






## 2026 Community Forward Grant Information Packet

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### Community Forward Grant Description

The Community Forward Grant supports Alamance County residents who have a vision for their community and are ready to create meaningful, community-driven change. This grant uplifts ideas that are led and initiated by community members and that help make neighborhoods healthier, stronger, and more connected.

Funded projects should address the social determinants of health, the everyday conditions that shape how people live, grow, and thrive (see chart below). Examples include, but are not limited to, improving access to healthy food, creating spaces for connection and belonging, promoting physical activity, supporting youth and families, and strengthening neighborhood safety, pride, and well-being.

Social Determinant of Health		Examples of What Community Forward Grants Can Support
<b>1</b> Neighborhood Conditions & Built Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community gardens or outdoor gathering spaces</li><li>• Resident-led activities that bring people together</li></ul>
<b>2</b> Healthcare Access & Quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community wellness or mental health circles</li><li>• Health education workshops/events (nutrition, stress, etc.)</li></ul>
<b>3</b> Social & Community Context		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peer support or affinity groups</li><li>• Cultural events that bring neighbors together</li></ul>
<b>4</b> Economic Stability		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Job readiness workshops (resumes, interviews)</li><li>• Financial literacy gatherings (budgeting, credit)</li></ul>
<b>5</b> Education Access & Quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth mentoring or leadership groups</li><li>• College or career exploration workshops</li></ul>

These examples are not exhaustive. We encourage innovation. If you have a specific idea and are unsure how it fits within a social determinant category, please reach out to [Jewel.White@conehealth.com](mailto:Jewel.White@conehealth.com)

Grants range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Priority is given to projects that serve underrepresented communities and promote equitable outcomes across the social determinants of health, particularly in areas where opportunities for health and well-being may be harder to access.

Community Forward grants may support one-time events, short-term initiatives, pilot projects, or recurring activities. However, all grant funds must be fully expended within 365 days of receiving the award. Community Forward Grants provides one-time funding. This is not a recurring grant, and past recipients are not eligible for additional funding. Nonprofit and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. Community members must partner with a nonprofit organization that will serve as a fiscal agent

and manage the grant funds. *A fiscal agent is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Alamance County, with at least two years of nonprofit status, that manages grant funds for a community project.*

For more information, contact Jewel White, Program Director, at [Jewel.White@conehealth.com](mailto:Jewel.White@conehealth.com).

## 2026 Community Forward Grant Eligibility

### Eligibility:

- Any community member or group of community members who reside in Alamance County and will continue to do so throughout the project period. If the applicant is under the age of 18, an adult co-lead is required.
- Projects should address community needs related to the social determinants of health.
- Eligible projects may include one-time events, initiatives, projects, or recurring activities, provided all grant funds are fully expended within 365 days of receiving the award.
- Applicants must partner with an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Alamance County, with at least two years of nonprofit status, to serve as a fiscal agent.

### NOT Eligible:

- Nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, private businesses, or related entities. Community Forward grants support community-led projects, not organizational programs; Community Forward projects must partner with an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as a fiscal agent and manage grant funds on behalf of the community-led project.
- Sports/dance teams or activities primarily supporting organized sports.
- Projects that duplicate or significantly overlap with existing programs, services, or efforts already offered by local nonprofits, organizations, or initiatives.
- Direct financial assistance to individuals (for example: rent, utilities, and personal bills).
- Activities that exclusively benefit members of a sectarian, faith-based, or religious organization, or that are used for religious purposes.
- Partisan political campaigns, activities, or programs.
- Individuals or groups who have previously received a Community Forward Grant are not eligible to apply again.

## 2026 Community Forward Grant Timeline

Description	Timeline
Community Forward Grant Applications Due	May 1, 2026
Community Forward Grant Award Notification	May 25, 2026
Awarded Community Forward Grants must be completed within 365 days of funding or earlier.	June 2027

## Community Forward Grant Checklist

Use the questions below to help decide if your idea may be a good fit.

### *Community Led Initiative*

- This idea is led by a member of the Alamance County community
- The idea comes from lived experience, need, or observation in the community

### *Connection to the social Determinants of Health*

- The idea connects to at least one Social Determinant of Health, such as:
  - Economic Stability
  - Education Access and Quality
  - Healthcare Access and Quality
  - Neighborhood and Built Environment
  - Social and Community Context

### *Community Impact*

- The idea benefits the broader community.
- The idea helps people feel more supported, connected, informed, or prepared.
- The idea improves access to resources, knowledge, or opportunities.
- The idea is focused on moving something forward, even in a small or innovative way.
- The idea can be completed within 12 months.
- The idea is designed to build connection, skills, or community capacity, not to provide direct cash or personal financial assistance.

### *Alignment with Grant Guidelines*

- The idea is not intended to fund or sustain the ongoing programs, operations, or services of a nonprofit or for-profit business. The idea is not intended to support a private, for-profit, or nonprofit business.
- The idea does not duplicate or significantly overlap existing programs or efforts already offered by local nonprofits or other organizations.
- The idea is not designed for partisan political or religious purposes.
- The applicant has not previously received a Community Forward Grant and understands this is a one-time funding opportunity.

### *Fiscal Agent*

- A 501(c)(3) fiscal agent is in place or can be secured to help support the idea. Community Forward grants must partner with an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to serve as a fiscal agent and manage grant funds on behalf of the community-led project.
- Partnerships or collaborators are supporting the work, not directing or controlling it.

## Past Community Forward Recipients

# PAST COMMUNITY FORWARD RECIPIENTS



## Eating From The Garden

Founded by Alamance County native Erica Johnson, Eating From the Garden was a two-day retreat designed to empower Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color in Alamance County. This initiative addressed the social and community context social determinant of health by creating intentional space for connection. The event provided a space for reflection and growth, featuring sessions on self-care, strategic life planning, and personal healing. Supported by minority-owned businesses and community leaders, the retreat fostered a strong network of empowerment and resilience.

## Empodera Te Latina

Empodera Te Latina is a grassroots empowerment group founded by Latina women in Alamance County to uplift Spanish-speaking women across North Carolina. With the support of a Community Forward Grant, the group addresses the social and community context social determinant of health by hosting gatherings, educational programming, and community outings that foster connection and mutual support. By creating a trusted space for women to share experiences and build skills, Empodera Te Latina continues to nurture a new generation of community leaders grounded in cultural pride.



## King's Guidance

King's Guidance is a mentorship program supporting Black teen boys in Alamance County with the goal of breaking cycles of incarceration and systemic inequity. Founded by Jakory Valines and TaiSean Jones, the program addresses the education access and quality social determinant of health by pairing youth with mentors who provide academic, personal, and professional guidance. Awarded the Community Forward Grant in 2024, King's Guidance is helping young men build confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of identity.