



[2026 Panel Training](#)



Connecting Passion with Purpose



Our mission is 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



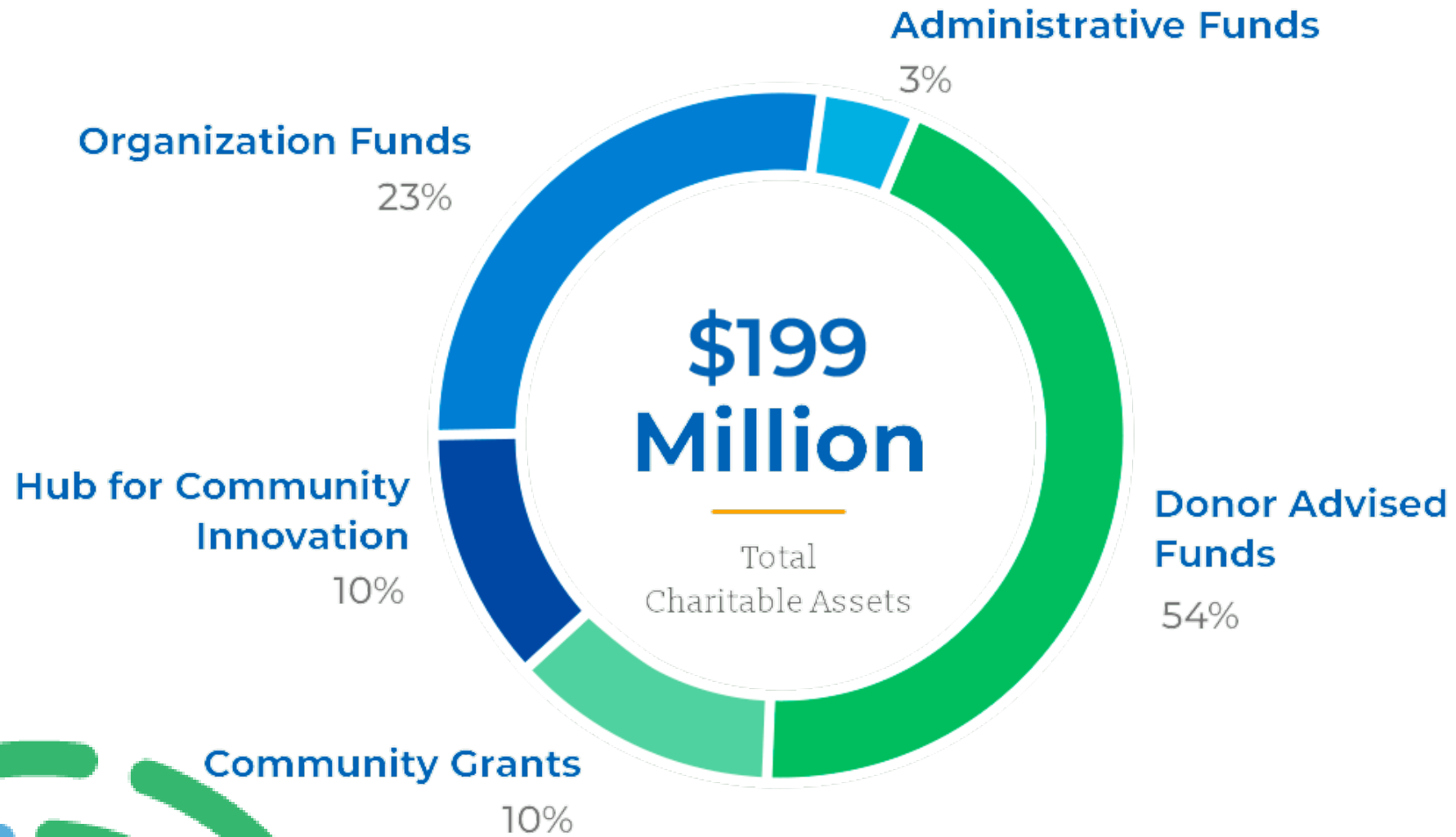
Strengthen Nonprofits

by connecting organizations to financial resources, training, and opportunities for meaningful collaboration



Engage our Community

around issues that matter to us all





Beyond Panels

How you can become part of the
Community Foundation Family....

The Community Foundation Team



Community
FOUNDATION

for the
Central Savannah
River Area

Welcome!



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Erin Cooper

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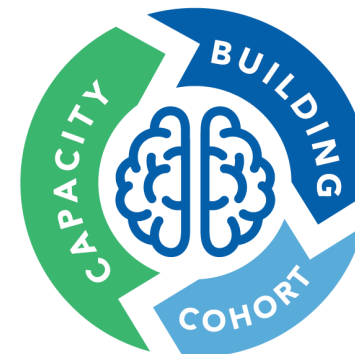
Office: 706.724.1314

Website: www.cfcsra.org

Community Foundation for the CSRA Programs Team



DIGGING DEEPER, LOOKING
CLOSER, THINKING BIGGER
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE CSRA
NONPROFIT SUMMIT



Augusta Bar Foundation

Vinea Foundation



St. Joseph
Foundation

Women In
Philanthropy

Mary Warren Sand Hills Garden Club

Other Grant Opportunities



Sign Up for Our
Newsletter



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



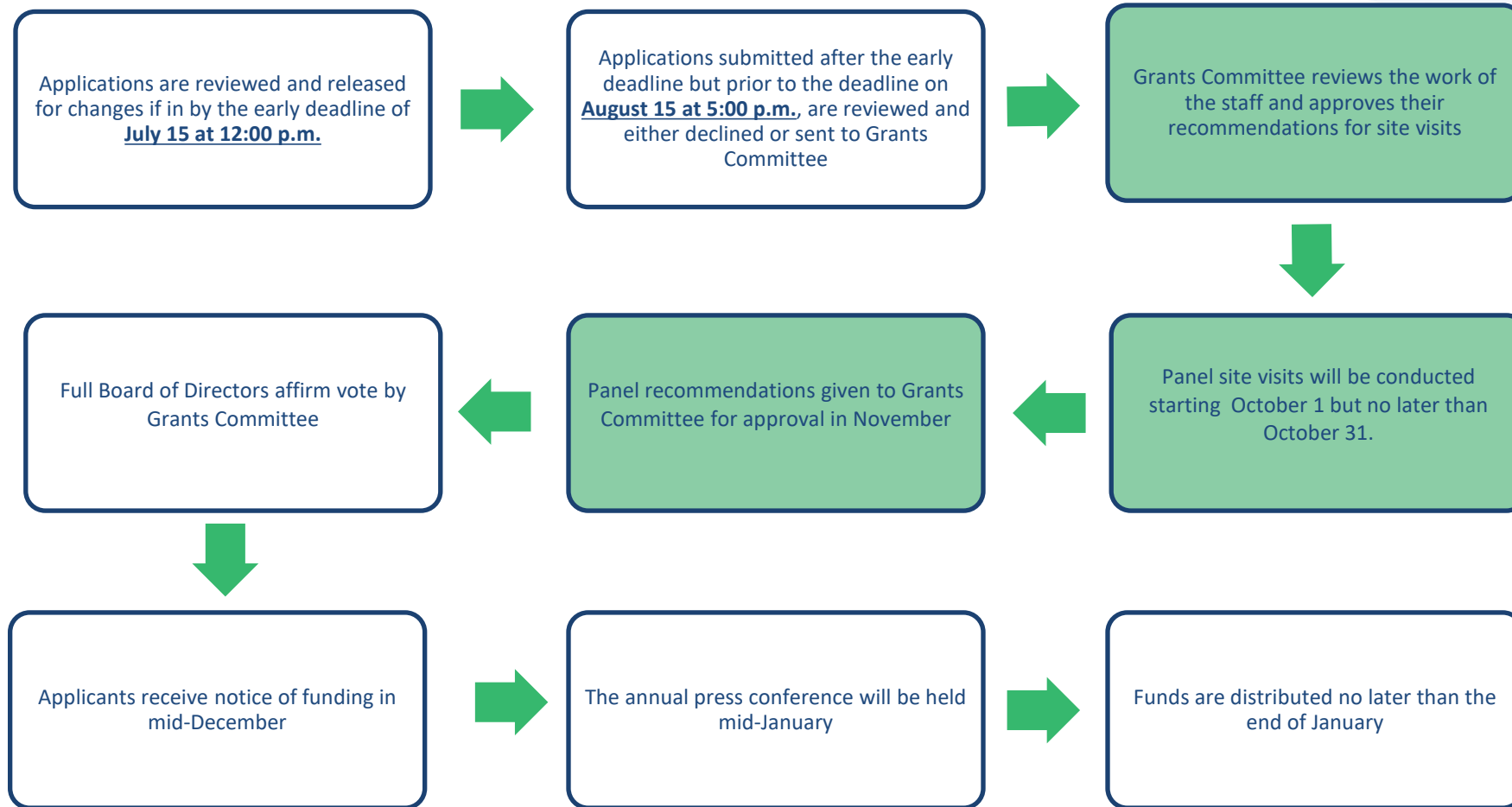
Legacy grant program made possible by an endowment that ensures support for vital work in our community both now and in the future.

