

Talbot Racial Equity Grants FY27

Pre-Application Meeting

August 26, 2026





TALBOT COUNTY

Office of Community
Partnerships



Talbot Family Network = Talbot County's **LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

- Brings organizations, agencies and community partners together around shared challenges
- Uses data and community input to identify priorities and gaps
- Invests State resources and builds local capacity
- Helps connect programs, partners and systems to improve outcomes for children and families

TFN's role is increasingly about **strengthening the system**—not simply funding individual programs.



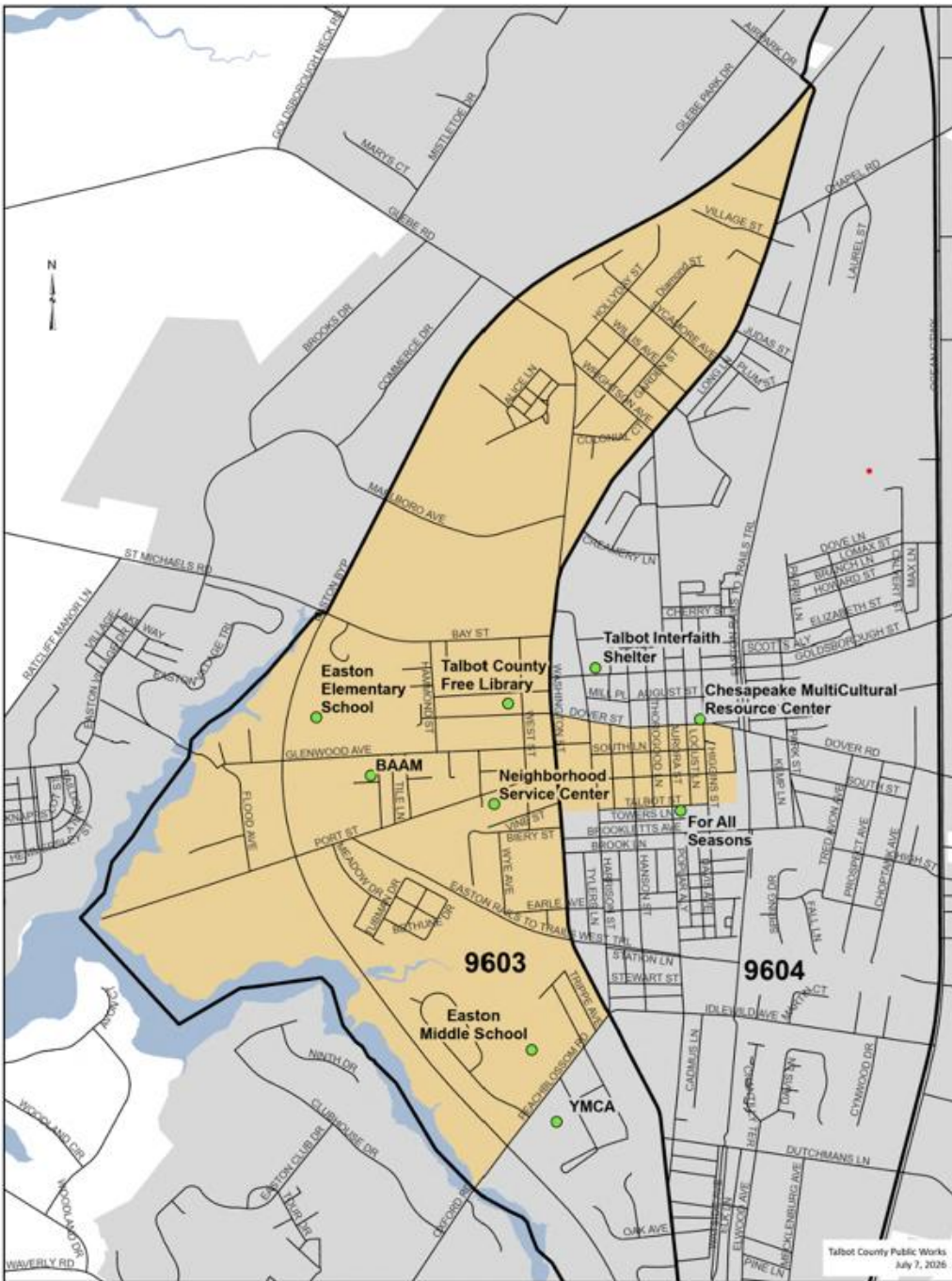


Maryland's ENOUGH Act

Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households

MD's statewide effort to reduce childhood poverty and increase economic mobility through place-based, cross-sector action.

