

Application Submittal Checklist

The following items are required for submittal of the grant application. Please verify and check off that the items have been included in the application packet.

- 1) Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)
- 2) Declaration Statement
- 3) Verify that grant shall be used for a public purpose
- 4) Background and Summary
- 5) Service Summary and Outcomes
- 6) Budget
 - a) Budget request by source of funds ([Link](#))
 - b) Personnel salaries and wages ([Link](#))
 - c) Equipment and motor vehicles ([Link](#))
 - d) Capital project details ([Link](#))
 - e) Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid ([Link](#))
- 7) Experience and Capability
- 8) Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Maria C. "Nina" Guerrero, PhD, MT-BC
Clinical Director / Grant Manager

PRINT NAME AND TITLE

January 23, 2026

DATE



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF VENDOR COMPLIANCE

This document presents the compliance status of the vendor identified below on the issue date with respect to certificates required from the Hawaii Department of Taxation (DOTAX), the Internal Revenue Service, the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), and the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Vendor Name: **SOUNDING JOY MUSIC THERAPY, INC.**

DBA/Trade Name: **SOUNDING JOY MUSIC THERAPY, INC.**

Issue Date: **01/09/2026**

Status: **Compliant**

Hawaii Tax#: ██████████
New Hawaii Tax#: ██████████████████
FEIN/SSN#: ██████████
UI#: XXXXXXXX9670
DCCA FILE#: 201570

Status of Compliance for this Vendor on issue date:

Form	Department(s)	Status
A-6	Hawaii Department of Taxation	Compliant
8821	Internal Revenue Service	Compliant
COGS	Hawaii Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs	Exempt
LIR27	Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations	Compliant

Status Legend:

Status	Description
Exempt	The entity is exempt from this requirement
Compliant	The entity is compliant with this requirement or the entity is in agreement with agency and actively working towards compliance
Pending	A status determination has not yet been made
Submitted	The entity has applied for the certificate but it is awaiting approval
Not Compliant	The entity is not in compliance with the requirement and should contact the issuing agency for more information

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant.
- 2) If the applicant is an organization, the applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant is awarded shall be conducted or provided; and
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.
- 4) The use of grant-in-aid funding complies with all provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (for example, pursuant to Article X, section 1, of the Constitution, the State cannot provide "... public funds ... for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution...").

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for grants used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.
(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)

(Signature) January 23, 2026
(Date)

Maria C. "Nina" Guerrero, PhD, MT-BC Clinical Director / Grant Manager
(Typed Name) (Title)

STATEMENT OF APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS PURSUANT
TO CHAPTER 42F-102, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies that the requested grant shall be used for public purpose pursuant to Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and that within this grant request the State shall find:

- 1) the name of the requesting organization or individual;
- 2) the public purpose for the grant;
- 3) the services to be supported by the grant;
- 4) the target group; and
- 5) the cost of the grant and the budget.



January 23, 2026

Maria C. "Nina" Guerrero, PhD, MT-BC
Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.
Clinical Director / Grant Manager

Application for Grants

If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".

I. Certification – Please attach immediately after cover page

1. Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate (If the Applicant is an Organization)

If the applicant is an organization, the applicant shall submit one (1) copy of a Hawaii Compliance Express Certificate from the Comptroller of the Department of Accounting and General Services that is dated no earlier than December 1, 2025.

Attached.

2. Declaration Statement

The applicant shall submit a declaration statement affirming its compliance with [Section 42F-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#).

Attached.

3. Public Purpose

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used for a public purpose pursuant to [Section 42F-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#).

Attached.

II. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Please include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background

Established in 2002, Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc., is the only 501(c)3, nonprofit organization providing music therapy in Hawai'i. It was founded in response to a strong public demand for music therapy in Hawai'i from people of diverse communities who value music as a rich cultural resource for healing and empowerment. The mission of Sounding Joy is to improve well-being and quality of life through access to music therapy, especially for the most vulnerable populations; to educate the public about the benefits of music therapy and

advocate for equitable distribution of services; and to advance music therapy research and training in Hawai'i.

The organization's main activities are the following: 1) Music therapy direct services to clients across the lifespan with various disabilities, medical and mental health challenges, and at-risk circumstances, offered at Sounding Joy's clinic and at a wide range of community sites including schools, shelters, adult day care programs, rehabilitation centers, senior residences, long-term care facilities, and hospitals; 2) Promotion and advocacy of music therapy through interactive workshops, demonstrations, resource fairs, and various media; 3) Education and training of music therapy interns and practicum students in related disciplines, and the development of a music therapy degree program in Hawai'i; and 4) Fundraising through benefit concerts, charity events, special campaigns, and sponsor solicitation. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available to the public within these activities.

Over the past 24 years, Sounding Joy has provided music therapy direct services to over 3,000 individuals and families and educated over 50,000 on the principles and benefits of music therapy. We have collaborated with hundreds of local service agencies which seek out the unique, creative methods of music therapy that no other program can offer. We have contracted with the Hawai'i Department of Education and provided music therapy to dozens of local children in Special Education. With grant support from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts since 2005, and from the Hawai'i Department of Human Services from 2008 through 2019, we have offered music therapy programs to over 1,000 at-risk youth and families statewide to cultivate self-empowerment and positive relationships. Additionally, for fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2024, and 2025, the City of Honolulu has awarded Grants-in-Aid for Sounding Joy to provide music therapy to approximately 350 clients of all ages with disabilities and special needs from underserved populations across O'ahu. For fiscal year 2025, we received federal funds from the Administration for Community Living, through Congressionally Directed Spending, to support our services to people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities. For fiscal year 2026, we have been granted Act 310 non-profit funding by the State of Hawai'i to support the statewide expansion of these services, in lieu of cancelled federal funding.