Why Community Grants?

This is the community's opportunity, through volunteer panel members, to determine what the most pressing needs are in our community in any given year and then act by deploying resources to the nonprofit organization(s) that can have a positive impact on those needs.



What is the Award Process?



Fast Facts Quiz

1. True or False: We do not fund operating expenses.
2. True or False: Your panel's rankings guide final funding choices.
3. What is the highest amount an organization can receive?
4. True or False: You may request that an organization receive more than they asked for in their application if you see they can use it.
5. True or False: If we give an application to you, we can fund it.
6. How many nonprofit service category choices are there? 1, 2, 3, 4

7. What is the highest panel funding score (number)?
8. In forced ranking, each number can be used how many times?
9. In merit ranking, how many times may a number be used?
10. True or false: All panel members should complete their evaluations in the Grants Portal.
11. True or false: Your feedback is not shared with the nonprofits
12. A site visit versus the application. Which is more important?

The Program Areas of Funding

Arts/Culture/History – recognizing the positive impact arts, cultural and historical organizations have on a community, we welcome innovative and 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 skill training and/or placement, after school or summer programs, leadership, 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, medical programs for persons with disabilities and 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 homelessness, and programs for recently incarcerated individuals.

What We've Asked the Nonprofits to Emphasize In Their Application

A strong applications will **tell the story** of the organization and the importance of their mission in the community, to include:

- ❖ **Impact** on persons/the community
- ❖ Develop **competencies or skills, or provide for a critical immediate need**
- ❖ Address a **demonstratable, significant need**
- ❖ **Leverage** other funding
- ❖ How they **partner** with other agencies
- ❖ Demonstrate **capacity to provide** services
- ❖ Demonstrate **support from volunteers** and in-kind resources
- ❖ Promote **systems or approaches** that can prevent or solve problems
- ❖ Be sure that their response(s) to questions **reflect services for the six-county funded area** (Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie, Burke, Aiken, Edgefield)

What we're asking you to evaluate

Application Ranking (50 total points)

- ❖ Project Description (15 pts)
- ❖ Financial Attachments & Program Budget Table (15 pts)
- ❖ Outcomes (10 pts)
- ❖ Partnerships/Collaboration (10 pts)

Site Visit Ranking (50 total points)

- ❖ Application Knowledge (15 pts)
- ❖ Community Impact (15 pts)
- ❖ Organization Knowledge (15 pts)
- ❖ Staff/Facility Assessment (3 pts)
- ❖ Additional Materials/Program Support (2 pts)

Questions?



Is a Site Visit Really Important?

- ❖ **YES. You are our proxy eyes and ears with your assigned nonprofits. We need your help and guidance! An application alone never tells the entire story.**
- ❖ This year we received nearly 160 applications, but not all applicants receive a site visit. All applications were read by the program team to determine that they asked for something we fund, are in our service area, answered the questions, had all needed attachments and were submitted by the deadline. 143 made it to a site visit
- ❖ A compelling application along with a great site visit is an opportunity for the nonprofit to secure funding. We've asked our nonprofits to prepare for their site visit with that thought in mind, and to be prepared to "sell" their grant proposal and organization to your panel!
- ❖ We have told all the nonprofits to make sure the person who wrote the grant preps those who will be present at the site visit. They know that whenever possible a best practice would be for that person to also attend.

Preparing for a Site Visit

- ❖ Please begin contacting your nonprofits by October 6th
- ❖ Panels Chairs coordinate with their panelists and assigned nonprofits to schedule site visits. Please be flexible and provide the nonprofits with **more than one option** for a site visit.
- ❖ Make sure everyone reads the applications thoroughly *before* the visit
- ❖ Prepare questions in advance and don't hesitate to ask questions even if they are not part of the application
- ❖ Try to be as consistent as you can with the questions asked of each reviewed organization
- ❖ Please be aware that we also receive feedback from our nonprofits' experience with their panel. You are an extension of the Community Foundation for the next few weeks, and we only want positive experiences all around.

- ❖ A minimum of **three** (3) people **MUST** be at any site visit, but we prefer that as many of your panel members attend each visit as possible. If you show up and do not have 3, reschedule or reach out to our team.
- ❖ You may accept additional information from the organizations that may help with your decision-making process
- ❖ If an organization doesn't have a location, you may reserve space at the Foundation for your site visit. Contact us as soon as possible to schedule these.
- ❖ If an organization is not located in our six counties, you may allow them to conduct their site visit via zoom but we strongly discourage this (and we have told the nonprofits the same).
- ❖ Site visits should be scheduled for at least **one hour**.

Questions?



