

Aid to Agencies

Study Session

May 5, 2026



PURPOSE

- Provide historical context and overview of the Aid to Agencies program
- Review program structure, funding framework, and category allocations
- Share funding demand trends and investment impact
- Walk through eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria
- Provide overview of the 2026 application and 2027 funding cycle timeline
- Confirm Board alignment ahead of the application launch

BACKGROUND

- Aid to Agencies established in 2008 to support non-profit organizations filling service gaps in the county.
- Over \$30 million to 79 unique organizations since inception.
- Following a review of key service gaps, the Board approved a redesigned program in June 2025, reflecting a data-informed and equitable approach aligned with the Arapahoe Forward Strategic Plan, ensuring resources address the County's highest-priority community needs
- Framework includes four funding categories, five prioritized targeted service populations, and a competitive grant application process for nonprofits within each program category.
- Based on a \$3M budget, the Board established a data-informed distribution of funding allocations within established categories and decided not to retain the previous programs \$100,000 funding cap.
- Internal review committee is comprised of 13 staff representing the county's Community Resources, Human Services, Public Health and the Commissioner's Office departments

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Total budget: \$3,079,500

Competitive Grant total: \$2,499,500; Safety Nets: \$580,000

The Aid to Agencies program uses an outcome-driven, data-informed investment model designed to support nonprofit partners addressing identified service gaps for Arapahoe County residents in four areas:

- Housing and Homeless Services
- Food Assistance
- Mental and Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse
- Transportation

In addition, organizations must demonstrate how they prioritize vulnerable populations:

- Individuals with Disabilities
- Minority Communities
- Older Adults
- Justice-Involved Individuals
- Youth

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Safety Net Funding

Reserved for nonprofit entities that provide essential services to vulnerable or underserved populations.

Distinguished by meeting all of the following criteria:

- Sole provider of essential services
- Does not duplicate County programs
- High-need and high-impact
- Must demonstrate service uniqueness and demand

Funding structure:

- Limited number of providers
- Off-the-top allocation
- Reserved outside of the competitive funding pool
- Two-year funding cycle with renewal option

Current Safety Nets: \$580,000

- Three Birds Alliance
- Aurora Mental Health & Recovery Detox Program

REPORTING

- Organizations must submit a quarterly report
- Reporting will be included as eligibility criteria for future grant cycles
- Reporting data includes:
 - Expenditure for the quarter
 - Impact of funding
 - Number of individuals served in total and Arapahoe County residents only
 - Vulnerable populations served
 - Cities in which services were provided
 - Demographics
 - Evidence of progress towards program goals
 - Successes and accomplishments