In 2011, at the World Congress of Music Therapy in Seoul, Korea, Sounding Joy presented on music therapy in Hawai'i for the first time in the history of this conference. We also initiated a special project in the same year to support relief efforts for regions of Northeast Japan affected by the Great Earthquake. In 2012, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority awarded Sounding Joy a grant for music therapy to enhance mental health in Native Hawaiian communities. Also in 2012, at Hawai'i Pacific University, we offered the first music therapy introductory course in the state. This course became the cornerstone of local education in music therapy. Faculty in the department of public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the departments of psychiatry and geriatrics at the UH John A. Burns School of

Medicine, and the departments of psychology and music at Brigham Young University in Hawai'i have sought collaboration with Sounding Joy for guest teaching and student mentorship. Our staff have also been invited to present at in-person and virtual conferences of the national Parkinson's Foundation, Hawai'i Parkinson Association, state chapters of the Alzheimer's Association and AARP, the U.S. Army Children and Youth Services division, and Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawai'i. Our work with older adults was featured in a recent issue of *Generations* magazine: [Nov-Dec-2025 – Generations Magazine](#) (p. 32; see Contributors page for author information). As the Vice President Elect of the Western Region chapter of the American Music Therapy Association (WRAMTA), our Clinical Director will lead the coordination of WRAMTA's 2028 annual conference, to be held in Honolulu. Over the years, Sounding Joy has received numerous awards and recognitions from the governors of Hawai'i, the State Senate and House of Representatives, and the mayors of Honolulu for its public contributions.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request

The organization requests a grant to initiate a music therapy training program to build the long-term sustainability of music therapy to serve people of all ages in Hawai'i with disabilities, medical and mental health challenges, and at-risk circumstances. The program will consist of the following components: 1) Introductory music therapy workshops at educational institutions and service facilities, as a means of educating the community, recruiting potential trainees, and preparing to initiate music therapy groups at the service facilities; 2) A 16-week educational and training module for a selected cohort of trainees, with weekly sessions held at Sounding Joy's clinic or virtually; and 3) Initiation of weekly music therapy groups at two facilities, to function as practicum sites for music therapy trainees under the supervision of senior board-certified music therapists (MT-BCs) from Sounding Joy. Service outreach will prioritize historically marginalized and underserved communities across the island.

We aim to offer the introductory, hands-on music therapy workshops to students and staff across multiple disciplines at approximately seven educational settings (e.g., the departments of public health, geriatrics, psychiatry, and music at UH Mānoa; the departments of psychology and music at BYU-H; and the department of psychology at Chaminade University) and two service facilities – one serving children and the other serving older adults with disabilities. The workshops will combine an overview of music therapy, video examples of music therapy with different populations, and experiential demonstrations. The workshops are intended to support and enhance the current educational and professional pursuits of the participants, as well as to recruit potential trainees for our 16-week intensive module. Anticipated attendance across the introductory workshops is approximately 90.

We seek to recruit approximately six trainees for the 16-week training module from among the university and pre-professional students and the multidisciplinary service providers (e.g., social workers, CNAs, activity staff, PTs, OTs, SLPs) attending the introductory workshops. Anticipated attendance of the training module sessions is approximately 96. In the interest of accessibility, some of the module sessions may be attended virtually. The module will consist of four units, each one spanning 4 weeks: 1) History and overview of the music therapy profession; main techniques and approaches; 2) Clinical applications of music therapy with children; 3) Clinical applications of music therapy with adults; and 4) Treatment planning and implementation with clients at the practicum sites – clinical assessment, interdisciplinary collaboration establishing goals and objectives, documenting therapy sessions, evaluating therapeutic progress and goal attainment over the course of therapy. Each trainee will be evaluated in regard to the learning objectives of each unit via designated assignments.

We will offer 16 weekly sessions of group music therapy to approximately 20 clients with disabilities across the two service facilities, for a total attendance of 320. We will seek to partner with one facility serving children with disabilities, such as a Special Education classroom or community program; and one serving older adults with disabilities, such as a senior day program or residential facility. The goals of music therapy include promoting clients' social-emotional resilience; enhancing developmental, cognitive, physical, and neurologic functioning; and facilitating behavioral modifications and adaptations as needed. Individualized goals and measurable objectives will be established in these domains for each participant through clinical assessment by our MT-BCs. Each weekly music therapy session will be documented in detail by the MT-BCs, and each participant's attainment of goals and objectives will be evaluated at the mid-point and end of therapy. The use of music as a tool in the therapeutic process is so manifestly engaging and enjoyable that many clients have demonstrated strong motivation to persevere and succeed in advancing toward their individualized therapeutic goals and objectives despite considerable challenges, paving the way for future progress.

