

Welcome!



CAAL

Coalition of Asian
American Leaders





Agenda

1. Introduction
2. CAAL Ignite Goals & Grants
3. CAAL Ignite Timeline
4. Application
5. FAQ Overview
6. Website & Resources
7. Staff Support
8. Q&A



Goals and Grants

CAAL Ignite Goals

- Build a stronger sense of cultural identity through history and solidarity across racial and ethnic groups
- Promote socio-economic mobility with greater investments in Asian American leaders
- Increase influence and decision-making power over policies that affect Asian American communities
- Change the narrative to mitigate anti-Asian stereotypes and combat hate.

CAAL Ignite Grants

- **Emerging Entrepreneurs:** Up to \$5,000 to support the launch of new or early-stage business ventures.
- **Small Businesses:** Up to \$15,000 to grow or expand businesses that align with CAAL's community-driven priorities
- **Nonprofits:** Up to \$15,000 to strengthen capacity, sustain operations, or launch innovative programs



Project Timeline

At-a-glance

IGNITE LAUNCH

Grant Readiness
Workshop
Grant Info Session
Application Launch

2025
Sept.



GRANT SUPPORT

Office Hours
One-on-One Grant
Writing Coaching
Application Close

2025
Oct.



REVIEW & SELECTION

Community Review
Panel

2025
Nov.



GRANTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Internal Verifications
Grant Agreements
Grantee
Announcements

2025
Dec.



COHORT KICKOFF

Cohort Celebration
Event
Grantee Orientation

2026
Jan.



Grant Application

Fueling Creativity, Visibility & Prosperity

Eligibility Check

Are you eligible? Ensure your vision aligns with CAAL Ignite's goals.

Applicant Overview

Provide a short summary about your business, or nonprofit, and your connection to CAAL.

About Your Project

Be creative with your narrative—there's no right or wrong answer! Share with CAAL the impact you aspire to make in the Asian American community.

Attachments

Requirements vary by application—submit all requested documents.

Where you can find the Application:

Website: <https://caalmn.org/caal-ignite/>

Grant Application: <https://caal.grantplatform.com/>

Social Media: [FB](#), [Instagram](#), [Linkedin](#)

Emails: Newsletter, email communication, text

Log in | Register

Log in or register

Email

Continue

Share



Coalition of Asian American Leaders

Our Story

The Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) emerged out of the will of Minnesota's Asian community in 2013 when a small group of leaders came together to share their aspirations for an organization that would bring leaders from across sectors, generations, and ethnicities together. In 2014, over 300 Asian Minnesotan leaders would come together, hosting multiple conversations using an asset-based approach and human-centered design processes to determine a course of action.

Leaders from across the state collectively affirmed their experiences of exclusion and invisibility and had a desire to demonstrate more impactful leadership to make Minnesota work better for all. They created CAAL to be a network that equips and uplifts leaders, develops and takes action on their ideas, and build across communities towards equity, justice, and prosperity.

CAAL Ignite 2026

Login | Register

Security verification

Enter 6-digit code sent to caaltestuser1@gmail.com

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Resend code

[Continue](#) [Cancel](#)

Dear Guest,

Your security code for Coalition of Asian American Leaders is

883278

This will expire in 120 minutes.

Alternatively [click this link to confirm your account](#)

You are receiving this email based on the action of a user of Coalition of Asian American Leaders. You are not subscribed to any lists and will not receive unrelated unsolicited emails.

Register

First name

Last name

Email

Password

Must be at least 12 characters, including a number, an upper-case and a lower-case letter and a special character.

I have read and agree to the [privacy policy](#), [cookie policy](#) and [terms of service](#).

I agree to receive notification and communication emails or SMSs from Coalition of Asian American Leaders. You may withdraw your consent at any time.

[Complete registration](#)

Select Application

Create an account or login to your previous account.


Choose the application you are applying for.

- Small Business
- Emerging Entrepreneur
- Non-Profit

Coalition of Asian American Leaders [Apply](#)


[About](#)

[Applications](#)




Small Business Application
2026

[Start application](#)



Emerging Entrepreneur
2026

[Start application](#)



Nonprofit 2026

[Start application](#)

My applications

Hello, CaalTestUser CaalTestUser!

You have no applications yet. What are you waiting for?

Application Sections

Eligibility Check

Applicant Overview

Business Overview

About Your Project

Attachments

CAAL Ignite Open 

Thank you for your interest in the CAAL Ignite Grant Fund.

If you need accessibility support to complete your application, please contact Chonburi Lee at chonburi@caalmn.org.

Eligibility Check

- Application Name
- Review & Acknowledge Eligibility

Eligibility Check | Applicant Overview | Business Overview

CAAL Ignite Open

Thank you for your interest in the CAAL Ignite Grant Fund.

If you need accessibility support to complete your application, please contact us at [support@caal.org](#).

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on their alignment with CAAL Ignite's selection criteria:

- **Cultural Identity:** Does the proposed work promote a deeper understanding of Asian American culture and identity?
- **Socio-Economic Mobility:** Does the initiative create opportunities for economic mobility and social advancement for Asian American communities?
- **Policy Influence:** Does the project amplify Asian American voices and influence policy-making?
- **Narrative Change:** Does the work challenge harmful stereotypes and promote positive narratives about Asian Americans?

A strong application will demonstrate its potential to create meaningful impact and drive positive change within the Asian American community.

Season: CAAL 2026

Applicant: Derlee Moua

Category: Small Business Grant

Small Business Application

[Download blank application PDF for reference](#)

Application Name:

Acknowledgment of Eligibility

By checking this box, I confirm that this application is for the CAAL Ignite Grant Fund and meets the following criteria:

1. I am of **Asian** descent and identify as part of the Asian American community.
2. Ownership: The business is **majority-owned (51% or more)** by Asian Americans.
3. Location: The business operates within the state of **Massachusetts**.
4. Registration: The business has been registered with the state of **Massachusetts**.
5. Staffing: The business employs between **1 to 10 full-time employees**.
6. Revenue: The business generates less than **\$500,000** in annual revenue.
7. Financial Documentation: The business can provide tax returns for the past two years.

[Save + next](#) | [Cancel](#)

Applicant Overview

- Provide Primary Contact Info
- Demographic Details
- Connection to CAAL
- How did you hear about Ignite?

The screenshot shows a web application interface with a navigation bar at the top containing five tabs: 'Eligibility Check', 'Applicant Overview' (which is selected and highlighted in blue), 'Business Overview', 'About Your Project', and 'Attachments'. Below the navigation bar, the form is titled '2' and contains several input fields for primary contact information:

- Primary Contact First Name**: A text input field.
- Primary Contact Middle Name (optional)**: A text input field.
- Primary Contact Last Name**: A text input field.
- Primary Contact Email Address**: A text input field.
- Primary Contact Phone Number**: A text input field with a dropdown menu showing '+1' and a small flag icon.
- Primary Contact Home Address**: A text input field.
- City**: A text input field.
- State**: A text input field.

Eligibility Check Applicant Overview **Business Overview** About Your Project Attachments

Business Phone Number

+1

Business Email Address

Business Name

Business Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Share a short summary of your business's background, including:
- When was your business established?

Business or Non-Profit Overview

- Provide Business or Non-Profit information
- Business Background

About Your Program

Eligibility Check

Applicant Overview

Business Overview

About Your Project

Attachments

What problem does your project solve? Explain why this project is important and in what ways will the community be better because of this project?

0 / 500 words

Which of the following goals of CAAL Ignite does your project support?

- Building a stronger sense of cultural identity through history and solidarity across racial and ethnic groups.
- Promoting socio-economic mobility with greater investments in Asian American leaders.
- Increasing influence and decision-making power over policies that affect Asian American communities.
- Changing the narrative to mitigate anti-Asian stereotypes and combat hate.

Project Snapshot – Tell us about your project and what you aim to accomplish, including the main activities involved.

0 / 250 words

Please provide a timeline of your project, including key activities and their corresponding time-frame. This should outline major phases or milestones to help reviewers understand the overall flow and expected progress of your initiative.

0 / 500 words

All project activities **must** be completed by September 2026.

Goals

Which of the following goals of CAAL Ignite does your project support?

- Building a stronger sense of cultural identity through history and solidarity across racial and ethnic groups.
- Promoting socio-economic mobility with greater investments in Asian American leaders.
- Increasing influence and decision-making power over policies that affect Asian American communities.
- Changing the narrative to mitigate anti-Asian stereotypes and combat hate.

Building a Stronger Sense of Cultural Identity

- Audience & Cultural Representation – Participation by diverse communities and inclusion of Asian American history, heritage, or lived experiences in events, exhibits, or products.
- Language Accessibility – Materials offered in relevant Asian languages and English.
- Collaborations & Joint Events – Partnerships with non-Asian American organizations or businesses, and co-hosted programs that highlight shared histories or bridge cultural experiences.
- Cultural Knowledge & Education – Educational programs, resource development, and intergenerational learning opportunities that teach and preserve Asian American traditions.
- Community Belonging & Legacy – Engagement in cultural initiatives that foster participation, pride, storytelling, and long-term preservation.
- Creative Expression & Innovation – New artistic works and platforms that uplift emerging creators and blend traditional with contemporary cultural forms.

Audience & Cultural Representation – Participation by diverse communities and inclusion of Asian American history, heritage, or lived experiences in events, exhibits, or products.

0 / 300 words

ONLY select 3 indicators.

Choose the indicators that you feel are most relevant to your project.

If you choose more than 3, our system will not track your priorities, we will only score the first three indicators in the order that it appears in the list. Any additional selections will not be scored.

CTYL Sweets

Mission: CTYL Sweets celebrates Asian American heritage through flavors, stories, and artistry.

Products: Cookies feature Asian-influenced ingredients (matcha, black sesame, ube, pandan) and culturally meaningful shapes (pandas, Chinese dragons, Hmong elephant footprints).

Cultural Storytelling: Each cookie represents a piece of Asian American history, tradition, and identity.

Community Connection: Based in Maplewood, MN (22% Asian American), the bakery strengthens cultural identity while engaging diverse audiences.

Events & Outreach: Participates in city events like Maplewood's summer celebration; offers free cookies to share Asian culture and foster cross-cultural understanding.

Impact: Food brings people together, sparks dialogue, and builds connections across communities.

Collaboration: Works closely with the City of Maplewood and local partners to make Asian American heritage visible in public spaces.

Core Values: Baking is about representation, storytelling, solidarity, and building pride and belonging in the community.

CTYL Sweets

Building a Stronger Sense of Cultural Identity

Audience & Cultural Representation – Participation by diverse communities and inclusion of Asian American history, heritage, or lived experiences in events, exhibits, or products.





CTYL Sweets is a bakery dedicated to celebrating Asian American heritage through flavors, stories, and artistry. Our cookies are crafted with Asian-influenced ingredients such as matcha, black sesame, ube, and pandan, and are baked into shapes and designs that reflect meaningful cultural symbols. From pandas that represent playfulness and resilience, to Chinese dragons symbolizing strength and good fortune, to Hmong elephant footprint patterns that honor tradition and identity, each cookie is more than a treat—it is a piece of cultural storytelling.

Based in Maplewood, Minnesota—where nearly 22% of the population is Asian American—CTYL Sweets reflects and celebrates the community we call home. Our products intentionally incorporate Asian American heritage and lived experiences while being shared with diverse audiences, strengthening cultural identity and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

As part of our commitment to community building, CTYL Sweets will participate in the City of Maplewood's summer celebration, offering free cookies to residents as a way of sharing Asian culture and introducing our business. Food brings people together, and through these efforts we aim to spark curiosity, conversations, and connections that bridge cultural differences. By working closely with the City of Maplewood and community partners, we ensure that Asian American history, heritage, and lived experiences are visible and celebrated in public spaces.

At CTYL Sweets, baking is not just about flavor—it is about representation, storytelling, and solidarity. Through every cookie we create and every community event we join, we help build pride, belonging, and stronger connections across Maplewood and beyond.

Attachments

Eligibility Check	Applicant Overview	Business Overview	About Your Project	Attachments
2				
MN State Identification Driver License		 Drag your file here or <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Select file"/>		
MN Secretary of State Business Registration		 Drag your file here or <input type="button" value="Select file"/>		<p>MN Secretary of State Evidence of Good Standing Screenshot -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter your organization name in the Minnesota Secretary of State Business Search Website @ https://mblsportal.sos.state.mn.us/Business/Search• Click on "details." Make sure the screenshot includes the renewal date and the status of "Active/Good Standing."
Federal Income Tax Filing (2024)		 Drag your file here or <input type="button" value="Select file"/>		<p>Please submit your income tax filings for the two most recent years as filed with the IRS. Balance sheet and other financial documents will NOT be considered.</p>
Federal Income Tax Filing (2023)		 Drag your file here or		<p>Please submit your income tax filings for the two most recent years as filed with the IRS. Balance sheet and other financial documents will NOT be considered.</p>

Attachments

Emerging Entrepreneur Application

<https://caalmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CAAL-Ignite-Business-Template.pdf>

- [Download Business Plan Template](#)
- Fill out form
- Save form
- Upload into Application

Business Plan



Drag and drop is disabled

or

Select file

Applicants are required to submit a business plan. **Only business plans completed using the CAAL-provided template will be accepted.** You can download the template using the following link: <https://caalmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CAAL-Ignite-Business-Template.pdf>. Please ensure your submission follows the template format exactly, as plans submitted in any other format will not be considered.





FAQ

What are the commitments of a CAAL Ignite grantee?

All CAAL Ignite grantees are required to:

- Attend four in-person sessions: the program kickoff, two workshops, and the end-of-program celebration. (*Tentative Dates*)
January 2026: Kickoff
 - April 2026: Workshop #1
 - July 2026: Workshop #2
 - September 2026: CAAL Ignite Celebration
- Engage in networking events:
 - Attend at least one social or business networking event per quarter
- Fulfill reporting and check-in requirements:
 - Submit an interim and final report
 - Participate in quarterly check-ins with the grant manager

Can I submit more than one application?

Each organization may submit only **one application** and may apply in only **one category**.

Exception: A nonprofit serving as a fiscal sponsor may submit more than one application. In this case, the nonprofit may apply both for itself as the fiscal sponsor and for the organization it is sponsoring.

Can I apply if I've received other grants?

Yes, you can receive grants from two sources for the same project if the funds are applied to different expenses. "Double dipping," which is not allowed, refers to using the same budget line items for multiple grants. Each grant must be used for specific, separate expenses directly related to the project.

What happens if I miss the application deadline?

Applications **will not** be accepted after the submission deadline of October 20, 2025, at 4:00 PM CST.

Can I modify my application after submission?

Yes, modifications to your application are allowed until the application deadline on October 20, 2025, at 4:00 PM.



Website & Resources

- CAAL
 - <https://caalmn.org/caal-ignite/>
- Data points:
 - <https://www.mncompass.org/> (MN Compass)
 - <https://data.census.gov/profile/Minnesota?g=040XX00US27> (US Census)
 - <https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-place/> (MN State Demographic Center)
 - <https://metro council.org/Data-and-Maps.aspx> (Metropolitan Council)
- Others:
 - Propel Nonprofits <https://propelnonprofits.org/>
 - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits <https://minnesotanonprofits.org/>



Chonburi TsheejYim Lee
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CAAL Ignite Office Hours
Tuesday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Thursday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Questions & Answers





CAAL
Coalition of Asian
American Leaders

CAAL Ignite Informational
Session Evaluation



Thank You For Attending!
Ua Tsaug!