

# Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster

## Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated July 10, 2018

### 1. What disasters are included in the grant?

The Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster grant program will provide support to organizations in geographic areas impacted by major weather disasters in 2017, including Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma and the California Wildfires, and significant human-made tragedies that have occurred in 2017 and 2018 including Las Vegas; Sutherland Springs, Texas; and Parkland, Florida.

### 2. Does this include Santa Fe? Santa Fe had Hurricane Harvey?

Santa Fe is in Galveston County, Texas, and is included as an eligible geographic area in this grant to support post disaster relief efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

### 3. Would those be the only locations that are eligible to submit a proposal? Would other school shootings be considered?

Due to limited funding we focused on the three deadliest mass shootings in the last year and a half. However, if you are not eligible for this grant program, and would like us to consider support for your community, you can [send an email directly to New York Life Foundation](#).

### 4. Would Hood River, Oregon, be eligible to apply since it has a major disaster declaration, declared Aug. 8, 2017, for severe winter storms, flooding, and landslides? Or do just the three hurricanes and California wildfires count as major weather disasters?

Only the three hurricanes and the California wildfires are eligible under this grant. There are limited dollars available so we have identified the top major weather disasters in 2017.

### 5. We are based in Newtown, Connecticut, and are providing consulting to both Las Vegas and Santa Fe. Do we need a direct partner to qualify and apply?

The eligibility criteria in the RFP states you must be based in and deliver services in the eligible geographic areas. Yes, you would need a direct partner from the eligible geographic areas to be eligible to apply. Specific to the human-made tragedies that are targeted for this grant program, Las Vegas is eligible but Santa Fe is not.

### 6. In reviewing the recent guidelines for the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster, I see that Santa Barbara County is not included in the list of eligible counties. Santa Barbara was hugely impacted by fires in Los Padres National Forest and resulting mudslides and they're facing increased substance abuse and suicide among youth and adults as a result. FEMA recognized Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties as disaster areas and allowed residents to apply for direct

**assistance. Is there any way that nonprofit organizations in SBC that are providing trauma-informed services to impacted families, the majority of whom are underserved and low-income who lost houses and family members in the disaster apply for this grant?**

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We will now include Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in the eligible geographic areas for this grant.

- 7. Our agency, headquartered in nearby San Antonio has been meeting the needs of the victims of the Sutherland Springs shooting since the morning after the tragedy. We made a commitment to provide grief support services for the residents of Wilson County over the long-term, have entered a multi-year lease on a building to house our new center, and have hired separate staff for the new Center in Floresville. Do we meet the eligibility requirements of the RFP, even though our headquarters is not in Wilson County?**

Yes, you do meet the eligibility requirements for the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster grant program.

- 8. Our agency is not based in one of the areas that was struck by disaster, rather we are seeing high rates of Puerto Rican evacuees that have relocated post Hurricane Maria to our area (Fitchburg, Massachusetts) and need support to get on their feet as many are beginning a new life here from scratch. The number of evacuees that have transported to our region is high—enough so that we were the designated FEMA site and continue to hold weekly teleconferences with other statewide sites to ensure coordination of care among service providers. We believe the work we do with families and children that have evacuated is aligned with the RFP, however we do understand that our eligibility may be hindered by our location. Any direction you could provide would be greatly appreciated.**

Yes, you can apply for the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster grant program, as you are providing services to evacuees from Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria.

- 9. Our organization provides services to children and families across Florida. We have over 90 different locations but our main office is Orlando. We are looking to provide Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) in one of the FEMA designated counties where we already have an office but need to ramp up the number of therapist and increase staff trained in TF-CBT. We haven't selected the county yet but we are also cross-referencing counties that are Health Resources and Services Administration-designated mental health therapist shortage areas. Would we be "based" in areas other than Orlando? Is training an eligible expense or is the funding opportunity looking to only pay for direct services?**

Yes, you are considered to be based in other areas than Orlando and would be eligible to apply if you are providing services in the designated counties in Florida. This grant program is for ensuring children and families receive trauma and grief support services post disaster. Thus, staff training would not be an eligible expense.

