



Rio Grande Valley Policy Initiative

Request for proposals from eligible organizations in South Texas to support organizations engaged in local policy work and to build local organizational capacity to enable sustained, strategic engagement in policy processes that advance mental wellness and address non-medical drivers of health.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health invites eligible organizations in South Texas, especially those in the Rio Grande Valley (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy Counties), to submit a proposal to support organizations engaged in local policy work, and to build local organizational capacity to enable sustained, strategic engagement in policy processes that advance mental wellness and address non-medical drivers of health. Each grantee partner will receive a three-year grant, with an award amount of up to \$70,000 per year divided equally across the grant term. Each selected organization will have access to additional capacity building support through the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Nonprofit Resource Center.

On this page:

- [Grant Proposal Details](#)
- [About the Initiative](#)
- [Key Dates](#)
- [Submit a Grant Proposal](#)
- [Training and Support](#)
- [Background and Definitions](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Webinar Video](#)

Grant Application Questions

- Organizations who do any of the following:
 - Engage at any stage of issue education or policy engagement, including organizations that understand how public systems impact their clients or communities
 - Provide opportunities for community members to learn about public issues, such as hosting informational sessions, distributing educational materials, offering digital or in-person outreach, or raising awareness of how policies relate to mental health and well-being
 - Help community members understand and navigate public processes, including introducing residents to school board or county commissioner meetings, supporting the preparation of public testimony, or offering civic learning workshops
 - Cultivate community leadership or collaboration around shared issues, including convening listening sessions, forming advisory groups, building partnerships, or engaging residents with lived experience in shaping local conversations about community priorities

We Cannot Fund:

- Organizations whose mission statement or programs are solely focused on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity (as a part of The University of Texas System, the Hogg Foundation's funding follows the University of Texas at Austin's internal governance framework and complies with Texas Senate Bill 17)
- Projects or proposals that are solely clinical, recreational, or programmatic in nature and do not incorporate any components related to public issues, policy topics, or civic engagement
 - **NOTE:** Organizations that offer clinical/direct programs and services may still apply if their proposal relates to local policy engagement. Awarded funds cannot be used to support clinical/direct programs or services.
- Capital campaigns
- Private foundation endowments
- Individuals

About the Initiative

As Texas communities navigate an increasingly complex and uncertain landscape, strengthening policy engagement and advocacy capacity is essential. By investing in organizations that advocate for their communities, the Rio Grande Valley Policy Initiative (VPI) seeks to amplify the voices of Rio Grande Valley (RGV) residents and ensure that policies reflect the lived experiences of those most affected.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health invites eligible organizations in South Texas, especially those in the Rio Grande Valley (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy Counties), to submit a proposal to support organizations engaged in local policy work, and to build local organizational capacity to enable sustained, strategic engagement in policy processes that advance mental wellness and address non-medical drivers of health. Each selected organization will have access to additional capacity building support through the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Nonprofit Resource Center.

Initiative Goals

The VPI aims to achieve the following:

- To support forward-looking strategies that empower local leaders
- To expand participation in policymaking
- To advance sustainable, community-driven solutions for the RGV and surrounding South Texas counties

Key Dates

Event	Date and Time
Webinar Questions Due Send questions for the webinar up to 24 hours in advance.	Wednesday, May 13, 2026 10:30 am, Central Standard Time (CST)
Webinar Registration Deadline Optional training from Texas Grants Resource Center .	Thursday, May 14, 2026 10:30 am, CST

How Applications Are Reviewed

Proposals (including proposed budget) will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria:

Table: proposal rating criteria

Rating Categories	Possible Points
Mental Health and Well-being: The proposal shows that the organization’s work aligns with the Hogg Foundation’s mission to support Texas communities’ capacity to advance mental health in everyday life by addressing upstream issues that impact mental health and well-being. This includes showing how proposed policy efforts address key non-medical drivers of mental health.	5
Policy Need: The proposal clearly identifies the policy issues impacting its community’s mental health and the organization’s areas for growth in local policy engagement. This includes explaining how the grant will strengthen its capacity to participate effectively in policy processes.	5
Impact: The proposal demonstrates strong potential to generate meaningful and sustainable impact through local policy engagement. This includes contributions to long-term systems improvement, stronger civic participation, shifts in local narratives or decision-making, strengthened community power, or concrete policy outcomes.	15
Capacity Need: The proposal shows that the organization clearly identifies its areas for growth and describes how this grant will enhance its ability to fulfill its mission and serve its community.	15
Impact: The proposal predicts measurable outcomes that will improve community mental health and well-being.	15
Budget: The proposed budget shows that expenses are justified.	5
Total	60