



## 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

### **2023 Grants Timeline**

**Cycle 1 (Spring):** Complete.

**Cycle 2 (Fall):** Brief Proposal application opens July 31, 2023. The deadline for submitting applications is August 18, 2023 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 mid-October, and final decisions will be released in December.

**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:

1. Funding Purpose: Based on applicant eligibility, funding may be requested for a strategic purpose *or* for general operating support.
  - Strategic purposes include establishing a new program, increasing capacity, meeting capital needs, launching a policy/systems change, and/or a strategic expansion of an existing program. Requests should not exceed 25% of the proposed project budget.
  - General operating support, defined as funding for current programs or operations, is only available to organizations with an annual revenue under \$100,000 (based on previous fiscal year). Requests should not exceed 25% of the proposed budget.
  - Organizations with documented revenue under \$25,000 may request funding under the General Operating for Emerging Organizations category.
  - Eligible organizations will be permitted to receive general operating support only one time and will be permitted to receive general operating support for emerging organizations only one time. Grants awarded beginning in Spring 2023 will be considered for this restriction.
2. 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.
3. 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.
  - 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. Total cost and scale of the project should be reasonable, feasible, and sustainable in relation to the applicant's overall budget and activities.
  - Organizations requesting a grant of \$75,000 or greater MUST have an annual or semi-annual independent audit.
4. 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.
5. 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 for currently operating programs or operations) - *with exception* of small organizations with under \$100K revenue and demonstrated need
  - Unspecified indirect costs (may request a portion of funds to support program management, occupancy, etc. but must be presented as specific line items vs. 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 Gus Heard-Hughes, Senior Vice President, at [gheard-hughes@cfbham.org](mailto:gheard-hughes@cfbham.org).