2024 Community Grants Program
Welcome and Introductions

Rebecca Wallace
VP of Programs
Contact Information

Rebecca Wallace
VP of Programs
rebeccawallace@cfcsra.org
Cell: 706.910.6371

Lasima Turmon
Sr. Program Officer
lasimaturmon@cfcsra.org
Cell: 762.684.6815

Erin Starnes
Program and Scholarship Officer
erinstarnes@cfcsra.org
Cell: 910.638.0826

Office: 706.724.1314  Website: www.cfcsra.org
What is the Community Foundation for the CSRA?

Our Mission

To engage, inform and inspire donors and nonprofits to build a stronger and more vibrant community.

In everything we do, we strive to:

- **Cultivate generosity** by giving donors the tools and information they need to make a significant difference in our community
- **Strengthen non-profits** by connecting organizations to financial resources, training and opportunities for meaningful collaboration
- **Engage our community** around issues that matter to us all
How We Give

$149 Million Total Charitable Assets

- Organization Funds: 26%
- Hub for Community Innovation: 10%
- Community Grants: 13%
- Donor Advised Funds: 49%
- Administrative Funds: 3%
What is the Community Grants Program?

- Annual, competitive process supported by the Community Grants Fund
- Consistent funding to address current needs of the community
- Evaluation process leads to awards based on identified community needs and relative merit of the proposals received
- Significantly supported by the Masters Tournament and managed as an endowment
Augusta National Golf Club
Employee Giving Process

The Augusta National Golf Club partners with the Community Foundation to provide its employees with a list of local nonprofit organizations each year.

Organizations that apply for a Community Grant and make it through the initial phases of the application and receive a site visit are the organizations that appear on the Employee Giving list each year.

ANGC shares the list of organizations with their staff who have the opportunity to select which organization(s) they would like to designate funding to.

Since the Community Grants Program is an annual program, the organizations that appear on the Employee Giving List each year will change based on which organizations apply and make it through the initial phases of the application process.
Things of Note In This Year’s Community Grants Process

- Application vetting is more rigorous
  - Threshold review by internal staff
- Budget Table
- Outcomes
- If your grant application is for a summer-only program that is completed by the time the new school year begins, you may skip the mid-year report and complete only the final report.
What is the Range of Grant Amounts?

- No minimum
- Request cannot exceed $15,000

Community panel volunteers review applications, perform site visits, and rank applicants from 5 to 1, with 5 being the highest. Typically, a 5 will get the total amount requested. Based on the amount of funds remaining, the 4th ranked agency will receive a percentage of funds requested.
Question?

If you had the choice, would you rather:

- Have the current grant cap amount of $15,000 knowing you have a better chance of receiving a grant - two awards per panel group of five applicants

Or

- Have a one in five chance of getting a grant, but be able to ask for up to $30,000 per year

???????
Who is Eligible to Apply?

- 501(c)(3)

- The Community Foundation for the CSRA only considers applications from organizations providing programs and services **directly benefiting** individuals living in Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina, and Burke, Columbia, Richmond, and McDuffie counties in Georgia.

- One Community Grant Application per year per 501(c)3 organization
May I Apply as a New Organization?

- We will consider a start-up (less than 3 years of operations)

- **BEST PRACTICE:** Submit by the Early Deadline for feedback

- To be considered, a start-up can’t be duplicating services already provided in the community unless an unmet need can be documented

- Reviewed on a case-by-case basis for such things as:
  - Addresses a significant, measurable need
  - Organization can effectively address the need
  - Organization’s likelihood of achieving outcomes
  - Organization has plans to ensure its long-term viability
  - Organization has demonstrated they have spoken to and are working with other community partners
In What Areas Do You Fund?

Arts/Culture/History

Recognizing the positive impact art, cultural and historical organizations have on a community, we welcome high-quality applications in this area.

Education/Youth Enrichment

We welcome applications from organizations that provide enrichment and educational opportunities to disadvantaged children, youth and adults. Examples include: job skills training and/or placement, after school or summer programs, leadership mentoring, tutoring, GED and literacy programs.
Health/Environmental

Some examples of programs in this funding area include: environmental research or management, animal services, programs that support sustainable community and backyard gardens, medical clinics, drug rehabilitation programs and medical programs for persons with disabilities or mental illness.