The proposed music therapy training and service program will allow Hawai'i's rich heritage of music to be recognized and utilized as a healing resource for our diverse communities. Music therapy mobilizes cultural values and expression as a source of positive change. The psychosocial needs of people with disabilities in underserved local communities are heightened, given that mainstream services may be unable to address these needs in a culturally appropriate or meaningful manner. Music therapy can reach many within these communities through its culturally responsive, creative, personalized approach, motivating participants toward engagement and self-empowerment through their own musical heritage. Collaborative, improvisational music-making with the participants will embrace a variety of styles, preferences, and cultural traditions. Many requests for music therapy services come from socioeconomically disadvantaged geographic areas

where Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities place high value on informal group music-making, or *kani ka pila*, as an empowering source of social and cultural identification.

Another factor in the demand for sustainable music therapy services is that Hawai'i has one of the fastest growing elderly populations in the nation (2023-2027 *Hawai'i State Plan on Aging*, Hawai'i Department of Health, 2023).

Research findings strongly concur that older adults benefit significantly from music therapy in terms of cognitive, emotional, and social support, maintenance of overall functioning, and care at the end of life. In fact, the U.S. Congress has long recommended music therapy as a mandatory activity for senior care ("Forever Young," U.S. Senate Hearing, 1991). The goals and objectives of the requested grant are to fulfill the range of clinical needs described above, as well as the need for professional education and training to support the sustainability of music therapy services.

3. The public purpose and need to be served

Hawai'i is among the most underserved states in terms of music therapy. No more than 13 MT-BCs are currently employed in Hawai'i, as compared with over 9,000 nationwide (www.cbmt.org). Neither health insurance nor the Hawai'i Department of Health covers music therapy; hence, it is difficult to provide services to the most vulnerable populations, who could benefit most. There are no university degree programs in music therapy in Hawai'i; hence, if local students wish to pursue a career in music therapy, they must relocate to obtain the required degree and credential (MT-BC). Many do not return, given the scarcity of local employment opportunities in the field. The proposed training program is intended to serve as a basis for establishing a music therapy course and eventually building a degree program at a local university, which will be vital to generating widespread and deeply rooted public and institutional support for music therapy in our state.

The overarching goal of music therapy is to enhance physical and psychosocial wellbeing. Because music stimulates and integrates the functioning of different areas within the brain, musical engagement can address therapeutic goals in a variety of domains, including motor functioning, learning, memory, communication, emotional expression, and socialization. Music therapy has been found to reduce stress and strengthen resilience, self-esteem, communication, social interaction, and integration within the community. Peer-reviewed research compiled by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) demonstrates beneficial music therapy outcomes for a wide range of clinical conditions including autism, dementia, developmental disabilities, neuromotor disorders, and trauma (www.musictherapy.org/research). No prior musical training is required for clients to participate in music therapy, as the purpose of music therapy is not technical instruction but self-expression and interaction through singing, movement, and creative improvisation on a variety of instruments in a

safe, supportive environment, in the service of individualized goals and objectives for each client.

4. Describe the target population to be served

The target populations for the proposed music therapy training program include students and professionals across a variety of related disciplines – music, psychology, psychiatry, geriatrics, public health, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, nursing – who may desire to pursue future music therapy studies and credentialing; or may advocate for the integration of music therapy within their educational or service programs, to the benefit of clients and their families/care partners. The requested grant will support introductory workshops at 7 university programs and 2 service facilities, for an estimated total attendance of 90; and 16 weeks of group training sessions to a selected cohort of approximately 6 trainees from across those sites, for a total attendance of 96.

The target recipients of the proposed music therapy services at two service facilities, which will function as practicum sites for the trainees, include children and older adults with a range of disabilities within underserved communities, who face multiple challenges to their well-being and quality of life. Their clinical conditions may include autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, communication disorders, chronic physical or mental illness, dementia, and neuromotor disorders. The requested grant will support 16 weeks of music therapy services to approximately 10 children and 10 older adults, for a total attendance of 320. The positive changes that may occur in clients' lives as a result of receiving music therapy would also ease the burden of their caregivers and offer hope to their families and extended circles of support. The benefits of music therapy directly experienced by the clients would thus strengthen community awareness and support of music therapy, and contribute to enhanced community living for people with disabilities in Hawai'i.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

The grant will support community outreach and education, weekly intensive training, and weekly music therapy services on the island of O'ahu.

III. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities

The proposed project will develop a music therapy training program incorporating practical work experience, to lay the foundation for a future degree program at a local university and to support the sustainability of music therapy services in Hawaii. Over the course of the grant term, approximately 90 participants will attend introductory music therapy workshops at university sites and service sites. Among these workshop participants, approximately six will have the opportunity to take part in an intensive 16-week music therapy training, which will include co-facilitation of music therapy groups at the service sites under the supervision of MT-BCs from Sounding Joy. At the service sites, approximately 10 children and 10 older adults with disabilities will receive 16 weekly group music therapy sessions to improve their well-being and quality of life. Outreach to potential service sites will target communities with heightened need or limited access to therapeutic services. The music therapy group sessions will be offered as a pilot program at the service sites, with the intention of establishing sustainable music therapy services through ongoing partnerships with the service sites, the clients, and their families or guardians.

In the first 3 months of the grant term, the three MT-BCs designated for this project will connect with prospective university sites and service sites to offer the introductory, hands-on music therapy workshops. We will contact faculty at the UH departments of public health, geriatrics, psychiatry, and music; BYU-H departments of psychology and music; and Chaminade department of psychology. Many of these departments have previously solicited our guest teaching or student mentorship. We will also advertise the project through our website, social media, and email lists. We will seek to offer the program in partnership with educational and service sites which demonstrate strong potential for future investment of their own resources to sustain music therapy training and clinical services for the benefit of their clients.

The introductory workshops will be interactive and dynamic, with the aim of supporting participants' academic and professional development as students in their respective university programs or as staff members in various disciplines at the service sites. The workshops will also aim to recruit those who may be interested in the 16-week music therapy training module. A combination of music therapy overview, video examples, and experiential demonstration with interactive music-making will be offered in each workshop. The workshops as well as the training module sessions will be conducted by senior MT-BCs, who will serve as instructors and supervisors to the trainees. As detailed above, the 16-week module will consist of four units, each of them featuring designated learning objectives and assignments. Assignments will be reviewed by the senior MT-BCs. Learning outcomes for each trainee will be assessed after each unit through a process of self-reflective evaluation by the trainee in collaboration with the senior MT-BCs. At the mid-point and end of the 16-week module, feedback will be collected from trainees regarding their degree of satisfaction with each unit and various components of the training, their recommendations for program improvement, and any other reflections.

Once the introductory workshops have been completed at each of the two service sites, the MT-BCs will begin program registration for the music therapy groups, which entails interviewing clients and/or their families and caregivers, meeting with facility staff, conducting clinical assessments, obtaining informed consent, placing clients in music therapy groups, and scheduling weekly group sessions. Age, needs, strengths, and other factors will be taken into account in clients' placement in groups, to minimize withdrawal from the program and to promote positive group dynamics.

Our guiding principle for music therapy services is to apply an individually tailored, multisensory, culturally responsive approach to enhance clients' well-being and quality of life through measurable positive outcomes. At the outset of the music therapy group sessions at each service site, the MT-BC assigned to conduct the groups will focus on establishing individualized goals and objectives for each client. This is the first and most important task of the treating MT-BC, because these goals and objectives will become the core measurement standards for overall evaluation of the music therapy client services. All sessions will be documented and evaluated by the MT-BC to assess each client's progress toward goals and objectives on an ongoing basis.

Goals are determined for each client in such domains as motor, cognitive, emotional, and social functioning, depending upon the client's presenting needs and capacities. The objectives are measurable milestones (e.g., to fill-in an omitted word in a song 3 out of 5 times in a session, to express feelings when asked 2 out of 3 times, etc.) that provide evidence of clients' progress towards their goals. Objectives should be reasonable and realistic, allowing clients to experience success which will motivate further progress. A sample goal with objectives may be stated as follows:

Goal: To improve social skills

Objectives:

- 1) The client will sing or play an instrument together with other group members for 5 minutes per session.
- 2) The client will take turns playing solos in the group in 2 out of 3 opportunities per session.

The MT-BC will design music therapy sessions by choosing activities and interventions to facilitate clients' goal attainment. Along with structured activities, spontaneous musical expression is encouraged so that non-verbal "musical dialogues" may take place among session participants. This approach is especially effective for those whose verbal communication is limited. As clients become increasingly expressive and spontaneous through creative modalities, new pathways of communication and relationship may be established. The role of the MT-BC is to facilitate clients' physical, emotional, and interpersonal

engagement to the fullest possible extent. Based upon past service outcomes, we anticipate that at least 80% of the clients will achieve their goals and objectives over the course of 16 weekly music therapy sessions.

2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service

July-September 2026: MT-BCs contact educational and service sites to arrange for introductory music therapy workshops, including a target of 7 educational sites (i.e., various university departments, as detailed above) and 2 service sites in underserved communities (one serving children and the other serving older adults with disabilities). The workshops may begin on a rolling basis, conducted by the senior MT-BCs. Invite workshop participants to consider the 16-week intensive training module.

October-December 2026: Complete introductory workshops.

December 2026-January 2027: Senior MT-BCs finalize selection of approximately 6 trainees for intensive training module. MT-BCs finalize arrangements to begin weekly group music therapy at 2 service sites.

February-May 2027: MT-BCs conduct 16 weeks of group music therapy at 2 service sites. Senior MT-BCs conduct 16-week training module, as follows:
Weeks 1-4 – History and overview of music therapy profession; techniques and approaches.

Weeks 5-8 – Clinical applications of music therapy with children - special education, medical and mental health treatment, at-risk circumstances, etc.

Weeks 9-12 – Clinical applications of music therapy with adults – medical and mental health treatment, neurological rehabilitation (stroke, Parkinson's), dementia, palliative (end-of-life) care, etc.

Weeks 13-16 – Treatment planning and implementation – interdisciplinary collaboration at service sites, client assessment, establishing therapeutic goals and objectives, designing interventions, co-facilitating sessions, documenting therapeutic progress

At each service site: Within the first 2 weeks of sessions, the treating MT-BC will establish goals and objectives for each client and record these on the session reports. Around the 8th weekly session, the MT-BC will file a mid-term progress report for each client, assessing progress toward goals during the first half of the program. Clients and/or their representatives will also complete a feedback form. The senior MT-BCs will conduct an interim analysis and evaluation of the therapy based upon the mid-term progress reports, client feedback, and other input from the treating MT-BC, clients, families/caregivers, and collaborating facility staff. After the completion of 16 sessions, the treating MT-BC will file a final report for each client. This report will estimate the client's overall attainment of goals and will provide a narrative description of the client's progress over the entire period

of service. It will also recommend future services and resources to maintain or further improve the client's well-being and quality of life. Additionally, the MT-BC will once again collect feedback from clients and/or their representatives. The senior MT-BCs will meet with key administrative and clinical staff at each collaborating facility to review the implementation and outcomes of the program, address any questions or concerns, and discuss prospects for continuation of music therapy services.

June 2027: When all trainees have completed the modules and all clients have completed their terms of service, the senior MT-BCs will conduct a final analysis and evaluation of project outcomes based upon trainee learning outcomes, trainee feedback and recommendations for program improvement, final therapy reports for clients, client feedback, and other input as described above. Based upon past outcomes, we estimate that at least 80% of trainees will attain the projected learning outcomes for the training module, and at least 80% of clients will attain their individualized therapeutic goals.

3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results.

Since the establishment of Sounding Joy in 2002, its music therapy programs have been highly regarded as one-of-a-kind in the community, making a significant difference in people's lives through the therapeutic application of music and its unique power to heal. For quality control of all of its music therapy services, Sounding Joy complies strictly with the code of ethics and professional standards set forth by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT; www.cbmt.org), the national organizations regulating the field of music therapy in the U.S. Most importantly, we hire only those holding the nationally recognized credential (MT-BC) as clinical staff, because their specialized skills are required to deliver effective music therapy services and achieve the targeted client goals. The MT-BC credential is obtained through completion of a university degree program and 1,200-hour clinical internship accredited by the AMTA, as well as board certification exam administered by the CBMT, and must be renewed every 5 years through approved continuing education activities.

The senior MT-BCs, who are the Clinical Director and Executive Director of the organization, will be responsible for overall quality assurance of the proposed services. The Clinical Director will review all therapy session reports to monitor the quality of the sessions and clients' response to therapeutic interventions. To evaluate clients' progress toward their individualized therapeutic goals and objectives in such areas as motor, cognitive, emotional, and social functioning, mid-term reports completed by the treating MT-BC around the 8th session will be discussed at a conference with the Clinical Director to support and improve the effectiveness of the sessions. Final reports completed by the MT-BC at the end of the 16-week service will be reviewed by the Clinical Director and the Executive

Director to evaluate music therapy outcomes for each client, estimating percentage attainment of measurable objectives for each goal and narrating overall progress. These various reports are essential tools in assessing clients' courses of therapy. In addition to MT-BC reports, Sounding Joy will also use participant feedback forms to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality of services. Program participants or their representatives will be asked to complete the feedback form at the mid-term and end of the program, and will also be encouraged to do so whenever needed or desired. This feedback will guide the therapists' recommendations of future services and resources for clients at the closure of music therapy. Oral grievances will be accepted and transcribed if a client is unable to write.

When any complaints, hardships, or grievances on the part of clients or trainees may arise, whether documented or undocumented, the Clinical Director will initiate follow-up communication among those involved within 3 working days. If a case cannot be resolved at this level within 2 weeks of an incident, the Executive Director will report the case to Sounding Joy's Board of Advisors, who will review the case on behalf of the organization and take responsibility for addressing the case. All MT-BCs at Sounding Joy participate in monthly peer-supervision meetings to review clients' progress, share clinical expertise and feedback, and discuss any significant events and concerns. If a MT-BC feels that more privacy is needed to deal with particular issues, the Clinical Director or the Executive Director will follow up individually, as appropriate to the situation. With the organization's highly trained and experienced clinical, administrative, and supervisory staff, and its long history of human service work in the community, Sounding Joy is more than adequate to achieve the targeted outcomes of the proposed program.

4. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

Attendance sheets will be completed for each of the 9 introductory music therapy workshops to be held at educational and service sites. Attendance will also be documented for each trainee participating in the 16-week training module. In addition, attendance will be taken at each of the 16 weekly music therapy groups at the 2 service sites.

At the outset of therapy services, the MT-BCs will establish individualized goals and objectives for each client through clinical assessment. On the basis of previous results, we predict that at least 80% of clients will achieve their goals and objectives, as measurable outcomes of therapy.

Below is a list of documents which will be used in measuring progress at each stage of music therapy services and training:

- **Registration Form:** Completed for each trainee and each client at the outset of sessions.
- **Attendance Sheet:** Spreadsheet tracking participant attendance at each Introductory workshop, training session, and music therapy session.
- **Session Report:** Completed by the MT-BC for each weekly music therapy group session, for each client in attendance. References the client’s goals and objectives. Describes session events, including the MT-BC’s clinical interventions and the client’s participation, responses, activity, and interactions.
- **Mid-Term Progress Report:** Completed by the MT-BC for each client after the 8th session. Narrates the client’s progress thus far towards their goals and objectives. Goals and objectives may be reevaluated and modified by the MT-BC, as appropriate, over the course of services.
- **Client Feedback Form & Trainee Feedback Form:** Completed by each client or their representative, and by each trainee, at the mid-term and end of the 16-week course of therapy and 16-week training module.
- **Final Report:** Filed by the MT-BC at the conclusion of services for each client. Evaluates therapy outcomes by estimating goal attainment and narrating overall progress. Recommends future services and resources.

IV. Financial

Budget

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.
 - a. Budget request by source of funds: Attached
 - b. Personnel salaries and wages: Attached
 - c. Equipment and motor vehicles: Not applicable
 - d. Capital project details: Not applicable
 - e. Government contracts, grants, and grants in aid: Attached

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2027.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
39,623.50	39,623.50	39,623.50	39,623.50	\$158,494

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2027.

The organization has applied for funding through the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) Community Arts Grants program (\$15,000) and the City and County of Honolulu's Grants-in-Aid program (\$132,400) for fiscal year 2027. In addition to ongoing session fees paid by private clients, the organization will seek further support through individual and corporate donations, private foundation grants, and community giving programs, as always.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.

None.

5. The applicant shall provide a listing of all federal, state, and county government contracts, grants, and grants in aid it has been granted within the prior three years and will be receiving for fiscal year 2027 for program funding.

Attached.

6. The applicant shall provide the balance of its unrestricted current assets as of December 31, 2025.

Unrestricted assets: \$211,000

Cash: \$61,000

Other assets (invoices and real property): \$150,000

V. Experience and Capability

1. Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

Sounding Joy has established a strong record of service to disadvantaged individuals and families through music therapy over the past 24 years. Its outstanding public service has been acclaimed not only by clients, families, community members, and professional colleagues, but also by local legislators and political leaders, who consider Sounding Joy a significant asset to Hawai'i. Since its establishment, the organization has provided music therapy to over 3,000 clients and educated over 50,000 statewide. Sounding Joy has collaborated with hundreds of local,

national, and international agencies to improve the affordability and accessibility of music therapy in Hawai'i.

The primary mission of Sounding Joy is to serve people with disabilities, medical and mental health challenges, and at-risk circumstances, through music therapy. Our largest music therapy program in the past (2011-2012), funded by the State Department of Human Services, served more than 1,000 at-risk teens with disabilities and special needs. A statistical study of this program, with 332 subjects meeting criteria for inclusion in statistical analysis, demonstrated overall success, with over 85% goal attainment and under 5% drop-out rates. These outcomes suggest that our music therapy programs effectively motivate clients to participate and achieve their goals.

Sounding Joy has also served Hawai'i's indigenous communities in low-income areas through music therapy funded by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, enhancing participants' sense of cultural identity and heightening community awareness of the rich therapeutic potential within Hawaiian and Pacific Island musical traditions and cultural values.

For fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2024, and 2025, the City and County of Honolulu has awarded Grant-In-Aid funding to Sounding Joy, supporting music therapy services for approximately 100 clients per year on O'ahu with disabilities and special needs. The program has successfully attained its targeted outcomes. Another program at Sounding Joy, funded by Biennium Grants (now Community Arts Grants) from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) since 2005, has provided music therapy and therapeutic music instruction to clients with disabilities, along with community outreach to inform the general public about the benefits of music therapy. During the current Biennium Grant cycle, SFCA funding is supporting weekly music therapy to promote engagement and resilience in older adults with disabilities, serving approximately 30 per year.

We have also received Community Grants from the Parkinson's Foundation (PF) for fiscal years 2021 and 2024, funding music therapy support groups for people with Parkinson's and their care partners. Through our 2024 PF Community Grant for a project entitled "Music Therapy and Mental Health," we partnered with the Hawai'i Parkinson's Association and the Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Center at The Queen's Medical Center to serve approximately 50 in West O'ahu and Hilo.

The core concept of music therapy, utilization of music's unique power to facilitate the betterment of human life, is applied to all our programs. The field of music therapy is regulated nationally by professional ethics and standards of practice, including the education and training of MT-BCs. By employing only qualified MTBCs, our organization maintains quality of service, helping to ensure the attainment of targeted outcomes for all our programs. Sounding Joy's ultimate goal is to provide all our clients with the best music therapy services possible to improve their quality of life, regardless of their socioeconomic or other disadvantages.

2. Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities.

In 2022, Sounding Joy purchased and relocated into a new, ADA-compliant office suite in the same building where its previous rented office was located. The total space of the new suite is 1,118 square feet, consisting of an office and three therapy/activity rooms. This space will support the efficient and effective operations of the proposed program. The property is a leasehold, with current monthly costs of \$634.28 for the lease and \$1,345.19 for building maintenance.

VI. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

1. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

All of Sounding Joy's music therapists hold the required national credential, the MT-BC. One MT-BC will provide the proposed music therapy sessions; she has nearly 10 years of experience in serving clients with disabilities and special needs through music therapy. Possessing excellent communication and interpersonal skills, she successfully collaborates with clients, families, and agencies. Her clinical knowledge enables her to effectively advocate for Sounding Joy's services to the community, manage the recruitment of prospective clients, and advise clients on therapy placement.

The Clinical Director is a senior MT-BC with nearly 25 years of clinical and supervisory experience. She holds a PhD in music therapy from New York University. She will be responsible for reporting to the grantor, the State. She heads the organization's efforts in regard to education and training, clinical assurance, and community collaboration to sustain music therapy services in Hawai'i. With her extensive knowledge and experience in the field, she will guide the MT-BCs in making appropriate clinical decisions to achieve desired program outcomes. She will also ensure adherence to professional protocols of the therapy process, including compliance with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The proposed Executive Director is a senior MT-BC with over 25 years of clinical and supervisory experience. She is the Founder and President of Sounding Joy, with the utmost experience in advancing the mission and vision of the organization. She will

oversee the program as a whole, in the context of the organization's overall operations. She heads Sounding Joy's program development and efforts to establish an in-state music therapy degree program, which will be vital to the ultimate sustainability of music therapy in Hawai'i.

Peer-supervision meetings for all MT-BCs at Sounding Joy are held monthly. All project staff will attend these meetings to discuss and evaluate the progress of the proposed music therapy services. These meetings can also be used to address any issues and concerns regarding clinical work. Providing MT-BCs with the best possible work environment is essential to their well-being and success. Any necessary follow-up and/or training will be provided according to the personal and professional needs of each MT-BC.

2. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organization chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

Please see attached organization chart.

3. Compensation

The applicant shall provide an annual salary range paid by the applicant to the three highest paid officers, directors, or employees of the organization by position title, not employee name.

Executive Director: \$61,800
Clinical Director: \$60,600
Program Coordinator: \$59,280

VII. Other

1. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

Not applicable.

2. Licensure or Accreditation

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that the applicant possesses relevant to this request.

Sounding Joy requires all clinical staff to hold the national credential for music

therapists: Music Therapist - Board Certified (MT-BC). This certification must be renewed every 5 years through continuing professional education approved by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT; www.cbmt.org).

3. Private Educational Institutions

The applicant shall specify whether the grant will be used to support or benefit a sectarian or non-sectarian private educational institution. Please see [Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution](#) for the relevance of this question.

Not applicable.

4. Future Sustainability Plan

The applicant shall provide a plan for sustaining after fiscal year 2027 the activity funded by the grant if the grant of this application is:

- (a) Received by the applicant for fiscal year 2027

In implementing the proposed project during the grant term, Sounding Joy will identify participating educational or service facilities that demonstrate the potential to become self-sufficient to fund continued music therapy training or clinical services. In the past, it has often happened that when clients experience the uniquely successful results of music therapy as compared to other forms of treatment or therapy they have received, they and their families, guardians, or facilities have made a commitment to continue music therapy through self-funding or other resources. They have also become strong advocates for music therapy, encouraging others to consider seeking services.

In order to create sustainable programs, it is essential to recruit future supporters of music therapy while the grant term is active. Community members who have directly witnessed the benefits of music therapy – including professional colleagues and dedicated volunteers – will invite prospective promoters and grantors to observe and experience sessions. Such community members have organized numerous advocacy and fundraising activities to date. They are capable of eliciting powerful moral and financial support from the community to help sustain our programs. Visits to observe music therapy sessions will be arranged by our program staff in accordance with professional standards of client confidentiality and privacy, as well as public health requirements to minimize the risk of COVID-19 and other disease transmission.

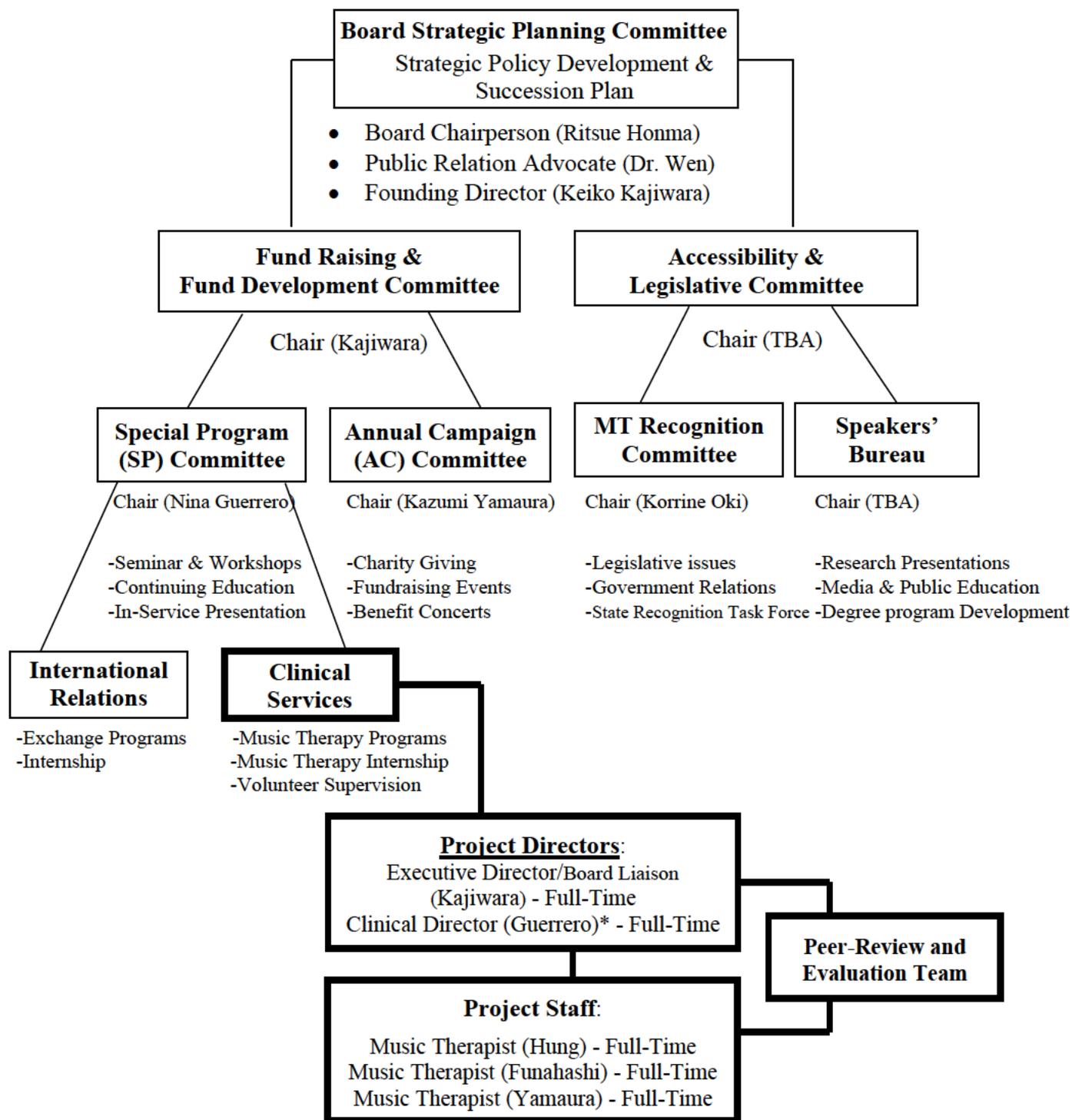
- (b) Not received by the applicant thereafter.

