

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## VAP3 Grantee Resource Series December 10, 2024

### Virginia Housing Elevate Your Mission: Capacity-Building Grants from Virginia Housing Mariah Williams Strategic Housing Manager

**Can we access each grid individually as a nonprofit or you can only, I guess only apply for one at a time.**

Yes, so capacity building. That's a great question. So, for capacity building grants, you can access, you have to access a strategic plan before you come in for succession plan for example, but if you are wanting to do a strategic plan and say a training grant or sponsorship, you could do that.

**What does the planning process look like for a house of worship that has a nonprofit arm?**

That is a great question, and I will say it depends. There is no linear path. So, you know, what I always say is the affordable undertaking affordable housing is no small feat right on average and affordable housing project takes about 6 years. And so, I think it can start with one, assessing that organization's capacity. Understanding kind of the board makeup and gaps, on do you have developers that you all are connected with? Are there organizations that you are partnered with that you may want to be a part of this process? It could look like, so we've had churches that have said, hey, we have the land, we have no interest in being a part of the development process, we would rather partner. And then we have churches and houses of worship who are ready to roll up their sleeves and be a part of it. So, I think that the planning process looks different to depending on the role that the House of Worship wants to play.

**Is this grant reimbursable?**

Yes. So, our strategic planning, our succession planning and our training grants are reimbursable grants and so you are able to you the organization or local government comes out of pocket to pay and then you are able to submit a grant, submit a claim. I think twice as a part of that 18-month grant cycle. Our sponsorship grant though is not reimbursable so you can draw that money down to help with the event, the fundraising event, the educational event once you been awarded that grant.

**The partnership between church and developer can you share a little bit more about that please.**

Yeah, and so I would say again, this is nuanced just based on, you know what the church or how the church has decided they want to be involved. They are developers who are more likely to do a lot of hand holding right because they work with smaller capacity organizations, and they want to be able to kind of move a project forward even with someone that doesn't necessarily have a lot of experience. And so, it can look like that. Then they're development more kind of more large-scale developers where I think, it, that relationship probably they're just like more partners in the mix. It really just depends. The thing that I would say about churches that are thinking about this that there's a lot of just education around affordable housing development that I would certainly recommend going into. In January, we are actually going to be releasing a fundamental of affordable housing. This is an on-demand tool. It's going to be 8 modules, and the intended audience is actually for those who are interested in going who are new to affordable housing. So, we cover everything from the history of affordable housing all the way down to the history of affordable housing all the way down to compliance and asset management in those 8 modules. I think that that is a fantastic place to start because it actually it gives you the language, it gets you familiar with development speak, development process. It's very technical, very in the weeds and nitty-gritty. Showing up and, you know, partnering with the developer. It's always good to have that context and have that education just to make sure you're not getting kind of

**Can these grants be utilized for smaller housing project like transitional housing?**

So, we have granted. If an organization, even if they do transitional housing, they've existed and done their work for 3 years and they have a housing focus, you qualify. So we have worked with everyone who does like temporary shelters in the winter to transitional housing for people who are individuals that are justice involved and you know they're providing so there is a gentleman in Bristol Virginia Reverend Davis he has 2 homes where 2 homes for men that are transitioning from incarceration. And so, they stay there for I think maybe up to 90 days it could be longer. They'd come in for example for our sponsorship grants. And so, there's a wide range of transitional housing organizations that we will work with, and we will find for that. The one thing that I will say and I did not talk about this because I think this is and this is a different kind of conversation is with our development resources, unfortunately, when we talk about the kind of planning and financing resources that we have for transitional housing, averaging housing. Those are very minimal because it just takes a lot to make those deals

work. But from a faculty building standpoint, that is where I encourage those type of organizations to come in.

**Say for instance, we help out with rental assistance. Somebody might lose a job and they're just trying to get back on their feet and they just need that help for that short of amount of time. Is there any way that we could get a grant to help with that?**

Unfortunately, we do not offer those types of grants.

**Could the renter just apply for a grant with redirection or that just those for disabilities?**

So, actually the person would need to apply directly to them and not the organization. The individual would apply to whatever agent serves that area and they will work with that agent to get the contractor in in order to make those modifications to their unit.