People in Need

This category is generally, but not exclusively, for human service programs that work with people in need. Examples include: feeding, housing, financial assistance, programs serving the homeless and programs for recently incarcerated individuals.
What Don’t You Fund?

- Grants to individuals
- Capital Campaigns
- Deficit financing and debt retirement
- Endowments
- Political Organizations or campaigns
- Lobbying legislators or influencing elections
- Marketing as the entirety of your grant request
- Special fundraising events/celebrations
- Regranting

- Personal research
- Programs requiring faith-based participation
- Projects that are typically the funding responsibility of the government
- Scholarships to schools, colleges or universities outside of our six-county region
- Programs that have already taken place or will be completed in the current calendar year
What Should I Emphasize?

Strong applications will need to tell the story of your organization and the importance of your mission to the community to include:

- **Impact** on persons/the community
- Develop **competencies and skills** in an individual
- Address a **demonstratable, significant need**
- **Leverage** other funding
- How you **partner** with other agencies
- Demonstrate **capacity to provide** services
- Demonstrate **support from volunteers** and in-kind resources
- Promote **systems or approaches** that have the ability to prevent or solve problems

Be sure that your response to the questions above reflect the six-county service area
## Budget Table

The drop-down menu lets you select your budget categories.

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**BEST PRACTICE:** You are no longer required to show income sources on your program budget, but your panel will probably ask you about income, so be prepared to speak to them at your site visit.
The Collaborate feature allows you to invite others to work with you on your application.
Need to Collaborate?

- Enter the email address of the person you’d like to collaborate with on your request.
- Type a message to that person, including any specific instructions about questions you’d like them to complete or review.
- Select the permission level for this collaborator (view, edit, or submit).
- These collaborator permissions apply to all forms within your request (e.g. the application and any follow-ups assigned to you). If you select edit, for example, the collaborator can edit any forms within your request.
- Need to edit your invitation? Click the Collaborate button again to do any of the following:
  - Resend the invitation
  - Edit user permission
  - Remove or add a collaborator
CFCSRA Grants Portal

What you need to know

- All grant agreements, reports and other communications about your application will be done through the Grants Portal. Please observe posted deadlines. You will receive a reminder 14 days before any follow-up report is due.

- Add administrator@grantinterface.com to your allowed emails. System-generated notifications, report reminders and other grant-related communications will come from this email address.

- You will be able to complete and upload all needed information directly through your organizational account. Please don’t mail or email these documents directly to us.

- Your organizational grant history will remain on your page in the Grants Portal. You will be able to see all applications, your funding history, submitted reports, and agreements.

Questions?
Early Review Option

CFCSRA staff will review your application and provide feedback.

DO NOT SUBMIT AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION!

- Submit the application as if you were submitting it for the final deadline.
- Ensure you upload correct attachments in the appropriate fields

If changes are needed, staff will release the application back to you as a “draft”. You will need to resubmit the application before the final deadline.

If no changes are needed, staff will let you know that your application will move on to the next phase.
Finalizing Your Application

❖ You may save and return to your application at any time

❖ The person who can answer questions about your application and will organize your site visit should be the contact person for your application.

❖ Ensure you upload correct attachments in the appropriate fields

❖ PUSH SUBMIT! If you submit for the early deadline, make sure you re-submit before the final deadline

❖ BEST PRACTICE: Have another person proof your application before pressing submit

On our website, you will also find:

❖ Grant Seeker Guidelines
❖ Help on how to create budgets and write outcomes
❖ How to prepare for a site visit
Is a Site Visit Really Important?

- A compelling grant is not enough to secure funding. Most, if not all, of the grants we receive, **deserve** consideration for funding.

- Not all applicants receive a site visit. To receive a site visit, an applicant must submit a complete application with correct financials, budgets, and other supporting documents as requested in the application by the deadline. The request must meet standards as outlined in the granting guidelines.

