

Request for Applications: Crear y Crecer su Negocio State of Connecticut

Summary

Hispanic Federation (HF) is issuing a Request for Applications (RFA) to charitable organizations serving economically disadvantaged communities in the state of Connecticut. All applications must conform to our non-discrimination policy, which does not allow for disparate treatment for reasons of race, color, sex, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, age, or marital status.

This initiative, *Crear y Crecer su Negocio*, supported by Congressional Community Programs Funds, aims to provide technical assistance, tools, and training to support small business and entrepreneurs and strengthen the state's small business ecosystem. The program will subgrant up to ten (10) organizations up to \$65,000 each to deliver services to a minimum of 75 small business owners per site using HF's Small Business Toolkit. Programming will include training courses for entrepreneurs, business resiliency workshops, learning circles, and direct technical assistance.

Application opens: Monday, June 16

Applications submission deadline: Friday, July 11, 2025, by 11:59pm EST

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Agencies interested in applying must attend:

- 1) **Virtual Community Briefing on Monday, June 30, 2025, at 2:00pm EST.** [Register here.](#)

This informational session is designed for community members, stakeholders, and potential applicants to learn about the grant opportunity. We will cover the following topics: the purpose and objectives of the grant, eligibility requirements, the application process and timelines, available funding, evaluation criteria, and an opportunity for Questions and Answers (Q&A).

- 2) **Virtual Compliance Overview on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 2:00pm EST.** [Register here.](#)

We will review federal regulations and guidelines to ensure that potential grantees understand their responsibilities and expectations. This will help minimize the risk of audit findings or fund disallowances and set the tone for transparency and accountability.

Project Description

Hispanic Federation's *Crear y Crecer su Negocio* initiative, aims to accomplish the following:

- Deploy a technical assistance toolkit
- Facilitate financial education and resiliency training
- Host business learning circles and peer exchange
- Promote economic sustainability and growth opportunities

The grant timeframe is from **September 1, 2025 to August 30, 2026**.

Funding and Participation Requirements

Each selected grantee may receive up to \$65,000 to implement the program over a 12-month period. Funding will support staff time, outreach, training materials, and stipends for participating small business owners.

Grantees must:

- Serve at least **75 small business owners** throughout four cohorts.
- Implement the HF Small Business Toolkit
- Conduct training sessions, workshops, and peer learning activities.
- Track participation and outcomes defined by HF.
- Participate in all required HF monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Provide one Mid-Year Report and one Final Report.
- Engage in community outreach activities and share with HF marketing/promotional assets for all programming, to engage in HF social media and mobilizations.

All grantees will receive ongoing support from HF, including capacity building, evaluation tools, promotional materials, and opportunities to engage with a statewide network of peer organizations.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible organizations must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor with such status
- Have operated in Connecticut for at least three years

- Demonstrate a minimum three-year track record in small business/entrepreneurial support
 - Be registered with the [CT Department of Consumer Protection Charities Unit](#)
 - Maintain an annual operating budget of at least \$150,000
 - Submit audited financial records for the last three years
 - Have a fully functioning Board of Directors
 - Demonstrate culturally competent services
 - Comply with [2 CFR 200 \(Uniform Guidance\)](#) and other legislative and program requirements
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Application Components

Applications must include:

1. **Organizational Overview** – Description of experience supporting small businesses
2. **Program Proposal** – Strategy, outreach plan, timeline, and intended outcomes
3. **Budget and Financial Documents** – Expense breakdown, sustainability plan, and audited financial statements for the last three year
4. **Resume or CV** - Key personnel involved in program execution

Evaluation Criteria

We expect this selection process to be highly competitive. Applications will be scored based on:

- Eligibility and alignment with HF values
 - Presence in and understanding of the target community
 - Realistic and detailed program design
 - Budget accuracy and financial stability
 - Staff qualifications and program management capacity
 - Willingness to participate in HF activities and reporting
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Important Dates

- **Application Deadline:** Friday, July 11, 2025, at 11:59pm EST
- **Community Briefing:** Monday, June 30, 2025, at 2:00 pm EST [\[Register here\]](#)
- **Compliance Overview Meeting:** Tuesday, July 1st, 2025, at 2:00 pm EST [\[Register here\]](#)

- **Program Start Date:** September 1, 2025
 - **Grant Term End Date:** August 30, 2026
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Contact

For questions regarding the initiative or the application, please contact:

Alicia Diaz at **ADiaz@HispanicFederation.org**

No obligation to contract.

This request for applications does not obligate HF to contract for services specified herein.

Rejection of proposals

HF reserves the right at its sole discretion to reject any and all applications received without penalty and not to issue a contract as a result of this request for applications.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

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This project is funded through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration.