

# 2026 JULY - DECEMBER AAFCFS ADVOCACY GRANT

May 1, 2026

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**Applications due: May 15, 2026**

Please review the requirements carefully as monthly reports are due each month beginning in July.

Application: Complete Appendix A and send to: [grants@aafcs.org](mailto:grants@aafcs.org)

Period of Performance: July 1 – December 31, 2026

## Summary:

To be impactful, the AAFCS must support our Affiliates in their home states to advocate on behalf of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and the AAFCS using messaging developed in partnership with the AAFCS membership, communities, and committees and provided to the Affiliates.

- The AAFCS Affiliates will focus on state advocacy and report their efforts to the AAFCS monthly.
- The AAFCS will focus its efforts on federal outreach and invite Affiliates, as applicable, to join meetings held virtually and in the Washington, DC area.
- All advocacy materials will be provided online for use by AAFCS partners and the FCS community.

## Metrics:

- Meetings held with policymakers.
- Unsolicited invitations (e.g., to provide feedback, meet with policymakers, speak at hearings).
- Successes achieved (e.g., beneficial legislation passed, new programs developed, growth in membership and those seeking credentialing).

## Affiliate Advocacy Grant

- The Advocacy Grant is available to active AAFCS Affiliates.
- The Advocacy Grant is offered bi-annually running from January – June and July – December.
- Each Affiliate can apply to participate.
  - Each must identify at least 1 advocacy representative.
  - Each must agree to hold a minimum of 1 outreach meeting with policymakers per month and provide a report to AAFCS.
  - Each must agree to share AAFCS Advocacy messaging with policymaker contacts and attend, when possible, an AAFCS Hill Day and associated virtual meetings with federal policymakers.
- Each participating Affiliate who has completed the necessary enrollment paperwork and continues to submit all required reports on time to the AAFCS will receive:
  - \$500 twice per year to spend on advocacy.
  - Access to an online advocacy reporting tool.
  - Invitations to monthly strategizing sessions.
  - Invitations to virtual and in-person Hill events, as applicable.
  - Access to handouts, printables, and other advocacy resources.
  - Each year the AAFCS will award the top 3 performing participating Affiliates with an award and recognition at the Annual Conference. Awardees will receive travel funding of up to \$1500 for one or more advocacy representatives to attend the Annual Conference.

## Application Process

- Step 1. Submit an “2026 July – December AAFCS Advocacy Grant Affiliate Application.” **Complete Appendix A and send to: [grants@aafcs.org](mailto:grants@aafcs.org)**
- Step 2. AAFCS staff will review your application for completeness and confirm the following:
- Affiliates identified as active and in good standing – see AAFCS Affiliate Requirements<sup>1</sup>
  - All representatives must be AAFCS members.
  - All representatives must have a listed email address to be included in cohort meetings and notices.
  - Appendix A must be signed by an individual with binding authority, e.g., the Affiliate executive director or president. (if your affiliate officers have changed, please submit a change of leadership notice to AAFCS using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/UKgdtVm4ju>)
  - Affiliate officers are not required to be grant cohort representatives; please clearly identify all individuals to be included as cohort representatives on the Appendix A table entitled “AAFCS Advocacy Affiliate Grant.”
  - If your affiliate participated in the previous cohort and has not submitted all required monthly reports, your affiliate will be required to submit those missing reports before their application can be accepted.
- Step 3. Upon completion of Steps 1 and 2, AAFCS will
- a. Add the Affiliate to our list of participating Affiliates.
  - b. Add the Affiliate representative(s) to the AAFCS Advocacy Cohort meeting invites and online forum.
  - c. Process payment of the advocacy grant.

## Monitoring the AAFCS Advocacy Grant

- Step 1. Throughout the grant period, January – June and/or July – December, AAFCS staff will track attendance at monthly cohort meetings, timely submission of reports of meetings held with policymakers monthly, and the content of those reports.
- Step 2. At the end of each year, AAFCS staff will review the performance of each Affiliate and select 3 to be identified as top performing. Evaluation criteria include:
- a. Number of meetings held
  - b. Progress towards stated advocacy goals.
  - c. Unique opportunities secured for Family and Consumer Sciences.