- Looking beyond individual programs to the **systems and conditions** that shape family stability and opportunity
- Working across sectors with community residents
- Focusing on four result areas
 - Cradle to Career Education
 - Economically Secure Families
 - Healthy Families
 - Safe and Thriving Communities
- Being attentive to the designated **ENOUGH target neighborhood**



Talbot County's ENOUGH Neighborhood

Census Tract 9603
Easton

FY27 Racial Equity Grants

TFN has budgeted for 5 awards of up to \$8,500/ea.

These grants are funded through the **Governor's Office for Children** (GOC) using Maryland Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund dollars which TFN administers locally as Talbot County's Local Management Board.

These are State funds. TFN has flexibility to design this local opportunity, but the **awards are subject to GOC grant administration and fiscal requirements.**



Why Racial Equity?

Across the lifespan, Talbot County data continue to show persistent racial and ethnic disparities, beginning in early childhood.

Early childhood -> School years -> Family and economic well-being

How we do our work is as important as what we do.

This means paying attention to our how our

policies ▪ practices ▪ decisions ▪ relationships ▪ organizational culture
may contribute to more equitable - or inequitable – outcomes.

This grant program is one way TFN invests in the capacity of local organizations to examine and strengthen how they do their work.



Questions



Is My Idea a Good Fit?

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Does the project **strengthen how our organization works**?
- ☐ Will it build knowledge, practices, policies, leadership or organizational culture?
- ☐ Is the scope realistic for **\$8,500 and an 8-month** grant period?
- ☐ Can we explain what should be **different or better** when the project is done?
- ☐ Are the proposed costs directly tied to the project?



What Does Organizational Change Look Like?

GOOD FIT

- Equity training particularly when tied to a larger organizational goal
- Facilitated work on policies or practices
- Equity audit or organizational assessment with a final report
- Coaching to help implement changes
- Board/staff learning tied to decision-making

LESS LIKELY to fit

- Expanding an existing program or service
- Direct client assistance
- General operating expenses
- Community event costs
- General supplies
- Activities that do not clearly connect back to organizational change



Alignment Considerations

- **Talbot Racial Equity Coalition**

Active participation, including a signed Member Agreement, will be considered.

- **ENOUGH Act**

Does your organization serve, employ, partner with or have active relationships with people in the ENOUGH neighborhood. If so, could this project improve how you engage with or respond to that community?

Neither Coalition membership nor a focus on ENOUGH is required to apply.



What Should a Strong Application Help Reviewers Understand?

1. What are you trying to do?

Clear project purpose and scope.

2. Why now?

What groundwork, learning, or readiness is already in place?

3. What will change?

What will reasonably be different or better as a result?

4. Why is your organization positioned to do it?

Leadership, staff/board engagement, alignment and capacity to complete the work

Budget Basics

- Up to \$8,500
- Cost must be reasonable, allowable, and directly tied to the project.
 - Training/facilitation
 - Consultation, coaching and related professional services
 - Project specific books/materials/supplies
- Contracts over \$5,000 are subject to procurement requirements; competitive pricing documentation may be required.
- Prior grantees must meet the 25% cash match requirement.
- Grant funds must be used within the approved grant period.



Budget Basics continued

Show the basis for every cost

Don't just list an amount on the budget form

EXAMPLES

- 4-session facilitated training series: $4 \text{ sessions} \times \$1,000/\text{ea} = \$4,000$
- Training package including preparation, 3 facilitated 2-hr sessions and follow up consultation: fixed fee = \$6,500
- Books for training workshop = $15 \text{ books} \times \$20/\text{ea} = \$300$

- ✓ Contract based on a fixed fee/project/deliverable.
- ✗ Avoid contracting on an hourly basis.



Why the Letter of Intent?

The **letter is required**, but it is not another application.

It helps TFN

- Anticipate the number and general scope of applications.
- Plan the review process.
- Identify potential questions or issues early.

Important:

- The letter of intent is NOT scored.
- Do NOT wait for a response from TFN before continuing your application.
- Submitting a letter does NOT obligate you to apply.
- Keep it brief: a general project idea and estimated request.



