responses over the limit.
- Late submissions will **not** be reviewed, so please allow time to submit a complete application before the cycle application closes.

Ready to get started?

Register for the informational webinar using the link below.

Register for the informational webinar

Complete the eligibility form that includes the *CBC* Initiative application and financial eligibility questions. Once your eligibility has been determined, we will email the full Grief Reach application for you to complete.

Click here to access the eligibility form



FAQs

- **Which grant should I apply for?**
This depends on what you are planning to do with the funds. Are you looking to grow your programming or are you looking to grow your internal operations?
- **Can I apply for more than one grant and only receive one?**
You may only apply for one grant at a time.
- **Can I still apply if my current grant is over but my final report has not been completed?**
You must wait until your final report has been submitted to apply for a new grant.
- **If my organization has previously completed the CBC Initiative can I still apply?**
No, this grant is only for organizations that have not yet participated in the CBC program.
- **When is my application due?**
Monday, December 1, 2025, by 8 p.m. E.T.
- **We are an organization of volunteers. Can we apply?**
Your organization must have at least one paid employee to qualify for this grant.
- **Can I partner with another organization for this grant?**
Yes! We love to see collaborations for these grants. (The nonprofit provider of the bereavement service will be the recipient of funds)
- **What are examples of partnerships?**
Partner with establishments in your community that support your work and/or have access to the children you want to serve, including but not limited to schools, after-school clubs, churches, or other community organizations.
- **What are some examples of documentation from my partners that could support my application?**
Some examples could be letters of support, letters of intent, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or other documentation showing that both parties approve the partnership.
- **Does location restrict these grants?**
Grief Reach grants are open to any nonprofit serving bereaved children within the U.S.



- **My organization is not a nonprofit, but we are looking to partner with a nonprofit to provide bereavement services. Can we apply?**
Only nonprofits are eligible to apply. Your organization can partner with a nonprofit, but the nonprofit must be the applicant.
- **If we've received one Grief Reach grant previously, are we allowed to apply again?**
Yes, as long as your Grief Reach grant is complete and your final report has been submitted.
- **If I receive a grant, what are the reporting requirements?**
Grantees awarded any of these competitive grants are required to submit a progress report one time per year during each grant period plus a final report. The report will take the form of a narrative detailing progress on the proposed timeline of activities, achieved objectives, challenges in fulfilling grant deliverables, and a financial report documenting the allocation and expenditure of the grant funds and any interest earned thereon.
NOTE: Grant recipients will be required to review and consent to NYL Foundation's terms and conditions prior to receiving their grant payments.
- **How are applications reviewed?**
Final decisions on grants are made by a review committee consisting of representatives from the National Alliance for Children's Grief, Judi's House/JAG Institute and the New York Life Foundation, and other experts within the childhood bereavement field.
- **What if I missed the eligibility check window?**
No late submissions will be accepted after the eligibility check window closes.