- The site visit is an opportunity to secure your organization's chance to receive funding. Prepare for this visit with that thought in mind, and “sell” your grant proposal and organization to your panel!

- **BEST PRACTICE:** Make sure the person who wrote the grant preps those who will be present at the site visit. *A best practice would be for that person to also attend.*
If Funded, are there Reporting Requirements?

- All grant agreements, reports and other communications about your application will be done through the Grants Portal. Please observe posted deadlines. You will receive a reminder 14 days before any follow-up report is due.

- Submit a mid-year report by July 15, 2024

- Submit a final year-end report by January 12, 2025

- If your grant application was for a summer-only program that is completed by the time the new school year begins, you may skip the mid-year report and complete only the final report by August 15, 2024.

- Add administrator@grantinterface.com to your allowed emails. System-generated notifications, report reminders and other grant-related communications will come from this email address.
Questions?
Outcomes... What are they and why do they matter?
What Is an Outcome?

It answers the question...

“So What?”

In a measurable way that shows a desired change that will occur in a person or organization
What It Is Not...

A number count of those to be served, this is an output.
“We will increase the number of people who receive fresh fruit and vegetables from 100 per month to 120 per month.”

Not a broad or vague statement.
“Young people will feel better after attending our program.”
Outcomes

- Outcomes are the benefits and/or changes that occur in an individual or groups based on their participation in a program or activity.
  - Such as: knowledge, skills, attitudes, behavior, performance, status or condition that will lead to a positive result.

- Each outcome should have two parts:
  - Prediction of results that are measurable
  - Has a measurement method to determine whether the outcome has been achieved

- In your application you will:
  - Identify at least 2, but no more than 4 outcomes
  - Indicate how you will measure each outcome
Example of an Outcome with Measure

- **YOUR GOAL IS TO**: Help children read at grade level.

- **YOUR GRANT IS TO**: Create a literacy program for children in K through third grade.

- **YOUR OUTPUT IS**: 55 children receiving tutoring

- **OUTCOME**: 65% of children who enroll will read at grade level by the end of the school year.

- **MEASURE USED**: Reading scores will have risen to grade level as seen on state standardized tests given at time of enrollment and again after six months of participation.
What is the Award Process?

Applications are reviewed and released for changes if in by the early deadline of **July 17 at 12:00 p.m.**

Applications submitted after the early deadline but prior to the deadline on **August 11 at 4:00 p.m.**, are reviewed and either declined or sent to Grants Committee.

Applications are approved by Grants Committee.

Panel site visits will be conducted starting **October 1** but no later than **October 31**.

Panel recommendations given to Grants Committee for approval in November.

Full Board of Directors affirm vote by Grants Committee.

Applicants receive notice of funding prior to Thanksgiving weekend.

The annual press conference will be held **Friday, December 1**.

Funds are distributed no later than the end of **January 2024**.
What are the Deadlines?

- Application opens on July 1, 2023, and will be accepted through **August 11, 2023**

- **BEST PRACTICE:** The Early Deadline for review with feedback is **July 17 at 12:00 pm**

- The Final Deadline is **August 11 at 4:00 pm. No exceptions.**
Questions?
Using the Grants Portal
How Do I Get Started?

Connecting Passion with Purpose

The Community Foundation for the CSRA is our region’s trusted philanthropic partner. We work with donors and nonprofits to connect passion with purpose so that, together, we can strengthen our community for all.
New Organization?

You will need to create a new organizational profile to include contacts before starting your application.

All future applications that are completed in our Grants Portal will be linked to the organization.

New Employee, Existing Organization Profile?

Contact Erin to be added to your organizational profile.
Already Have a Profile?

If you have already applied for another grant through our Grants Portal (launched in March 2020)

**BEST PRACTICE:** Review your organizational profile, contacts, and your EFT information before starting your 2024 Community Grant Application. Update as needed prior to starting this or any other application.
Once you are logged in, you will land on your Applicant Dashboard. Click the “Apply” icon to see the list of open grant opportunities.
Click the “Apply” button that corresponds with the grant name and description for the **2024 Community Grants Program**
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