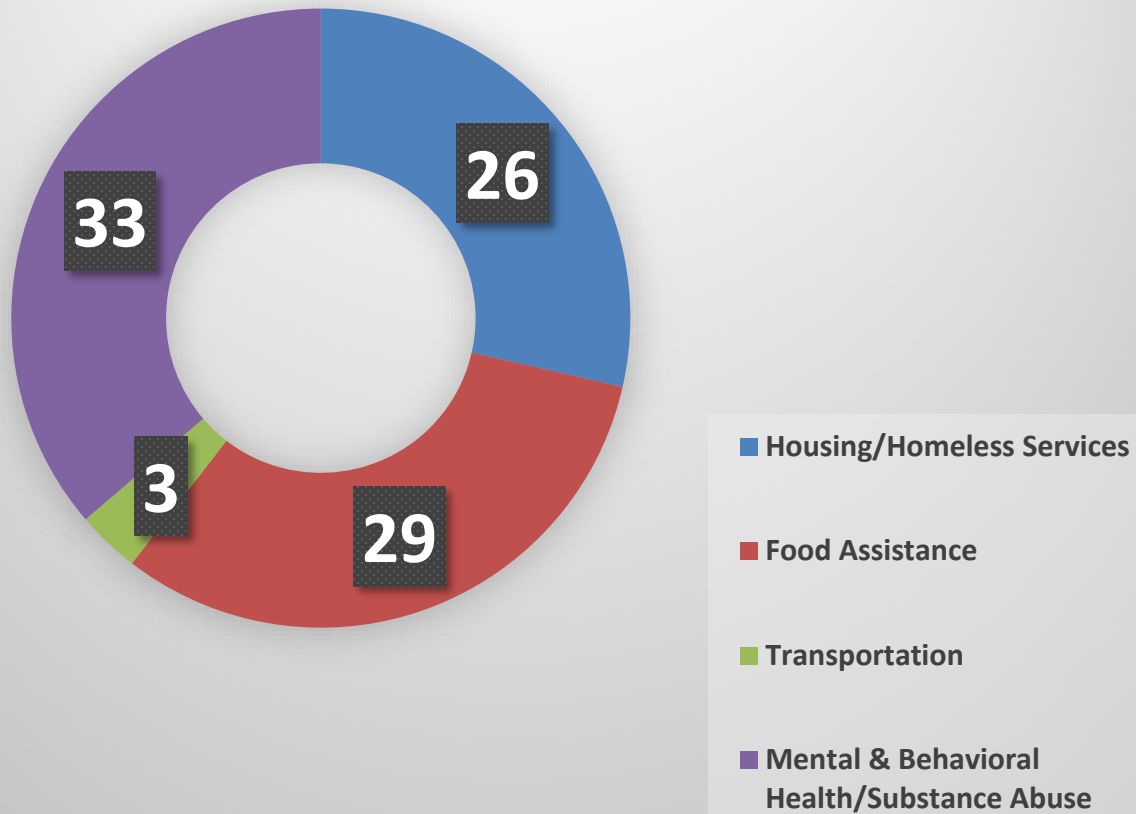
FUNDING

- Funding priorities are informed by
 - 2019 Arapahoe County Housing Needs Assessment
 - 2023 Community Needs Assessment
 - 2024 Community Health Assessment
 - 2024 American Rescue Plan Act Annual Report
 - 2025 Point in Time data
 - Prior Aid to Agencies reporting information
 - 2025 Housing Needs Assessment
 - Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Community Survey Results

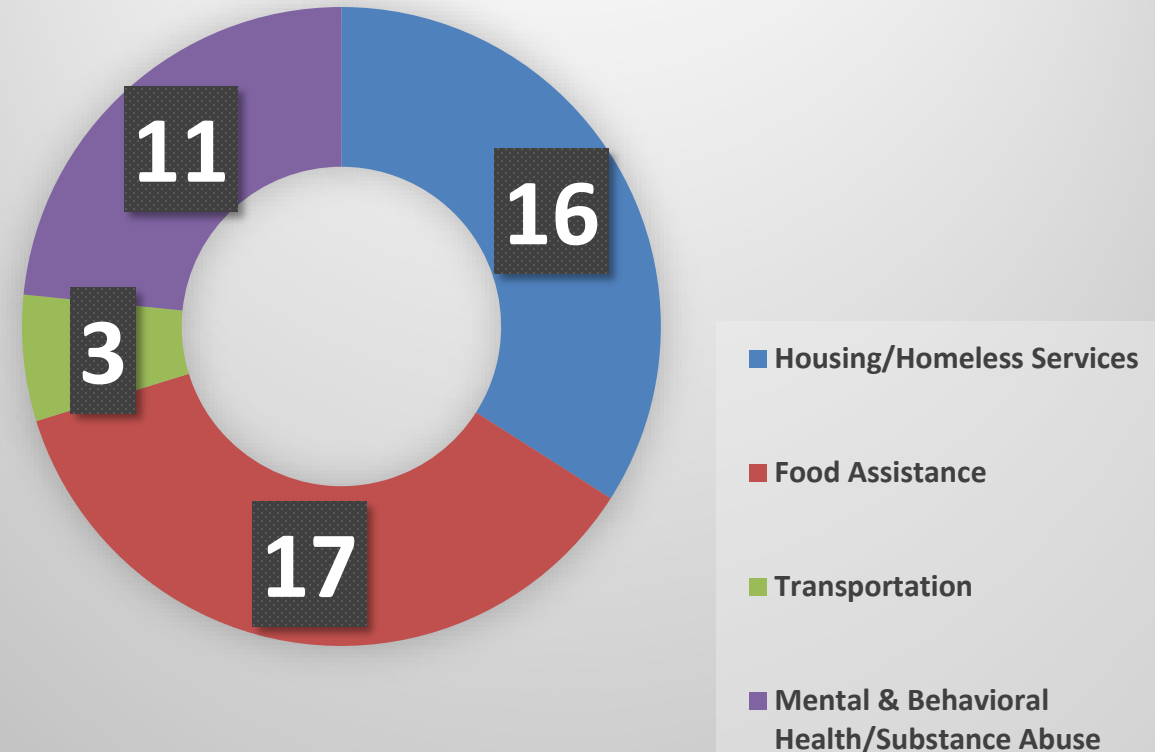
CATEGORY	%	\$ AVAILABLE
Housing & Homeless Services	40%	\$999,800
Food Assistance	30%	\$749,850
Mental/Behavioral Health & Substance Use	27%	\$674,865
Transportation	3%	\$74,985
Safety Net Providers	-	\$580,000
TOTAL		\$3,079,500

