

2026 GRANT PROGRAM

Updated
May 2025

**NP
PC**

WHAT'S BELOW

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BACKGROUND

Founded in 2007, the National Public Pension Coalition (NPPC) works nationwide to counter attacks on public employee pensions and instigate proactive campaigns to protect and enhance public employee pensions and benefits. NPPC's mission has been to provide financial and strategic support to state partners, assisting their efforts to defend pensions and advance constructive pension policies for public employees.

Since NPPC's founding, our organization has contributed millions of dollars to state coalitions to combat efforts to harm public employees' retirement. We offer the expertise and the resources to help state-based coalitions be successful. Whether through direct financial support, help with paid media efforts, digital support, expert testimony, or campaign planning, we are here to help.

Grant funding is allocated to in-state coalitions based on a grant process. NPPC offers grants to coalitions that have formed and are facing legislative challenges, threats, or opportunities regarding public employee pensions.

NPPC distributes annual grants in two payments. After NPPC sends the initial check to grant recipients, we will work with you through the implementation of a campaign plan, paid media assistance, and strategy utilizing staff time and expertise. Our ultimate goal is not just to win legislative battles but to seed and build autonomous infrastructure through in-state coalitions.

ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

NPPC is a coalition of public employee unions, the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and other entities interested in preserving and expanding public employee pensions. NPPC makes all major decisions with consensus from each core partner. In that spirit, NPPC provides grants to coalitions at the state level that operate based on consensus while protecting and preserving public employee pensions.

GRANT CATEGORIES

In an effort to better allocate resources and support state-based coalition efforts, NPPC has introduced three grant categories for 2026. Applicants must indicate the grant category they are applying under and include justification within their work plan and budget narrative.

Sustaining Grant

- **Up to \$25,000**
- Dedicated to coalitions with strong affiliate support and matching funds
- Available for up to five consecutive years (or with steering committee exception)
- Ideal for ongoing work in well-established coalitions

Reboot / Launch Grant

- **Up to \$50,000**
- Available once every ten years
- Intended for states relaunching coalition infrastructure or building new ones
- Must show growth in in-state contributions over time
- May transition to a Sustaining Grant in future years

Campaign Grant

- **Up to \$50,000**
- Designed to support active campaigns addressing immediate threats or leveraging major opportunities
- Must be tied to specific legislation, events, or critical moments
- Intended to catalyze affiliate and partner engagement

*** Please select one grant category in your cover letter or grant narrative and provide supporting rationale.**

GRANT & COALITION BUILDING PROCESS CHECKLIST

For a grant to be considered, coalitions must submit a grant application that includes the following:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Identify the grant category (Sustaining, Reboot/Launch, or Campaign) and include rationale within the narrative or work plan. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Letters of support from all in-state coalition partners with a commitment to contribute funds within the first quarter of 2026 or when the coalition decides contributions are necessary. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A budget that includes coalition operating costs and funds the coalition is planning to expend throughout the year. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A work plan that is broken down quarterly. This document should include day-to-day objectives, tasks, and milestones you'd like to achieve. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Threat and proactive assessments, including the expected threats public employee pensions may face in 2026 and proactive measures you'd like to implement. This can consist of opponent activity, bills carried over from 2025, and any information relevant to threats or proactive policy changes to pension systems, such as re-opening a closed plan. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A timeline for the year, to include pre-scheduled bi-weekly meetings with NPPC staff during the legislative session, major milestones in the legislative calendar, and significant advocacy events (like a day at the capital lobbying event). Additionally, once per quarter, a full coalition meeting should be scheduled where all partners are in attendance, whether virtually or in person. |

Important Notes

- Convene a meeting (virtual or in-person) with potential or current coalition partners to work through and approve the grant application. In-person or virtual representation by NPPC staff at the application approval meeting is required. The in-person or virtual meetings should occur during September and October 2025.
- All letters of support must be submitted by the application deadline listed below. If a letter of support is not included, the draft budget should not include that partner's contribution.
- NPPC is here to help. Please reach out if you have any questions about the grant application process! Please work with us far ahead of the deadlines so we can help your application be as strong as possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Final applications are due: Friday, **October 10, 2025**

- To request a grant application or additional information, please contact NPPC Communications & Operations Coordinator Ariel McConnell at amcconnell@publicpensions.org.
- Applications will be accepted, denied, or returned to state coalitions for suggested improvements.
- Applications should be submitted as PDF files to Ariel McConnell via email (amcconnell@publicpensions.org). Please feel free to send any questions to Ariel throughout the application process.
- A fiscal agent for grant dollars (a specific affiliate, existing umbrella organization, or a newly created group) must be determined to receive grant dollars, including a postal address.

National Public Pension Coalition • www.publicpensions.org

1201 16th St NW, Suite 614 • Washington, D.C. 20036

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

National Public Pension Coalition
1201 16th Street NW, Suite 614
Washington D.C., 20036

[Date]

To the National Public Pension Coalition,

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of [ORGANIZATION] for [STATE/COALITION]'s grant application. I have reviewed the grant application and am committed to ensuring that our coalition will meet the goals outlined. To achieve those goals, I understand my role to assist the coalition.

Additionally, [ORGANIZATION] pledges a financial contribution of \$XX towards these efforts. I anticipate this contribution being made in the first quarter of 2026.

Sincerely,

[Name]

2026 NPPC GRANT APPLICATION BUDGET TEMPLATE

Grant Category (select one): ☐ Sustaining ☐ Reboot/Launch ☐ Campaign

Costs (Money Outgoing)

| Day-to-Day Operations | List Anticipated Costs for Regular Operations <i>(staffing, technology, digital, meetings, etc.)</i> | Amount |
|-----------------------|---|--------|
| | | |
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| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Total Amount | \$ |

| Potential Campaign Expenditures | Large Campaign Expenditures (ads, speakers, lobby day(s), in-district meetings, travel, one-time website costs, research, consultants) | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Total Amount | \$ |

Contributions/ Grant Ask

| In-State Contributions | Partner Name (NEA, AFSCME, etc.) | Commitment Amount |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Total | \$ |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| NPPC Grant Request | Total Funds Needed (total of outgoing costs) | \$ |
| | In-State Contributions Commitment Total | \$ |
| | Anticipated Balance Gap | \$ |
| | Total Ask Amount | \$ |

FISCAL AGENT INFORMATION

To ensure proper disbursement of grant funds, each coalition must designate a fiscal agent to receive and administer grant dollars. This may be a specific affiliate, an umbrella organization, or a newly created entity.

Please complete the information below. If this is a change from a previous year, please highlight that in your application.

Fiscal Agent Name: _____

Organization Name (if different): _____

Mailing Address (for check delivery):

Point of Contact Name & Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: NPPC cannot release funds without confirmation of a valid fiscal agent and mailing address.

2026 NPPC Grant Review Timeline

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Aug 11, 2025 | Grant info distributed, info session announced |
| Sep 3, 2025 | Grant overview webinar with coordinators and prospective applicants |
| Sep 1, 2025 through Oct 10, 2025 | Time period for coalitions to hold grant review meetings with NPPC and coalition partners <i>NPPC staff may ask coalitions for grant revisions</i> |
| Oct 10, 2025 | Grant applications due to NPPC |
| Oct 13, 2025 through Oct 30, 2025 | NPPC staff grant review <i>NPPC staff may ask coalitions for grant revisions</i> |
| Nov 6, 2025 | NPPC staff make grant recommendations to the board/steering committee |
| Nov 13, 2025 | Final board/steering grant decisions |
| Nov 24, 2025 | Deadline to announce grant awards |
| Jan 5, 2026 | First-round checks distributed |