



COMPETITIVE GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

The Community Foundation has two grantmaking cycles. During each cycle we accept applications in all five of our Priority Areas:

- Thriving Communities
- Equity and Inclusion
- Regional Cooperation
- Economic Opportunity for All
- Overcoming Persistent Poverty

2021 Grants Timeline

Cycle 1: Applications open March 5. The **deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 26th at midnight**. Site visits will still be scheduled in April and final decisions will be near the end of May 2021. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID, only one application form is required this cycle, we are allowing grants for general operating support, and we are giving weight to proposals that meet ongoing COVID needs (while addressing one of the above five priorities). Only one-year grants will be approved this grant cycle.

Cycle 2: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Applications must be submitted electronically on the CFGB grant website:

Application Portal: <http://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=cfgb>

General Log-In: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfgb>

Grant Guidelines

Applicant Restrictions:

1. Applicants must be currently designated a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the IRS OR be a 501(c)(3) exempt religious institution OR be a government entity. Private non-operating foundations are not eligible. Applicants may use a fiscal sponsor only if there is a meaningful mission fit and an existing working relationship between the two organizations.
2. Applicants must serve Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair or Walker counties in Alabama.
3. Large organizations with many branches or departments (e.g. colleges, universities, YMCA, public libraries) must submit requests from the president's office or the development office.

4. An applicant with a current open grant from the Community Foundation may apply but **MUST** be up-to-date on all reporting and should have a very compelling or timely reason for requesting a new grant.

Proposal Restrictions:

1. Grant Terms: Only one-year grants will be approved this grant cycle.

2. Grant Amounts:

- There is no maximum request amount, but in recent years awarded grants have ranged from \$5,000 to \$125,000 with an average amount of \$35,000.
- CFGB prefers requests that do not exceed 25% of the budget for the proposed project. Potential or secured support for the remaining 75% of the budget should be identified. That total cost and scale of the project should be reasonable, feasible, and sustainable in relation to the applicant's overall budget and activities.
- Organizations with documented revenue under \$25,000 may only request a Seed Grant of \$8,000 or less.
- Organizations requesting a grant of \$75,000 or greater **MUST** have an annual or semi-annual independent audit.

3. Resubmitted Proposals: If a proposal submitted to CFGB does not receive funding, it should not be resubmitted to CFGB unless there have been significant changes in either the organization or the proposal.

4. No grants are made to or for:

- Individuals
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- National fundraising drives
- Sponsorship of fundraising events
- Political organizations or candidates for public office
- Scholarship or endowment funds
- Debt reduction
- Scholarship or campership programs
- Replacement of government funding cuts
- General operating support (defined as funding for currently operating programming) **NOTE: the prohibition on general operating support is suspended for this grant cycle due to COVID**
- Unspecified indirect costs (you may request a portion of funds to support program management, occupancy, etc. but they must be presented as specific line items rather than an indirect cost rate/percentage)

To review recent successful requests, visit our Recent Grants.

Questions?

Please direct any additional questions you may have about the CFGB competitive grantmaking process to Nicole Standridge, Program Officer at nstandridge@cfbham.org. For questions regarding collaboration and multiple submissions, contact Gus Heard-Hughes, Vice President, Programs at gheard-hughes@cfbham.org.