**10. If an organization has several local affiliates that are in the affected communities, would it be more appropriate for each affiliate to apply or should the national organization apply?**

The national can apply with the affiliate, but the local affiliate needs to be providing the services. If the national has multiple areas that are affected, it might be best if each affiliate applies for their community.

**11. Are these one-year grants?**

Yes, the grants will begin Sept. 3, 2018 and end Sept. 1, 2019.

**12. Does the project have to be targeted toward serving families affected by a disaster only, or is this support for the organization to support those within the region affected by the disaster as a whole?**

Both. We established the grant program to support direct services for families and communities involved in the disaster.

**13. If we are directly servicing families who were impacted by the fire, are we providing their contact information?**

Contact information in the online application is for the organization applying for the grant and not the families you are serving.

**14. What are the reporting requirements? Is there a template?**

There is a final report due Oct. 1, 2019. Yes, there will be a template for the final report.

**15. If our mission is to provide emotional support to cancer patients and their families, and we did have some of those families that were affected by Hurricane Harvey, does that work?**

Yes, if your organization is providing trauma and grief support services to cancer patients that are in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, you are eligible to apply. These services must go beyond the "regular" services your organization already provides to these patients.

**16. What is the date the application will be on the website?**

The application is linked on the Alliance website now. You can [access the application](#) online.

**17. How many awards will be awarded? Will a percentage be designated to natural disasters and a percentage designated to school shootings? Will the total of distributed grants be \$50,000 (as a whole)?**

We do not have an estimated number of grants that we will be awarding nationally. We have a total of \$750,000 that will be awarded, and a maximum of \$50,000 per organization. We will not be allotting a set percentage to disasters and a percentage to school shootings.

**18. Does this grant require us to provide services to only families affected by a disaster or does this grant allow us to continue providing current support that will support those families as well as others?**

This grant is set up for the families and the communities affected by the disaster. Our lens is rebuilding the communities. There might be individuals that were directly affected (financial and personal loss), and some that weren't. If you are in the eligible geographic area providing services you can apply.

**19. We are a nonprofit bereavement center serving Houston, which was affected by Hurricane Harvey. We serve families through grief support groups and through our information and referral line. Must the grant cover those who were affected by Harvey only, or can we apply for funds to support our information and referral line which supports a general population, including those affected by Harvey. Must we demonstrate in the proposal the number of individuals we served who were directly affected by Harvey?**

If you are in the eligible geographic region, you can serve those directly or indirectly impacted. Yes, you could apply for funds to support your information and referral line, supporting the general population. There is a section in the application that asks for target/identified population. If you think it would be useful to include the number of people served who were directly impacted by Hurricane Harvey, please do so. Otherwise, it is not required.

**20. Please send us the information that will be required on the application so that we are all prepared before starting the application in the survey mode. Would it be possible to receive a PDF of the full application so that we can review the questions and required attachments in their entirety?**

The Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster [grant program application and background information](#) is available online, as well as the recording of the [informational webinar](#). A link to the PDF version of the application was added to the introduction section of the online application. If you would like to receive it via email, [request a copy from the Alliance](#).

**21. Unfortunately, we became aware of this opportunity after the date of the webinar. Are we still eligible to apply if we did not attend? Is there a video of the webinar that we can watch?**

Here is a link to the [recording of the informational webinar](#).

You are still eligible to apply for the grant if you did not attend the informational webinar.

**22. Does, the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster Proposal apply to Puerto Rico.**

Yes, the grant program does apply to Puerto Rico.

**23. I was reviewing this incredible funding opportunity and was wondering is an organization required to be a member of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to apply?**

An organization is not required to be a member of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to apply.

**24. A group of canine therapy teams around the country has been responding to shootings and hurricanes. Is there a possibility that we might qualify?**

Yes, you do qualify if you are working in the geographic areas eligible to apply for funding.