If You Are Funded

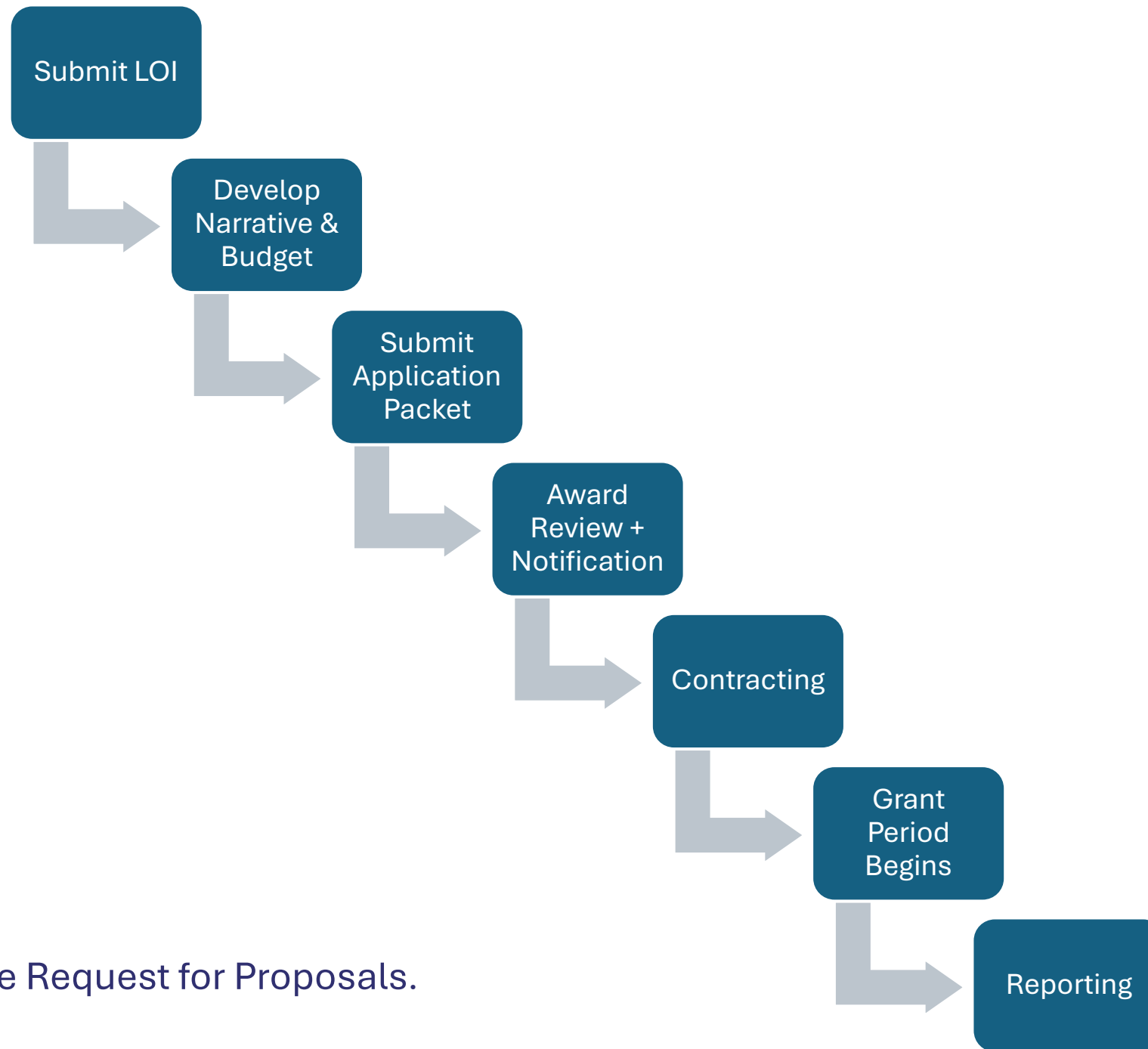
- TFN will work with each grantee to establish Results-Based-Accountability performance measures.
- Grantees will submit brief quarterly narrative, fiscal and performance measure reports.
- Grant funds must be used within the grant period.
- All budget changes require advance approval.
- Grant funded contracts may be subject to procurement requirements.





Key Next Steps

Follow the dates listed in the Request for Proposals.



Questions

