2026 NARRATIVE SCORING RUBRIC
Forever Austin Fund

Austin Community FOUNDATION

APPLICATION QUESTION	CRITERIA	MAX SCORE
Narrative Questions		
Implementation & Capacity *How is your organization well-positioned to address this need in your chosen funding category? Highlight relevant partnerships, staff expertise, or organizational strengths that help you respond effectively.*	**10 pts** The proposal clearly explains how the organization is well-positioned to address the identified need within the selected funding category. The response highlights relevant and credible organizational strengths, including staff expertise, partnerships, and/or operational capacity. The application demonstrates a strong understanding of the community or issue area and shows how these assets enable effective and responsive implementation. **5 pts** The proposal provides a general explanation of how the organization is positioned to address the identified need within the selected funding category. The response references some relevant strengths, such as partnerships, staff expertise, or experience, but lacks depth, clarity, or a clear connection to effective implementation. **0 pts** The proposal does not clearly explain how the organization is positioned to address the identified need within the selected funding category. The response provides little to no information about relevant partnerships, staff expertise, organizational strengths, or experience related to the community or issue area.	**10**
Goals & Evaluation *What specific outcomes is your organization aiming to achieve within your selected funding category, and how will you track progress or learn from your work? Describe processes, feedback loops, or indicators you use to understand what is working, what could improve, and how you adapt over time.*	**10 pts** The proposal clearly defines specific, meaningful outcomes aligned with the selected funding category. The response describes indicators or measures used to track progress (quantitative and/or qualitative) and intentional learning practices commensurate with the organization's resources and capacity. The organization shows how it uses what it learns to adapt, improve, or refine its work over time. **5 pts** The proposal identifies some intended outcomes related to the selected funding category and includes limited or general information about how progress is tracked or learning occurs. There is some mention of indicators, feedback, or reflection, but the approach lacks clarity, consistency, or depth. Adaptation or learning is implied but not clearly explained **0 pts** The proposal does not clearly articulate intended outcomes for the selected funding category and provides little to no information on how progress is tracked, learning occurs, or insights are used to improve the work over time.	**10**
Cultural Responsiveness & Relationship With Priority Population *How is your work in this funding category shaped by the voices, needs, and lived experiences of the people you serve? Please describe your history working with this population, any key community partnerships that support your work, and the ways your organization ensures accessibility, responsiveness, and trust.*	**10 pts** The proposal clearly demonstrates how the organization's work in the selected funding category is shaped by the voices, needs, and lived experiences of the people it serves. The response describes a meaningful history of working with the priority population and highlights key community partnerships that inform or strengthen the work. The application explains concrete ways the organization ensures accessibility, cultural responsiveness, and trust with the community. **5 pts** The proposal provides a general explanation of how the organization engages with or serves the priority population. The response references some history, community partnerships, or efforts to ensure accessibility or responsiveness, but lacks depth, clarity, or a strong connection to how community voice meaningfully shapes the work. **0 pts** The proposal does not clearly explain how the organization's work is informed by the voices, needs, or lived experiences of the people it serves. The response provides little to no information about history with the priority population, community partnerships, or practices that support accessibility, responsiveness, or trust.	**10**
Total Narrative Points		**30**