We aim to offer the proposed services as a pilot program at educational and service sites that have indicated significant interest in building a long-term collaborative relationship with Sounding Joy, and facilitating our therapeutic partnership with clients and their families/guardians, in order to sustain music therapy services for clients

beyond the grant term. Effective collaboration with these facilities will entail interdisciplinary sharing of expertise between our MT-BCs and key faculty or facility staff to meet the needs of trainees or clients. In addition, we will continue our vigorous efforts to educate the public about the benefits and cost-effectiveness of music therapy for a variety of client populations.

The positive outcomes experienced by participants and their caregiving circles through the proposed services, together with heightened public awareness of music therapy, may attract donors as well as self-financed clients to support our programs on an ongoing basis. At the same time, Sounding Joy will continually endeavor to expand its scope of service to socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, for which we will seek additional grants and other sources of funding. Sounding Joy has successfully implemented this sustainability plan to make music therapy available for the past 24 years, enhancing quality of life and community living for the people of Hawai'i.

The Organization Chart



**Ms. Guerrero also provides direct services*

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS

Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Applicant: Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	Total Federal Funds Requested (b)	Total County Funds Requested (c)	Total Private/Other Funds Requested (d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	96,800		7,800	
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	13,348		1,076	
3. Fringe Benefits	24,246		1,890	
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	134,394		10,766	
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance	850		250	
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space	19,700		2,500	
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies	1,260		130	
7. Telecommunication	1,030		400	
8. Utilities				
9. Mileage & Parking	1,260		150	
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TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	24,100		3,430	
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES				
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	158,494		14,196	
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	158,494	Keiko Kajiwara, President 808-593-2620		
(b) Total Federal Funds Requested		Name (Please type or print) Phone		
(c) Total County Funds Requested	14,196			
(d) Total Private/Other Funds Requested	2,000	Signature of Authorized Official Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	174,690	Maria C. Guerrero, Clinical Director / Grant Manager Name and Title (Please type or print)		

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND / OR GRANTS IN AID

Applicant: Sounding Joy Music Therapy, Inc.

Contracts Total: 551,956

	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	EFFECTIVE DATES	AGENCY	GOVERNMENT ENTITY (U.S./State/Hawaii/ Honolulu/ Kauai/ Maui County)	CONTRACT VALUE
1	Biennium Grant: "Music for Lifelong Resilience"	7/1/21-6/30/22	SFCA	State	15,000
2	Biennium Grant: "Music for Lifelong Resilience"	7/1/22-6/30/23	SFCA	State	15,000
3	Biennium Grant: "Music Connects"	7/1/23-6/30/24	SFCA	State	15,000
4	Biennium Grant: "Music Connects"	7/1/24-6/30/25	SFCA	State	15,000
5	Community Arts Grant: "Music Connects"	7/1/25-6/30/26	SFCA	State	15,000
6	Grant-in-Aid: "Music for Lifelong Wellness"	10/1/23-9/30/24	Dept. of Community Services	Honolulu	132,400
7	Grant-in-Aid: "Music for Lifelong Wellness"	10/15/24-10/14/25	Dept. of Community Services	Honolulu	74,556
8	Federal Grant: "Music Therapy to Support Well-Being, Engagement, and	9/1/24-8/30/25	DHHS: Adm for Community Living	U.S.	125,000
8	Act 310 Non-profit Grant	12/1/25-11/30/26	Aloha United Way	State	145,000
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