**25. We are a nonprofit organization located in Harris County (Houston), Texas. Although we do not provide long-term trauma/grief support, as part of the “3<sup>rd</sup> responder” wave of relief efforts pertaining to Hurricane Harvey, we are providing long-term recovery by helping those affected in the Houston area get back on their feet through training, employment, financial recovery coaching and home repair services. We provide industry-recognized occupational trainings to low-to-moderate income clients, free of charge, to assist those individuals in obtaining living wage jobs. Many of our clients lost jobs due to the hurricane. As part of our wrap-around services, we provide financial recovery coaching, helping clients address storm-related financial issues. Are we eligible to apply for this funding, or is this strictly for organizations that provide trauma-informed and grief services?**

This grant program is only for organizations providing trauma and grief support services post disaster.

**26. Our private nonprofit university provides trauma and mental health counseling for the children and families affected by the Parkland shooting. We are based in Fort Lauderdale, FL? Are we eligible to apply?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply if you are providing direct mental health and trauma services to children and families involved in the Parkland shooting.

**27. Do organizations need to be previous NYLife grantees in order to be eligible for the New York Life/Change in Mind RFP?**

No, you do not need to be a previous New York Life Foundation grantee in order to be eligible for the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster grant opportunity.

**28. Is New York Life interested in a statewide program providing one service or are they looking for localized programs (with a smaller geographic footprint) that would provide more comprehensive services?**

You are certainly welcome to provide statewide services (in the eligible counties) but given the grant is a maximum of \$50,000, it might be more beneficial to provide services in a smaller geographic region.

**29. Our proposal would be for the support we are providing to local organizations, service providers and communities in those areas, but we are also doing programming to assist other areas impacted by significant recent tragedies, including Orlando in response to the Pulse Nightclub shooting, NYC in response to the two terrorist attacks last year, and Santa Fe responding to the most recent high school shooting. Are those locations/tragedies also eligible to be included in our proposal?**

Due to limited funds, only the three areas – Las Vegas, NV, Sutherland Springs, TX, and Parkland, FL are eligible for support under this grant program (along with the others listed in the RFP that have been affected by natural disasters).

**30. If our organization is national in scope, but based in New York, are we eligible to apply if we have letters of support from local organizations indicating our involvement in the direct work in those locations?**

Yes, you will want to show that you are working directly in the geographic locations that are eligible. Letters of support can be included in your application.

**31. We are a church providing services to individuals who have been affected by the hurricane in Houston, TX. We are a 501 (c)(3) but do not have an audited financial statement or an IRS 990. Are we eligible to apply?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply. You will need to submit verification on the online application that you are a 501 (c)(3). A 990 is requested, if available. An audited financial statement is not required.

**32. We lost our church in the California wildfires, and are looking to rebuild. Will this grant cover the rebuilding of our church?**

This grant will not cover the rebuilding costs. It is to provide financial support to organizations that are providing direct grief and trauma support services to individuals affected by disasters and tragedies.

**33. Can you clarify if this grant would be open to an application from Alberta, Canada?**

No, unfortunately, Alberta would not be in the eligible geographic areas for the Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster grant program.

**34. We have a program called Adopt-a-Block and we go into the community and provide a variety of services. One of the services we provide is making repairs on homes. We help with code violations and anything else they need help with. Is this eligible for the grant program?**

We are funding organizations that provide direct grief and trauma support services to individuals affected by natural and human-made disasters. At this point, we are not funding home repair efforts.

**35. We are a community foundation in Sonoma County and leading efforts to support the long-term recovery, rebuild, and resilience efforts throughout the County following the devastating wildfires. We work directly with the organizations on the ground doing the work in the area of healing the long-term effects of trauma and raise money through grant opportunities and make grants to those organizations. Are we eligible to apply?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply for the grant.

**36. When submitting our detailed budget narrative in your budget template, would you like us to only include the budget numbers for the amount we are requesting in the proposal, or would you like to see all numbers relating to the proposal, even if they outweigh the amount requested?**

You only need to submit the budget for the amount you are requesting.

For more information and to access the online application, visit the [Change in Mind Institute](https://www.changeinmindinstitute.org) website.