



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S COMPETITIVE GRANTMAKING OVERVIEW

The role of Community Foundation's Grantmaking is to seek opportunities proactively in the community that help residents achieve their greatest potential. Through an open competitive process, nonprofit organizations can apply for support where there is an alignment with one of the Community Foundation's four strategic focus areas: Capacity Building, Economic Opportunity, Education and Youth, and Thriving Communities.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR FOCUS AREAS

1. Capacity Building

Goal: To support, develop, and promote a network of services and resources that strengthen the quality and impact of the local nonprofit sector and community.

Focus Area Strategies: The Foundation provides the following strategies as examples of the types of programs, services, and proposals that potential funding will be given to in the Capacity Building focus area.

- Organizations with a mission to support, enhance, improve, and grow high-quality nonprofit organizations and leadership.
- Programming is designed to support and improve Nonprofit Management and Nonprofit Leadership.
- Opportunities to provide local nonprofit leaders with short and long-term professional coaching, mentoring and guidance.

2. Economic Opportunity

Goal: To improve human capital by creating opportunities for strategic and effective workforce preparation leading to economic sufficiency.

Focus Area Strategies: The Foundation provides the following strategies as examples of the types of programs, services, and proposals that potential funding will be given to in the Economic Opportunity focus area.

- Initiatives promoted by workforce alliances that effectively link employer demand with the educational resources necessary to building a continuum for workforce preparation for skilled workers.
- Occupational preparation and training for individuals targeted to specific occupations where worker shortages may exist and the potential for increased credentialing and earnings can be maximized.
- Programs that promote literacy – including economic (financial management), technical (information technologies), and reading – to develop life skills and prevent future impediments to achieving full academic or vocational potential.



- Programs and projects that assist workforce pipeline for unemployed or under-employed residents.
- Programs that provide support for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

3. Education and Youth

Goal: To provide youth with the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

Focus Area Strategies: The Foundation provides the following strategies as examples of the types of programs, services, and proposals that potential funding will be given to in the Education and Youth focus area.

- Evidence-based early childhood development programs for children and their families to integrate the process of education into daily living in order to improve likely future outcomes.
- Opportunities that provide support to address third grade literacy levels.
- Model high school retention programs for at-risk students, including coaching, internships, or leadership development that provides credentialing and support for pursuit of academic excellence.
- Programs that connect at-risk youth populations with opportunities that keep them on a positive life trajectory, i.e., mentoring.

4. Thriving Communities

Goal: To address a broad range of community needs so that residents can live healthy and vibrant lives.

Strategy: The Foundation provides the following strategies as examples of the types of programs, services, and proposals that potential funding will be given to in the Thriving Communities focus area.

- Coalitions and partnerships that advocate and focus attention on affordable housing needs of low- and middle-income families. For example, social service providers joining with housing advocates, developers, and government officials in responding to the need for permanent, workforce and/or affordable rental housing.
- Initiatives assisting low- and middle-income households at high risk for foreclosures and/or homelessness with rent or mortgage support, legal assistance, counseling, and supports to ensure an equitable process and/or provide available resources and options to secure safe, affordable housing and achieve economic stability.
- Programs that provide access for uninsured or underinsured residents to address mental and/or physical health concerns. Programs addressing chronic health conditions in high-need areas will be prioritized. For example, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.
- Increasingly make arts and culture accessible for people with limited economic means.



- Small- to medium-sized Florida-based arts and cultural organizations that have experienced a significant cut in state-funding (15% or more of organizational budget).
- Opportunities that address hunger by providing food and assisting with access to support such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Improve the environment through education and efforts such as planting trees, improving coastal areas, or preserving natural resources.
- Projects that transform green spaces or create safe public spaces for residents to connect and engage.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Tax Status: Community Foundation will consider requests from charitable organizations that are tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Organizations without this designation will need a fiscal sponsor. If you plan to use a fiscal sponsor, please contact our staff.

General Operating Grants: Organizations are only eligible to apply for General Operating Support if both are true: 1) the organization's headquarters is located within Palm Beach or Martin Counties, and 2) the organizational budget is below \$2 Million. Organizations whose headquarters is outside of our region or whose organizational budget is above \$2M will not be considered for a general operating grant.

Local Programming: We will only consider requests from organizations with programming directly benefiting residents of Palm Beach and/or Martin Counties.

Number of Proposals: Only one proposal per organization can be submitted during this competitive grant process.

Funding Amount: Community Impact grants will be awarded as one-year grants, up to \$75,000. Summer grants will be awarded seasonally. *(Only Youth Literacy Programs may be eligible for multiyear grants – see SPECIAL & LIMITED GRANT OPPORTUNITY)*

Ineligible Activities: We will **NOT** consider requests for any of the following:

- Annual appeal
- Capital campaigns or capital projects
- Agency endowments
- Event underwriting
- For-profit, parochial, charter, private, or individual public schools
- Intended for regranting
- Grant programs that received a competitive Community Foundation grant for three consecutive years
- General operating support for organizations with HQ located outside of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
- Requests for a specific individual
- Support to payoff past loans and debts



- Discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, disability, gender, veteran status, sexual orientation, or age
- Anything outside of the organization's general course of goods and services



SPECIAL & LIMITED GRANT OPPORTUNITY (YOUTH LITERACY PROPOSALS ONLY)

2025 Grant Cycle Multiyear Awards: This year, we are offering a unique, one-time opportunity for organizations that provide high-quality youth literacy programs to apply for multiyear awards. Please see the details below.

Tackling Youth Literacy Rates

In Palm Beach County and Martin County, nearly half of all third graders are not reading at grade level. This is a critical issue as literacy at this stage is essential for future academic success. These statistics underscore the ongoing challenges in improving youth literacy rates in both counties. To address this, the Community Foundation is committing at least \$1,000,000 to identify and support solutions to the local literacy crisis.

