About Mission Beyond Service

1. What is Mission Beyond Service?
Mission Beyond Service is Navy Federal's grantmaking program, designed to invest in nonprofit solutions that create meaningful, measurable outcomes for servicemembers, veterans and military families.

Navy Federal may identify a priority focus area, and eligible nonprofit organizations may apply for funding. Applications will be evaluated using consistent criteria, due diligence requirements, and a defined review process.

2. Does Mission Beyond Service replace Navy Federal's existing charitable giving?
No. Mission Beyond Service is one way Navy Federal supports nonprofit organizations that serve military communities. While this funding opportunity focuses on a specific priority area, Navy Federal will continue to support eligible nonprofit organizations through other charitable giving and community engagement efforts.

3. Will Mission Beyond Service have the same focus every year?
Navy Federal may select a different priority focus area for each funding cycle based on identified needs within the military community and where we believe we can make the greatest impact.

4. What is the focus of the 2026 funding opportunity?
The 2026 Mission Beyond Service funding opportunity will support promising practices and pilot initiatives that advance employment outcomes for transitioning service members and military spouses.

Eligible initiatives may address:

1. **Transitioning service members:** military-to-civilian career readiness, placement, retention and advancement.
2. **Military spouses: career continuity:** credential attainment and portability; childcare barriers; workforce participation, placement and advancement.
3. **Transitioning service members and/or military spouses pursuing entrepreneurship and self-employment:** business development, technical assistance, sustainability, and access to network and markets.

5. Why did Navy Federal choose employment as the focus of the 2026 funding opportunity?
Employment outcomes for transitioning service members and military spouses remain an important challenge across the military community. Navy Federal selected this focus area because stable, meaningful employment can help strengthen long-term financial well-being for military families.

6. What type of partnership is Navy Federal seeking to build with grant recipients?
Navy Federal values collaborative relationships with grant recipients and seeks opportunities to learn alongside nonprofit partners, share insights and support long-term impact for military communities.

Partnerships will center on:

- Regular communication about programmatic progress.

- Opportunities for deeper engagement during and beyond the grant period.
- Alignment around long-term outcomes for military communities.

Funding

7. How much funding is available?

Grant requests should generally fall between **$50,000 and $250,000.**

Requests above $250,000 may be considered on a limited, case-by-case basis when an organization demonstrates a clear need. The maximum request that may be considered is **$500,000.**

8. How will applications be reviewed?

All applications will be evaluated using a consistent scoring rubric.

Navy Federal may use AI-enabled tools to support certain aspects of the application review process. Any use of these tools would be intended to assist our team in reviewing and organizing application information and would not replace human review or decision-making.

9. What does Navy Federal look for in a strong application?

Strong applications will:

- Present a new or promising approach to addressing a clearly defined challenge.
- Establish clear expected outcomes or changes.
- Demonstrate how the initiative will benefit transitioning service members, military spouses or both.
- Serve areas with a high concentration of military members.
- Explain how the organization will evaluate its work and measure results.
- Describe whether and how the initiative's activities or impact will continue beyond the grant period.

A solution does not have to be entirely new to the nonprofit sector. It may be an innovative approach or an initiative that is new to the applicant organization or Navy Federal's grantmaking portfolio.

Applicant Eligibility

10. Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be national, regional or local **501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations** that:

- Have operated for more than two years.
- Organizations should serve communities within Navy Federal's member or geographic footprint. The 2026 funding opportunity is national in scope, with priority consideration given to organizations operating in areas where Navy Federal members live and work, including communities near our campus and microsite locations.
- Are requesting support for an initiative with a clearly defined start and end date.
- Propose work that advances employment outcomes for transitioning service members, military spouses or both.

11. Can local and regional organizations apply?
Yes. Local, regional and national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations may apply if they meet the eligibility requirements for the 2026 funding opportunity.

12. Does an organization need to have been operating for a minimum period?
Yes. Eligible organizations must have been operating for **more than two years.**

13. Must the proposed initiative have defined dates?
Yes. The proposed initiative must have a clear start date and end date.

14. Can an organization submit more than one application?
No. Organizations may submit **one application for the 2026 Mission Beyond Service funding opportunity.** If an organization has multiple eligible initiatives, it should select the initiative that most closely aligns with the funding focus and presents the strongest potential for measurable impact.

Navy Federal may contact an applicant during the review process to discuss additional opportunities or determine whether elements of multiple initiatives should be considered together.

15. Can organizations apply as part of a collaborative proposal?
Yes. Organizations may submit a collaborative proposal, provided that **one eligible 501(c)(3) organization serves as the lead applicant.** The lead applicant must submit the application and, if selected, will be responsible for administering the grant, coordinating participating organizations and meeting all programmatic, financial and reporting requirements.

The application should clearly identify each participating organization, describe its role in the proposed initiative and explain how the collaboration will strengthen the initiative's expected outcomes.

Eligible Expenses and Funding Limitations

16. Can grant funds support operating expenses or overhead?
Operating expenses, including overhead, are typically capped at 20% of the grant request.

An organization may provide a clear justification if it is requesting a higher rate, but the higher rate must be approved.

17. Does Navy Federal provide general operating support?
Navy Federal generally does not fund general operating support intended solely for organizational expansion.