FUNDING DEMAND & DISTRIBUTION

of Requests in 2025

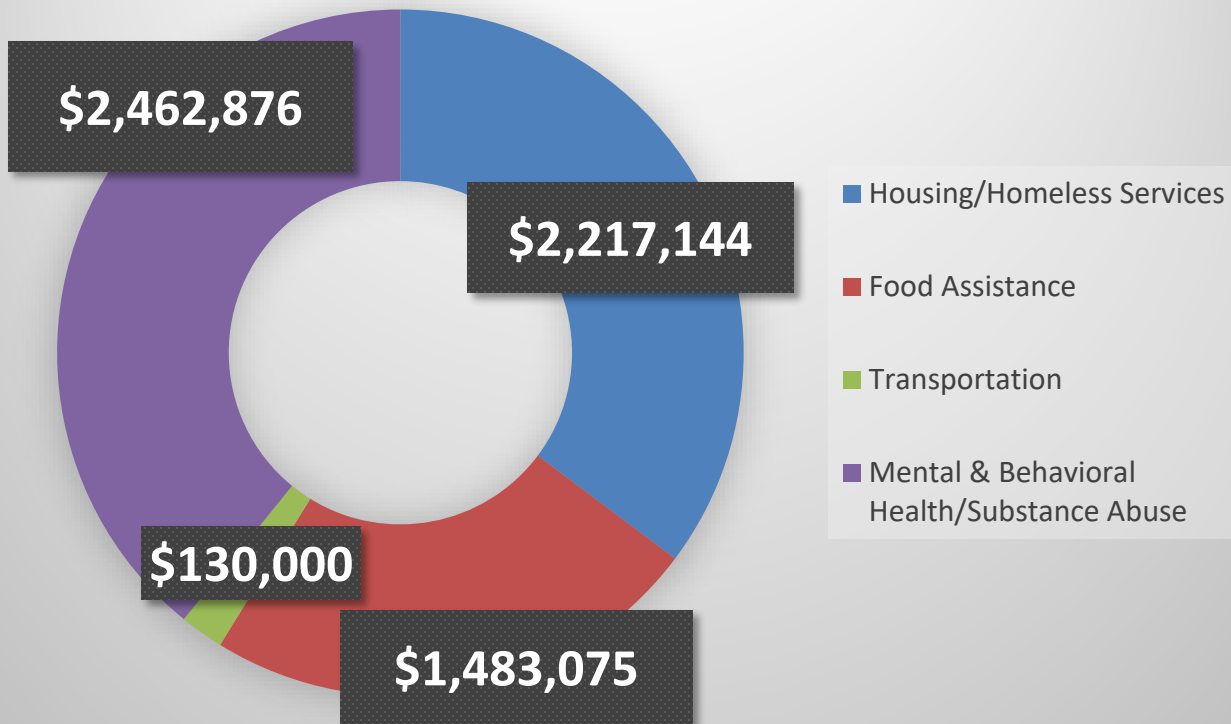


of Funded Orgs in 2025

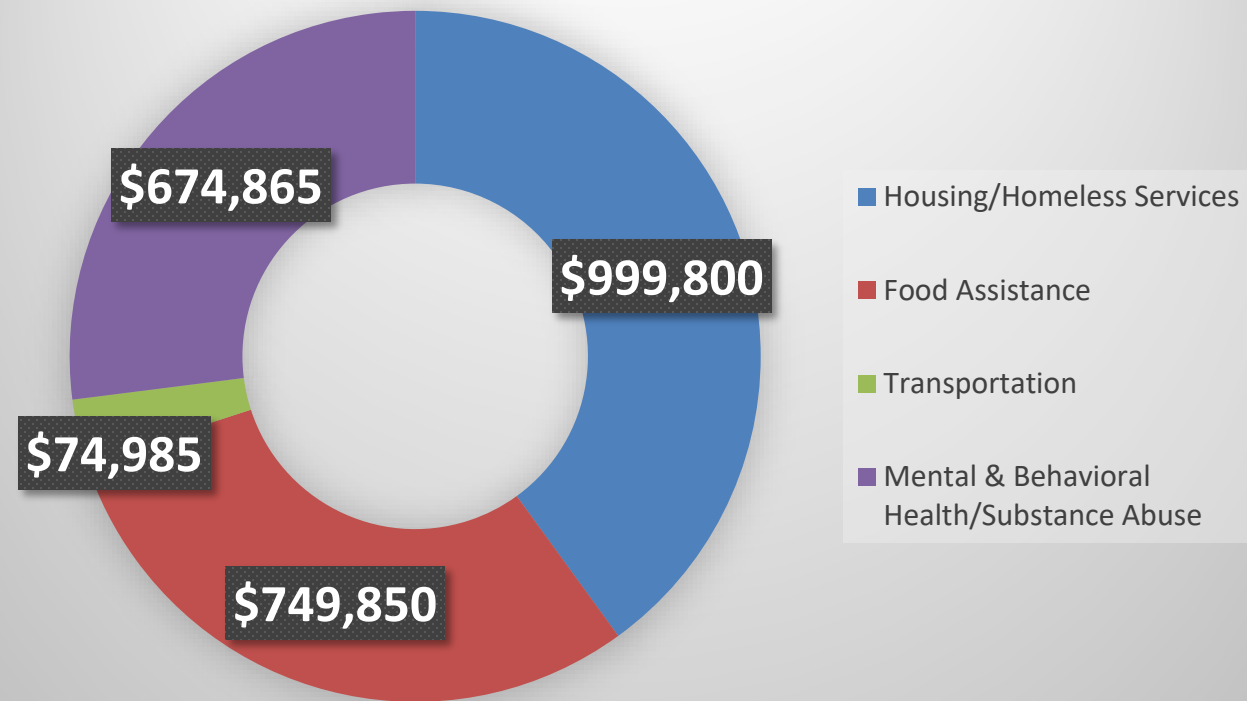


FUNDING DEMAND & DISTRIBUTION

\$\$ Requested in 2025










\$\$ Awards by Category



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS SERVED BY FUNDING CATEGORY

All but one funding categories serve at least one or all vulnerable populations **with the exception of Transportation** given limited number of organizations applied, they only had more limited vulnerable populations served.

