



## 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

### **2024 Grants Timeline**

**Cycle 1 (Spring):** Brief Proposal application opens January 12, 2024. The deadline for submitting applications is February 2, 2024 at 11:59pm. For this cycle, we are following a two-stage process (brief proposal and full proposal stages). For applicants advancing to the full proposal stage, site visits will start in April, and final decisions will be released in late May.

**Cycle 2 (Fall):** 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 and/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:

Funding Purpose: If eligible, applicants may request a grant in one of the following three categories:

1. **Strategic Purpose:** These grants can help establish a new program, improve or expand an existing program, increase organizational capacity, meet a new capital need (building, equipment, etc.), and/or launch a policy/systems change effort. Requests should not exceed 25% of a proposed project budget.
2. **General Operating for Emerging Organizations:** Organizations with documented revenue under \$25,000 (based on previous fiscal year) may request a general operating support grant in this category. General operating support is defined as funding to maintain current programs and/or operations.
3. **General Operating Support:** Organizations with documented revenue between \$25,000 - \$100,000 (based on previous fiscal year) may request a general operating support grant in this category.

The two general operating categories are the same in substance; they just provide emerging organizations two opportunities to receive general operating support funding as they grow. Eligible organizations (under \$25,000 revenue) may receive General Operating for Emerging Organizations funding one time only. Eligible organizations (\$25,000 - \$100,000 revenue) may receive General Operating Support funding one time only. Any grants awarded in 2023 are counted toward these limits.

Grant Terms: Strategic grants may be requested over a one, two, or three year period based on the scale and schedule of the proposal. General operating grants are limited to one year terms.

## Grant Amounts:

- There is no maximum request amount, but in recent years awarded grants have ranged from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with an average amount of \$35,000. The applicant's request and project budget should be reasonable in relation to the applicant's prior revenue, budget, and activities.
- For Strategic Purpose grants, requests should not exceed 25% of the budget for the proposed project. Potential or secured support for the remaining 75% of the budget should be identified.
- Organizations requesting a grant of \$75,000 or greater MUST have an annual or semi-annual independent audit.

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.

## 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 (funding to maintain current programs or operations) - *with exception* of small organizations with under \$100K revenue (see categories above)
- Unspecified indirect costs (may request a portion of funds to support administrative or other indirect costs, but must be presented as specific line items vs. indirect cost rate/percentage)

To review recent successful requests, visit Recent Grants on our website.

**Questions?** Please direct any additional questions you may have about the CFGB competitive grantmaking process to Nicole Standridge, Senior Program Officer, at [nstandridge@cfbham.org](mailto:nstandridge@cfbham.org).