

Request for Proposal: Humane Housing (Youth Focus)
Buhl Regional Health Foundation
Release Date: January 6, 2026

OVERVIEW

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF) invites proposals from nonprofit organizations serving Mercer County to support initiatives that strengthen Humane Housing for children, youth, and their families. Humane Housing is one of the seven Vital Conditions for a Thriving Community Framework now guiding BRHF's funding strategy. This is a foundational factor influencing long-term well-being.

In Mercer County, access to safe, stable, and dignified housing remains a critical determinant of physical, emotional, and mental health. Youth who experience housing instability or unsafe living conditions face significant barriers to healthy development, educational success, and long-term thriving.

Through this RFP, BRHF seeks programs that prevent housing instability, improve living conditions, promote family stability, and ensure that all young people have access to safe environments where they can grow, learn, and thrive. Projects may focus on prevention, early intervention, housing-related support, or innovative community partnerships that strengthen long-term stability for youth and families.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Proposals should clearly address one or more of the following priority areas and reflect the principle that Humane Housing is a vital community condition essential for child well-being:

- 1. Programs that prevent youth homelessness or housing displacement**
 1. Transitional housing support for youth or youth-led households
 2. Family stabilization programs that keep children safely housed
 3. Efforts that reduce unsafe or unstable living situations
- 2. Improving Housing Conditions**
 - Program that addresses critical home repairs that allow youth to remain safely housed
 - Program that addresses environmental hazards (mold, air quality, utilities issues)
 - Partnerships offering safe, temporary placements for youth in crisis
- 3. Housing Navigation & Supportive Services**
 - Case management, advocacy, and navigation for families facing housing challenges
 - Coordinated care approaches that reduce system barriers
 - Programs connecting families to long-term housing solutions

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants will meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status, government agency or utilizing a fiscal agent who is clearly identified in the application.
- Faith-based organizations must welcome all faiths and participation in religious activity participation must be clearly defined as optional.
- Applicant's efforts must largely serve youth and families who reside in Mercer County, PA.
- Public or community-based organizations partnering with nonprofits
- Previous grantees of BRHF must have fulfilled the required 18 month waiting period from their last grant award and all previous grants must be closed (all grant reporting completed and any unused funds returned)

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit:

1. Description of the project and the youth population serviced
2. The specific housing-related need to be addressed
3. Expected outcomes and how youth will benefit
4. Project budget and timeline
5. Partnerships and existing support, if applicable

FUNDING DETAILS

- Grant amounts will vary based on scope and anticipated impact
- Projects may be new or expansions of existing programs
- Funding period begins June 2026

EVALUATION CRITERIA

BRHF will prioritize proposals that demonstrate:

- Clear and direct benefit to youth
- Measurable outcomes and strong community impact
- Collaboration with local systems and partners
- Sustainability beyond BRHF funding

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Funding cannot be used for the following:

- Emergency or crisis rent/mortgage payments for individual households
- Direct financial assistance to individuals or families (e.g., vouchers, stipends, utility assistance)
- Purchase of land or property
- Routine housing maintenance not tied to a youth-focused housing intervention (e.g., lawn care, snow removal, general cleaning)
- Furniture, appliances, or household goods for individual families unless part of an approved programmatic intervention
- Purchase of vehicles
- Lobbying, political activities, or fundraising events
- Staff bonuses, gift cards, or incentives unrelated to program participation
- Medical or clinical services outside the project scope
- Costs incurred before the official grant award date
- Activities that do not directly support Humane Housing outcomes for youth in Mercer County
- Additional expenses at BRHF discretion

APPLICATION PROCESS

All submissions must be made through the BRHF Grant Portal.

Step 1: Submit Letter of Interest (LOI) - Only one RFP LOI submission per organization will be accepted.

Step 2: BRHF reviews LOIs and issues invitations for full proposals

Step 3: Invited applicants submit detailed proposals including:

- Most recent IRS Form 990
- Project budget and funding plan
- Description of initiative, timeline, and expected outcomes
- Optional attachments (not scored)

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Creativity and innovation
- Strength of impact on housing-related well-being
- Collaboration across systems and partners
- Clear, actionable implementation steps
- Measurable outcomes and sustainability

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awarded organizations must submit interim and final reports according to the schedule set by the BRHF Director of Grantmaking.

RFP TIMELINE

RFP Cycle Opens January 6, 2026
LOI Deadline February 13, 2026
Invitations for Detailed Proposals March 6, 2026
Detailed Proposal Deadline April 24, 2026
Award Announcements June 3, 2026
Funds Released June 15, 2026

QUESTIONS

BRHF staff are available to assist applicants throughout the process.

Kimberly Porsch | Director of Grantmaking
kimberly@buhlrf.org

Ashley Mausser | Executive Team Assistant
ashley@buhlrf.org