FUNDING CATEGORY	VULNERABLE POPULATIONS				
	 Individuals with Disabilities	 Older Adults	 Minority Communities	 Justice-Involved Individuals	 Youth
 Housing and Homeless Services					
 Food Assistance					
 Mental and Behavioral Health / Substance Abuse					
 Transportation Organizations					

 Population listed

 Population not listed

PROGRAM DEMAND & FUNDING OVER TIME

Year	Applications	Awarded	% Funded	Requested	Budget	Funding Gap
2023	51	22	43%	\$3.5M	\$2.08M	\$1.42M
2024	51	22	43%	\$2.1M	\$2.08M	~\$0
2026	93	49	53%	\$6.3M	\$3.08M	\$3.2M

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Category	% of Available Funding	Funds Available
Housing/ Homeless Services	40%	\$999,800
Food Assistance	30%	\$749,850
Mental & Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse	27%	\$674,865
Transportation	3%	\$74,985

Staff is seeking direction on whether adjustments should be considered for 2027 funding cycle.

- Do we add a cap to funding requests?
- Do we fund top scores 100% of request or fund at a fraction of requested amount?
- Set aside funding to support smaller organizations or startup initiatives?

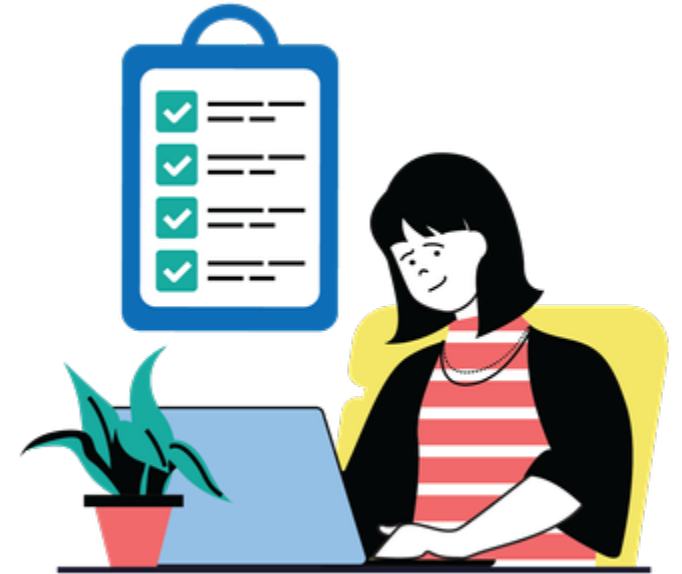
Application and Scoring Criteria



APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Organizations must:

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Serve Arapahoe County residents
- Align with at least one priority service category
- Demonstrate service to identified vulnerable populations
- Meet reporting requirements



APPLICATION & SCORING CRITERIA

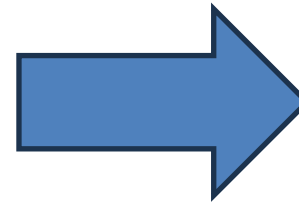
Organization Info

Program Info

**Population Reach & Service
Accessibility**

Financial Information

Supporting Materials



**Program
Alignment**

Population Reach

**Financial
Capacity**

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Organization & Program Info

- **Application:**
 - Identification of eligibility
 - Organization overview including mission and program
 - Description of how services align with County's strategic plan
 - Funding Request, including proposed use of funds and anticipated outcomes
 - Summary of organizational practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- **Scoring Criteria (Max Points: 20 points)**
 - Assesses alignment with documented community needs
 - Measures alignment with County strategic priorities
 - Evaluates service to prioritized populations
 - Reviews organizational capacity and collaboration to reduce duplication of services

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Population Reach & Service Accessibility

- **Application:**
 - Description of geographic areas served within Arapahoe County
 - Estimated number or percentage of County residents to be served through the proposed program
 - Description of outreach strategies to engage prioritized populations
 - Explanation of how services are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable residents
- **Scoring Criteria (Max Points: 20 points)**
 - Degree of geographic reach across the County
 - Strength of projected reach to Arapahoe County residents
 - Effectiveness of strategies to engage prioritized populations
 - Extent to which services are affordable and accessible

