

Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund - FAQ for Nonprofit Applicants

Important: Please Review Before Applying

The Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund was created by Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) with support from Napa Valley Vintners to address sudden and urgent funding losses in Napa County's core nonprofit safety net sector. The one-year funds are intended for a specific group of nonprofits in Napa County that meet strict eligibility guidelines. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, **you will not be considered for funding.**

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? (CHECKLIST)

- ☐ We are a 501(c)(3) public charity.
- ☐ We primarily serve Napa County (at least 51% of our programs and operating budget for the past 5 years).
- ☐ We work directly in the *safety net* sector – providing essential services like food, housing, healthcare, childcare, legal support, or mental health support.
- ☐ Our annual Napa County operating budget is between **\$500,000 and \$10,000,000.**
- ☐ We have experienced and can demonstrate a **decrease in funding and/or increase in client demand** for our Napa County programs during fiscal years ending 2025 and/or 2026.

While we understand that many nonprofits are facing hardship, funding decreases, and uncertainty, this Fund is devoted solely and explicitly to Napa County nonprofits that provide basic need programs to Napa County residents. **If you cannot check all of the boxes above, you are not eligible to apply.** Thank you for your understanding. If you would like to be considered for other types of funding from Napa Valley Community Foundation, please visit our [website](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What types of funding are available?

- **General Operating Support Grants:** Up to \$100,000 for one year.
- **Capacity Building Grants:** One-time grants up to \$50,000.
- **Bridge Loans:** 0% interest loans up to \$100,000 for delayed government funding.

Eligible organizations may apply for both:

- A general operating support grant *or* a bridge loan,
- and:*
- A capacity building grant.

The maximum total you can request across all grants is \$150,000. You may also choose to apply for **just a capacity building grant**. Nonprofits applying for just capacity building grants still must meet all of the safety net criteria.

2. What services qualify as “safety net” work?

Programs that meet essential human needs like:

- Childcare assistance
- Economic stability
- Disability assistance
- Food security
- Healthcare access
- Legal support
- Mental health support
- Rental and housing assistance
- Support for survivors of abuse

3. What is a capacity building grant?

Capacity building funding helps strengthen internal operations through:

- Strategic planning
- Fundraising and communications planning
- Board governance improvements
- Financial, HR, or IT systems upgrades
- Leadership recruitment (e.g., ED, CFO hiring)

Investments typically involve hiring outside consultants or purchasing systems/software. If multiple awardees select the same area of capacity building, NVCF may decide to select a consultant and provide cohort-based assistance, if appropriate.

4. Who is not eligible to apply?

- Individuals
- Organizations that are not 501(c)(3) public charities
- Public or private K-12 schools, preschools, and colleges/universities
- Nonprofits whose safety net services are less than 50% of their work
- Nonprofits that have not worked significantly in Napa County for at least five years
- Research, fundraising, or regranting organizations
- Capital campaigns or endowments
- Government entities or faith-based organizations
- New organizations, programs, or projects



5. How do I know if my funding loss and/or increased demand makes me eligible?

Because the nonprofit funding landscape is filled with uncertainty and is a changing situation, we have not arbitrarily created hard and fast rules on percentages of loss or amount of client need increases. The Request for Proposals that will be released on May 5, 2025, will have narrative questions to answer, as well as required budget documents that demonstrate the information you provide. NVCF will prioritize funding according to greatest need once all applications have been received.

6. How do I apply?

Submit your complete application and supporting documents by email to GrantsTeam@napavalleycf.org no later than **June 20, 2025**.

Application materials will be available at napavalleycf.org/safetynet starting **May 5, 2025**.

7. Is there an optional information session?

Yes. Join us via Zoom on **Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m.** Request a link by emailing julia@napavalleycf.org before **Friday, May 9**.

8. When will we hear back?

Award decisions will be announced by **August 15, 2025**.

9. Are there reporting requirements?

Yes. Grantees must submit a final report by **April 30, 2026**, detailing how funds were used and summarizing program outcomes. A grant report template will be provided.

10. Who can I contact with questions?

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