Targeted operating expenses may be considered when they are directly connected to delivering the proposed initiative and supporting its long-term sustainability.

18. Can an organization apply for capacity-building support?
Standalone capacity-building requests are generally not funded. However, targeted capacity-building investments may be considered when they are directly tied to initiative delivery and long-term sustainability.

19. Can grant funds be used to replace funding an organization already has for the initiative?

No. Grant funds should add to the initiative, not take the place of funding that is already budgeted, committed, or designated for the same program, activity, or expense. Applicants will be asked to attest to this as part of the application.

20. Which organizations are not eligible to apply?

The below organizations are ineligible:

a. Individual schools or sports teams
b. Religious programming organizations, unless funding is directed to non-religious services offered to the general public
c. Animal welfare organizations
d. Organizations that do not maintain and enforce non-discrimination policies consistent with applicable law

21. What activities and causes are not eligible for funding?

The following are outside the scope of the 2026 funding opportunity:

a. Capital campaigns or endowments
b. Political causes, lobbying activities or partisan campaigns
c. Health-specific causes (e.g., cancer, mental health, heart disease)
d. Organizations engaged in environmental advocacy
e. Grants solely for Galas, banquets or fundraising events
f. Animal welfare activities
g. Museums, monuments or memorials
h. Initiatives purely focused on college scholarships, student loan programs or job fairs (as appropriate, these may be an aspect of a grant, but not the sole intention).

22. Are job fairs eligible for funding?

No. Job fairs are specifically identified as outside the scope of this funding opportunity.

23. Are college scholarships eligible for funding?

No. College scholarships and student loan programs are outside the scope of this funding opportunity.

24. May a faith-based organization apply?

A religious organization may be considered if the requested funding will support non-religious services offered to the general public.

25. Can grant funds be provided directly to individual participants?

No. Direct funding to individuals is not eligible.

26. Can the grant support advocacy or public policy work?

Political causes, lobbying activities and partisan campaigns are not eligible for funding.

Applicants may be asked to provide information about their policy agenda or government affairs plan, if available, as part of the application.

Application Requirements

27. What information will applicants be asked to provide?

The application will request information about:

- Annual revenue and expenses.
- Organizational governance.
- The proposed initiative and grant request.
- The percentage of the initiative's total funding covered by the grant request.
- Additional funding sources.
- The issue the initiative will address.
- Expected impacts or changes.
- Initiative deliverables, timing and budget.
- Staffing for the initiative.
- Plans to sustain the initiative's activities or impact beyond the grant period.
- Evaluation and impact-measurement methods.
- Grants of similar amounts previously received and their key outcomes, if applicable.
- Community collaboration and feedback mechanisms.
- The organization's policy agenda or government affairs plan, if available.
- Potential employee volunteer opportunities.
- Marketing and communications capacity.

28. What documents will applicants need to provide?

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- Form W-9.
- Form 990.
- Audited financials.
- Board of Directors roster.
- Governance policies.

29. Must an organization have previously received a grant of a similar size?

Applicants will be asked to provide information about grants of similar amounts they have previously received, including key outcomes, **if applicable.**

30. Does the proposed initiative need additional sources of funding?

Applicants will be asked to identify the percentage of the initiative's total funding that would be covered by the Mission Beyond Service grant and provide information about additional funding sources.

31. Will applicants be asked about employee volunteer opportunities?

Yes. Applicants will be asked to describe potential employee volunteer opportunities associated with their work.

32. Will applicants be asked about marketing and communications?

Yes. Applicants will be asked to provide information about their marketing and communications capacity.

Reporting and Partnership Expectations

33. What will be expected of organizations selected for funding?

Selected organizations will be expected to:

- Communicate regularly about programmatic progress.
- Report narrative highlights and relevant performance measures.
- Explore opportunities for deeper engagement during and beyond the grant period.
- Align with Navy Federal around long-term outcomes for military communities.

34. What types of results may grant recipients need to report?

Reporting requirements will be tailored to the funded initiative. Examples may include:

- The number of individuals receiving employment-readiness or job-placement services.
- Credential attainment rates.
- The percentage of participants who advance in their careers.
- The percentage of participants placed in jobs that they retain for two or more months.

35. Will reporting affect future funding decisions?

Yes. Timely reporting is a standard expectation of the partnership and will be considered in future funding discussions.

Application Timeline

36. When does the application open?

The application will open on November 11, 2026.

37. When is the application deadline?

Applications must be submitted by January 15, 2027.

38. When will applications be reviewed?

Application review and recipient selection are planned for February through March 2027.

39. When will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions are expected in March 2027.

40. When will grant recipients be announced?

The current program timeline anticipates announcing grant recipients between March and April 2027.

41. When will grant funds be distributed?

Grant funds are expected to be disbursed in spring 2027.

Applying and Requesting Assistance

42. How do organizations apply?

Applications will be submitted through our grant portal.

43. Can an application be submitted by email?

No alternative email submission process is identified in the current materials. Applications should be submitted through our grant portal.

44. Can an application be saved and completed later?

Yes. Applicants may save an application in progress and return to complete it before the application deadline.

45. Will applicants receive confirmation that their application was submitted?

Yes. Applicants will receive confirmation once their application has been successfully submitted.

46. Who can applicants contact with questions?

Applicants may contact giving@navyfederal.org with technical or clarifying questions.