Eligible Applicants

Proposals that address youth literacy may be considered for multiyear grant awards. The Community Foundation is looking for innovative and evidence-based solutions, programs, and interventions targeting youth in grades K-12. The most competitive proposals will come from organizations with a proven track record of implementing and managing the types of programs or services outlined in the proposal. *Special consideration given to proposals that include one or more of the following:*

- Evidence-based interventions for grades K-12 that promote literacy outcomes, with priority given to programs implementing the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Curriculum.
- Community-based programs serving students in areas with literacy rates significantly below 50%.
- Evaluation services and/or advocacy efforts that support local initiatives to improve literacy scores in Palm Beach and/or Martin Counties.

Multiyear Grant Awards

Proposals directly addressing youth literacy will be considered for a two-year grant award. The Community Foundation expects to award 7 to 10 two-year grants during this cycle. (Note: Not all youth literacy-focused proposals will be funded, and not all funded proposals will receive a two-year award.)

Funding Amount

Eligible youth literacy proposals may receive up to \$200,000 (\$100,000 per year). However, not all proposals will be funded, and not all funded proposals will receive the maximum amount. Some proposals may receive one-year awards. The Community Foundation anticipates awarding varying levels of two-year grants. To be considered for a multiyear grant, applicants must submit a two-year budget detailing how the funds will be used in both years.

SPECIAL Q & A Virtual ZOOM Session: Youth Literacy Multiyear Grant Opportunity

Monday, November 18, 2024, 10 – 11 a.m. (RSVP Required)



Key Takeaways for Multiyear Awards

- **Focus Area:** Youth Literacy Programs and Interventions (grades K-12)
- **Intended Outcome:** Improve youth literacy in Palm Beach and/or Martin Counties
- **Eligible Applicants:** Organizations with track record offering literacy programming
- **Maximum Award:** Up to \$200,000 (\$100,000 per year).
- **Funding Not Guaranteed:** Not all proposals will be funded, and not all funded proposals will receive the maximum amount.
- **One-Year Awards:** Some proposals may receive funding for just one year.
- **Two-Year Grants:** The foundation plans to award varying levels of two-year grants.
- **Two-Year Budget Requirement:** To be considered for a multiyear grant, applicants must submit a two-year budget detailing the use of funds for both years.
- **Number of Anticipated Multiyear Awards:** Seven to ten awards

If you have any specific questions or need help with your proposal, feel free to ask!



THE GRANT PROCESS

STEP 1: GRANT-SEEKER SESSIONS

Designed to help our grant seekers better understand the process, requirements, and new grantmaking Strategies for the next year. Grant-Seeker Sessions are open to all nonprofit organizations supporting Palm Beach and/or Martin Counties. Attendance is highly recommended, and registration is required. To attend a session, please register on our website under the [Events](#) tab. If unable to attend, we recommend watching the Virtual Grant-Seeker Session recording located on our [website](#).

11/6/24 – Student ACES Center, Belle Glade, 6-7 p.m.

11/8/24 – Delray Beach Public Library, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

11/12/24 – Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, 2-4 p.m.

11/13/24 – Children's Services Council of Martin County, Stuart, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

11/14/24 – Virtual (Zoom), 5:30-7 p.m.

11/18/24 – Special Grant-Seeker Session: Literacy Grants Q&A (Zoom), 10 – 11 a.m.

STEP 2: SUBMIT A PROPOSAL IN DECEMBER

Organizations are allowed to apply for one proposal.

Year-round grant requests: The first phase in the process is submitting a Letter of Inquiry, also known as an LOI, that summarizes your project and outlines the challenge you will solve.

Summer program requests: This is a one-step application process. The Summer Program Proposal outlines your project, the challenge you seek to solve, details on how you will approach your work, the staffing involved, the budgets, the projected outcomes, etc. Funding decisions will be made for summer programs based off the review of this proposal and a site visit.

The LOI and Summer Program Proposal opens on November 1, 2024.

The submission deadline is Friday, December 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

STEP 3: YEAR-ROUND REQUESTS INVITED TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL

Year-round: Once LOIs are reviewed by the Community Impact team, your agency may be invited back to the second phase: submitting a full proposal, which includes details on how you will approach your work, the staffing involved, the budgets, the projected outcomes, etc.

To access the Full Proposal, log into the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties Online Grant Interface:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfpbmc>

The submission deadline is Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.



STEP 4: SITE VISITS

Year-round: Once full proposals are accepted, the Community Impact team will move to phase four: conducting site visits to your organization. The visits — which are conducted in person or virtually — are an opportunity to clarify aspects of your project, provide additional details, tour our staff and/or Community Impact Committee members around your facility, etc. Site visits are typically 60-minutes in duration and are scheduled at a mutually agreeable day and time between March and April 2025.

Summer: Organizations that submit a summer program proposal may be requested to participate in a virtual site visit. Virtual site visits are scheduled at a mutually agreeable day and time in February 2025.

STEP 5: GRANTS AWARDED

As the final step, grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations twice a year.

Year-round: Year-round grant awards are notified in May 2025 and funds are distributed in June 2025.

Summer: Summer program awards are notified in March 2025 and funds are distributed in April 2025.

STEP 6: GRANT REPORTS

Throughout the lifecycle of the grant, the Community Impact team will make regular contact or visits with grantees to communicate on the success of the project. Grantees are required to give periodic progress updates and reports, as specified in the grant agreement. When appropriate, the Community Foundation requests stories of success from the projects to share with donors.

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties reserves the right to change these Grant and Eligibility Guidelines at any time without notice.