



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
NOVEMBER 19, 2025

## **HEART Grant Program Launched to Help Local Nonprofits Deliver Services**

*Application Period Open Until January 8, 2026*

FREDERICK, Md. – Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater today announced the opening of the application period for a new grant program called HEART: Helping Empower Area Resources Together. This program supports local nonprofit organizations that provide resources and support directly to people in Frederick County.

“The federal shutdown put unprecedented pressure on our social safety net, and we have heard clearly from local nonprofits that they need help to recover,” said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. “I am grateful the County Council approved funding for the HEART Grant program, and I encourage all eligible nonprofits to consider submitting an application.”

The HEART Grant program was proposed by County Executive Fitzwater on November 7 and the County Council approved the funding earlier this week.

The HEART Grant program will distribute up to \$1.5 million in one-time funds, with individual grants of up to \$50,000 available to eligible nonprofits. These funds are intended to help organizations meet increased demand for services and recover from revenue losses caused by federal funding disruptions.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee, which will recommend award recipients to the County Executive for final approval. Awardees must meet eligibility requirements, sign a grant agreement, submit financial reports, retain documentation, and notify the County if funds are not fully used.

The application period is open from November 19, 2025 until January 8, 2026. For more information about the HEART Grant program and to learn how to apply, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HEART](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HEART).

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