

## Grant Overview & Applicant Guidelines

**Southwest Airlines Medical Flight Grants** provide donated flight assistance to eligible nonprofit partners who support patients and caregivers requiring travel to receive life-changing medical treatment with a goal of reducing the financial burden of travel so patients can focus on healing.

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### Program Snapshot

- **Application Period:** Opens **each June**
- **Who Applies:** U.S.-based nonprofit hospitals providing specialized medical care, and nonprofit medical transportation organizations
- **What We Provide:** Donated Southwest® flights to be distributed directly to patients and/or caregivers based on need
- **How It Works:** Eligible organizations apply → Selected partners receive flight awards → Partners assess need and allocate flights to qualified individuals

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### Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet **one** of the following criteria:

#### 1. Nonprofit Hospitals

- U.S. based **501(c)(3)** nonprofit
- Provide **specialized medical care** (e.g., transplant services, complex pediatric care, oncology, rare disease treatment)
- Located **within 40 miles of a Southwest Airlines-served city**

#### 2. Medical Transportation Nonprofits

- U.S. based **501(c)(3)** nonprofit
- Primary mission is to **assist patients with transportation needs**, including travel coordination and logistical support

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## Partner Organization Responsibilities

### Assessing Patient Need

Recipient organizations independently identify patient and/or caregiver travel needs, considering financial hardship, treatment frequency, distance traveled, or other relevant medical or socioeconomic factors.

### Allocating Flight Assistance

Organizations distribute donated Southwest flights solely for medical-related travel. Partners manage all internal processes for verifying need, coordinating travel, and communicating guidelines to beneficiaries.

### Program Stewardship

Partners agree to:

- Track flight utilization
- Submit year-end impact metrics (e.g., number of trips completed, populations served, impact stories)
- Report any unused travel per program requirements

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## Application Components

A complete application typically includes:

- Organizational mission and service overview
- Proof of nonprofit status
- Description of specialized care or transportation services offered
- Estimated annual patient travel demand
- Plan for evaluating need and managing donated travel
- Metrics or stories demonstrating community impact

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## Selection Considerations

Southwest evaluates applications based on:

- Alignment with program purpose

- Demonstrated community need
- Capacity to responsibly administer travel assistance
- Geographic distribution and service availability
- Past stewardship (for returning partners)

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## Award Notification & Program Activation

Selected organizations are notified following application review. Recipients receive onboarding materials, instructions for redeeming flight awards, and access to support throughout the grant cycle.

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## Questions?

We encourage organizations to review these guidelines thoroughly and reach out with program-related questions during the application period.

**Program Email:** [Southwestmtqp@wnco.com](mailto:Southwestmtqp@wnco.com)