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Financial Information

- **Application:**
 - Financial information, including budget, financial statements, and audit status
 - Description of prior experience managing public or County funding (if applicable)
 - Description of plans for program sustainability beyond the funding period
 - Contingency plan outlining how the program would adjust if full funding is not awarded
- **Scoring Criteria (Max 25 points)**
 - Reviews administrative capacity to manage public funds responsibly
 - Evaluates quality of internal controls and audit history
 - Viability of program sustainability if County funding is reduced or not awarded
 - Alignment and reasonableness of proposed costs relative to program activities

APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Supporting Materials

(Scored for completion only)

- **Program Goals and Objectives**
S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound)
- **Demographics breakdown**
- **Program budget**
 - Administration
 - Operations
 - Contract Services
 - Program Expenses (non-personnel)
 - Organization Budget

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & APPLICANT SUPPORT

We're Here to Help

Multiple technical assistance resources are available to support you every step of the way.



WORKSHOPS

Join our live workshops to learn about the program, application process, eligibility, and scoring criteria.



ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

Schedule a 1:1 meeting with staff to get personalized support and have your questions answered.



FAQ ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website for a comprehensive FAQ with answers to common application questions.



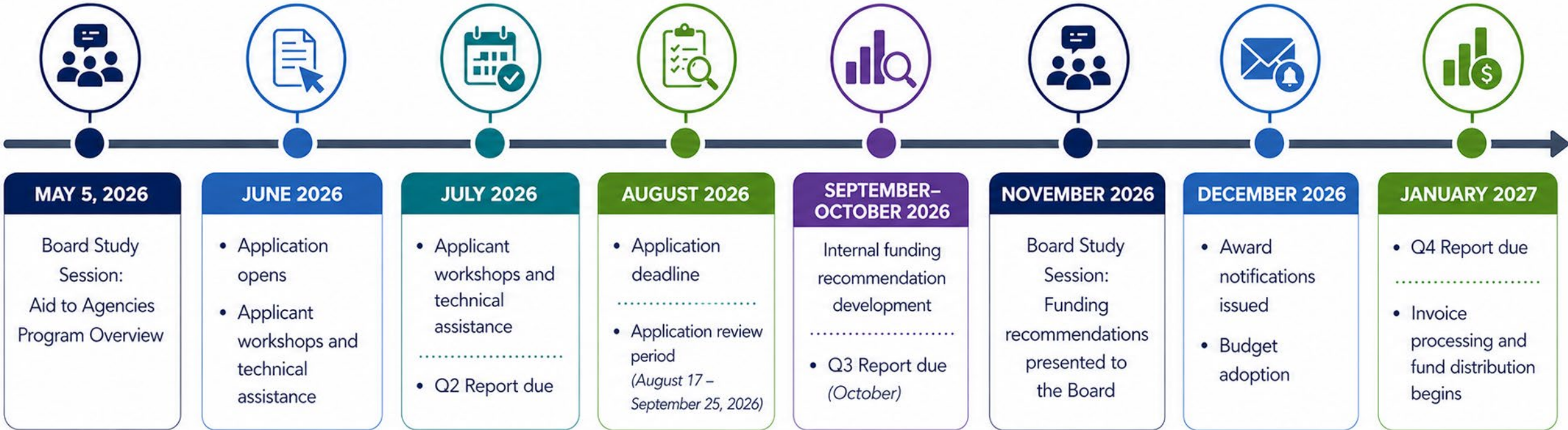
WORKSHOP RECORDING

Can't attend live? Watch the recorded workshop anytime on our website for on-demand access.



These resources are designed to ensure all organizations—**regardless of size or experience**—have the support they need to succeed.

2026 Funding Cycle Timeline



Dates are subject to change. All updates will be posted on the Aid to Agencies website.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

- Does the Board support the proposed application structure?
- Does the Board support the proposed scoring criteria?
- Are there additional reporting criteria?
- Are there additional operational improvements?
- Are there additional comments or questions?



Thank You!