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<sup>1</sup> Requirements for AAFCS Affiliates, [https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AAFCS/2f75e095-e299-4dd8-ad49-86b6ef0603f5/UploadedImages/2024\\_Requirements\\_for\\_Active\\_Affiliate\\_Status.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AAFCS/2f75e095-e299-4dd8-ad49-86b6ef0603f5/UploadedImages/2024_Requirements_for_Active_Affiliate_Status.pdf)

- Step 3. If the Affiliate’s representatives fail to attend 3 cohort meetings in a row or to submit monthly reports of meetings held with policymakers, AAFCS staff will reach out to the Affiliate President and/or Leadership Council representatives to request action. Action can include:
- a. Ensuring representatives attend all meetings moving forward.
  - b. Assignment of new representatives to attend cohort meetings.
  - c. Submission of all missing reports.
  - d. Removal of the Affiliate from the Grant program and return of grant funds.
  - e. If the Affiliate fails to respond within 30 days to address Step 2, the Affiliate and its representatives will be removed from the Advocacy Grant Program and will be requested to return all grant funds.
    - i. If grant funds are not returned, the Affiliate will be prohibited from applying for future grant opportunities.
    - ii. If funds are returned, the Affiliate may reapply to the Affiliate grant program at a future date, if offered.

## Appendix A

# 2026 AAFCS Advocacy Affiliate Grant Program Enrollment Form

Affiliate Leaders:

Please submit a copy of your organization's W9 along with this completed form.

<b>Name of Affiliate:</b>			
<b>Affiliate Tax ID Number:</b>			
<b>Affiliate Leaders:</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Role</b>	<b>Contact Email</b>	
<b>Grant Enrollment</b>			
The undersigned agrees on behalf of the above listed Affiliate to abide by all requirements and conditions of the AAFCS Advocacy Affiliate Grant as identified herein and to notify the AAFCS when making changes to their list of advocacy representative(s).			
<b>Name</b>		<b>Signature*</b>	

\*By signing above, you affirm that you hold binding authority for your affiliate and are authorized to sign.

## AAFCS Advocacy Affiliate Grant

Please identify your advocacy grant program representatives below:

Name	Email Address

## General Information

The AAFCS Advocacy Affiliate Grant is provided to participating AAFCS Affiliates to support their work in conducting advocacy in their home states.

The grant program will be a partnership between AAFCS and its membership and will include:

- The AAFCS Affiliates working on state advocacy and reporting their efforts to the AAFCS monthly.
- The AAFCS working on federal outreach with support from Affiliates.
- AAFCS partners and the FCS community supporting AAFCS advocacy efforts by using our education, advocacy, and promotional materials which will be provided online.

## Requirements for Participation

To participate in the grant, the applicant affiliate must comply with all AAFCS Affiliate requirements, be identified as an Affiliate in good standing with the AAFCS, and comply with the rules listed below:

1. Each Affiliate must identify at least 1 advocacy representative. All advocacy representative(s) must be a current member of the AAFCS and the Affiliate.
2. Each Affiliate must agree to hold a minimum of 1 outreach meeting with policymakers per month and provide a report to AAFCS each month.
3. Each Affiliate must agree to share AAFCS Advocacy messaging with policymaker contacts and attend, when possible, associated virtual meetings with federal policymakers.

## Benefits of Participation

Once accepted into the grant program, each participating Affiliate will receive:

1. \$500 biannually (At quarter 2 and quarter 4) per year to spend on advocacy.
2. Access to an online advocacy reporting tool.
3. Invitations to monthly strategizing sessions.
4. Invitations to virtual and in-person Hill meetings.
5. Access to handouts, printables, and other advocacy resources.
6. Each year the AAFCS will award the top 3 performing Affiliates with an award and recognition at the Annual Conference. Awardees will receive travel funding of up to \$1500 for one or more advocacy representatives to attend the Annual Conference.