GRIEF REACH GRANTS

OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 30, 2026

- *CHANGEMAKER* SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE
- COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE

CHILDHOOD BEREAVEMENT CHANGE MAKER

FUNDING PARTNER

NEW YORK LIFE Foundation

nacg.org/grants

MANAGEMENT BY

NACG
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S GRIEF

ABOUT THE GRIEF REACH PROGRAM

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

The Grief Reach grant program is a competitive funding opportunity that 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

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.

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, or organizations that are recipients of a strategic grant from the New York Life Foundation.

CYCLE 1, 2027
TWO GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING
CHANGEMAKER SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE & COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE

This grant cycle will focus on supporting organizations with existing bereavement programming that are expanding their work with schools, either by establishing school-based programming for the first time or by strengthening and expanding existing school partnerships and services. All proposed projects must focus on school-based programming.

The focus of this cycle is community expansion through **innovation in school-based bereavement programming**. We encourage organizations to consider their community's unique needs and how they can expand or introduce innovative approaches to better support grieving children in schools. This may include establishing school-based programming for the first time, expanding existing school partnerships, or adapting current services to reach more students and strengthen support within school communities.

For this grant, innovation means thinking creatively about how to meet the needs of grieving students through school-based services. Examples may include offering grief support groups, providing training for school staff, developing resources for educators, or creating new partnerships to increase access to bereavement support. Consider your community's unique needs and how your organization can tailor its approach to provide effective, inclusive, and sustainable support for children who are grieving in schools.

Important Dates:

Application Opens	**October 19, 2026**
Q&A Call	**November 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Register HERE.**
Eligibility Closes	**November 20, 2026. Access the Eligibility Form HERE.**
Application Closes	**November 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

CHANGEMAKER SUPPORTED COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE

Organizations awarded grants through this cycle must commit to participating in the Judi's House/JAG Institute *CBC* Initiative in the first year of the grant award. The organization cannot have participated in the *Changemaker* program previously.

Cycle Focus	**School-based program expansion**
Grant Term	**3 Years** (Yr. 1: *CBC* Initiative, Yrs. 2&3: Implementation)
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)

There are two grant amounts available for each grant opportunity. Each organization will only be eligible to apply to one.

We are excited to partner with the Judi's House/JAG Institute *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker (CBC*) Initiative for this grant opportunity, 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.

COMMUNITY EXPANSION CYCLE

Organizations awarded Community Expansion grants need to have successfully completed the *CBC* Initiative or have a robust evaluation process in place as assessed through the eligibility check.

Cycle Focus	**School-based program expansion**
Grant Term	**2 Years**
Grant Amounts	**$100,000** (Yr. 2: $50,000, and Yr. 3: $50,000) **$150,000** (Yr. 2: $75,000, and Yr. 3: $75,000)

There are two grant amounts available for each grant opportunity. Each organization will only be eligible to apply to one.

WHICH CYCLE CAN I APPLY FOR?

Eligibility & Application Process Overview

Before an organization is invited to submit a full application for funding for either of these cycles, there is a required eligibility screening that all potential applicants must complete.

This process ensures that organizations are eligible based on the grant opportunities' financial requirements and their eligibility for the *CBC* Initiative. The eligibility check will close for submissions on November 20th. Late eligibility submissions will not be accepted.

There are two parts to the eligibility screening:

***CBC* Eligibility, Prior Completion or Advanced Evaluation Practices:**
This screening evaluates whether your organization is a strong fit for the *CBC* Initiative. Organizations that have already completed the *CBC* Initiative or are assessed to have advanced evaluation practices will be eligible to apply for the two-year Community Expansion Grant option.

Financial Eligibility Review:
This screening will ensure that you meet the minimum financial criteria to apply. This review requires you to submit financial documentation, including the most recent 990, audit, and current 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.
- **Eligible for Community Expansion Only**
  Organizations that have either already successfully completed the *CBC* initiative or the organization already has a robust evaluation process in place, and are financially eligible, will be invited to apply for the community expansion grant.
- **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.

WHICH GRANT AMOUNT CAN I APPLY FOR?

Community Expansion Grant Amount	**Budgetary Requirements**
$100,000	Annual Organizational Budget must be at least $333,000
$150,000	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 button below.

Register for the informational webinar

Complete the eligibility form that includes the *CBC* Initiative application and financial eligibility questions. If you are eligible to apply, you will receive the full application to complete.

Click here to access the eligibility form

FAQs

- **Which grant should I apply for?**

  Each organization may apply for only one grant opportunity. The required eligibility screening will determine which grant you are eligible to apply for:

  If your organization has not previously participated in the CBC Initiative and does not yet have a robust evaluation process in place, you may be invited to apply for the Changemaker-Supported Community Expansion Grant, which includes participation in the CBC Initiative during the first year.

  If your organization has already completed the CBC Initiative or is assessed as having a robust evaluation process in place, you may be invited to apply for the Community Expansion Grant.

  Your organization's existing evaluation process will be assessed as part of the eligibility screening. Following that review, eligible organizations will be notified which grant opportunity they may apply for.

- **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?**
  No. 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?**
  Yes, you will have the ability to flag this in the Eligibility Form and will be reviewed for the non-CBC funding opportunity.

- **When is my application due?**
  Monday, November 30, 2026, by 6 p.m. E.T.

- **We are an organization of volunteers. Can we apply?**

  No, 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?**

Because all proposed projects must focus on school-based programming, applicants should demonstrate a meaningful partnership with the school or school system where services will be delivered. Examples may include:

- *Partnering with a school or school district to offer grief support groups for students*
- *Collaborating with a school district to train educators and other school personnel to provide services for bereaved children*
- *Working with parent-teacher organizations, after-school programs, or community organizations to strengthen family outreach and provide direct support to students*
- *Collaborating with culturally specific or community-based organizations to ensure school-based services reflect the needs of the students and families being served*

The nonprofit organization providing the bereavement services must serve as the grant applicant and recipient of the funds.

- **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, along with prior Grief Reach grant recipients.

- **What if I missed the eligibility check window?**
  No late submissions will be accepted after the eligibility check window closes.

- **I can't attend the Q&A call. Will there be a recording?**
  The recording of the call will be shared on the grant page once it is complete.

- **Where can I learn more about the *Childhood Bereavement Changemaker* Program?**
  https://judishouse.org/research-tools/cbc/

- **Who can I contact with questions?**
  Please direct questions to info@nacg.org.