Scenario # 1

Organization A

- Application is not professionally done
- Attachments have mistakes
- Site visit blows you away

Organization B

- Professionally done application
- Words jump off the page with their impact
- Site visit is done by a staff person with little enthusiasm or knowledge



Scenario # 2

Organization A

- Small organization
- Serves a large number of people. Each can come one or two times throughout the year
- Provide multiple services
 - Id's
 - Bus vouchers
 - Clothing and food

Organization B

- Small Organization
- Narrow demographic
- Works with 20 people per year
- Has a job skills training program with 80% success rate for long term self-sufficiency



Scenario # 3

Organization A

- Provides mental health services to the uninsured
- Grant request is for counselor salaries and utility costs
- Medium size organization
- Has a small endowment

Organization B

- Grant to pay for summer camp scholarships for low-income children
- Also has an incredible at-risk teen leadership program that they talk about, but they are not asking for funds for that program
- Medium size organization



Scenario # 4

Organization A

- Small grassroots passionate organization
- One paid staff person
- Mostly run by volunteers
- Provide food and social gatherings within a targeted community for seniors in need

Organization B

- Nationally known organization
- Highly qualified paid staff
- Some volunteers
- Serving large numbers of people per year with multiple basic needs



The background features decorative light blue curved lines in the corners, resembling stylized waves or abstract patterns. These lines are composed of several parallel, slightly irregular curves that sweep across the corners of the page.

Using the Grants Portal

How Do I Get Started?



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.



2023 Community Grants Panel Member Information



Are you a grantseeker or
volunteer panel member?

Access applications.

ACCESS GRANT PORTAL

Are you a fund holder?

Access your fund information and recommend grants
online.

ACCESS DONOR PORTAL

The grantseeking process is a time-consuming one, and we value your time and your wisdom as you help us select this year's grant recipients. You will find resources on this page to assist you during the grant process. We will continue to add information and resources as they become available. We are here to help, so do not hesitate to call if you need more information.

COMPLETE THE PANEL REGISTRATION FORM

New Panelists –


Do not create a new account!

One has been created for you with the email address you provided on your panel registration form. Enter your email address and click “Forgot your password?” to create a unique password.

Returning Panelists

Use previous credentials. If you provided a different email address this year or forgot your password, click “Forgot your password?” to regain access.

tralsavannah



Community
FOUNDATION

for the
Central Savannah
River Area

Logon Page

Email Address*

Password*

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Community Foundation's Online Grants Portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Not Sure? If you think that you **or someone at your organization** has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace@cfcscra.org to receive your username.

- [Written Tutorial](#)
- [Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation](#)
- [Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding](#)
- [Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard](#)
- [Apply for a Grant - Applicant Overview Video](#)

Existing Users: **We are now using a new grant platform.** If you, or someone from your organization, has not written a grant to the Foundation since March of 2020 you will need to sign in as a new user. Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the left to reset your password.

Evaluator Dashboard
Your Dashboard will show the applications assigned to your panel. To begin your evaluation, click Start. Save your responses. You may return to the evaluation throughout the process.

Dashboard

Your Evaluations12







Your Follow Ups0

Pending9

Draft1

Complete2

Quick Search

FORM	PROCESS	ORGANIZATION	APPLICANT FIRST NAME	APPLICANT LAST NAME	PROJECT	SCORE	
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Arc of the US	Nathan	Murphy	Creating creative awareness	57%	Update✔
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Boys & Girls Clubs of America	Arthur	Mitchell	General operating support and facility improvements	57%	Update✔
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.	Juan	Taylor	Conservation operations support		Startⓘ
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	International Association of Fire Fighters	Joshua	Smith	General Operating support		Startⓘ
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Direct Relief	Abigail	Clark	No needles here- drug addiction recovery community support		Startⓘ
 Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Covenant House	Douglas	Smith	Community Closet		Startⓘ
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Global Peace Film Festival, Inc.	Richard	Robinson	Lodging for Filmmakers		Startⓘ

[Click Here for a Helpful Evaluator Tutorial](#)

Deadlines

Friday, September 26 by noon – Last call for added panel members and conflicts of interest

Training Day through Monday, October 6 – Panel chairs schedule site visits with nonprofits (minimally reach out to them).

Friday, Oct 31 – All evaluations are due to CFCSRA by noon

Thursday, January 15 – Press conference/Announcement of grant recipients

A Halloween-themed illustration featuring two skeletons in a dark, misty forest. One skeleton stands behind a wooden sign, while the other lies on the ground holding a glowing lantern. The scene is lit with a blue and green glow, with red bokeh lights and a candle in the foreground.

OCTOBER 31st

By Noon!

Questions?

