

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.

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

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

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.

Questions?

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

Program Email: Southwestmtgp@wnco.com