2026 Grant Seeker Session

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

Administrative Funds
3%

Organization Funds
23%

Hub for Community Innovation
10%

Community Grants
10%

$199 Million

Total Charitable Assets

Donor Advised Funds
54%

The Community Foundation Team

Community Foundation for the CSRA
Programs Team

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

CAPACITY BUILDING COHORT

ImpactED NETWORKING

Literacy Initiative

Non Profit ESSENTIALS TRAINING

Augusta Bar Foundation   Vinea Foundation

St. Joseph Foundation

Women In Philanthropy

Border Bash   Mary Warren   Sand Hills Garden Club
Other Grant Opportunities

Candid.

Sign Up for Our Newsletter
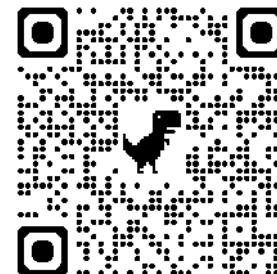
Community Grants Program

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

Made possible by an endowment that was seeded by the Augusta National Golf Club and now includes annual gifts from multiple donors and funds.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

501(c)(3)

6 County Focus:

Aiken, Burke, Columbia, Edgefield, McDuffie & Richmond

One Application per year per 501(c)3 organization

May I Apply as a New 501(c)3 Organization or a Nonprofit that is new to the Community Foundation?

YES!

- We will <u>consider</u> a start-up (less than 3 years of operations)
- We will consider funding Nonprofits that do not already have a relationship with the Community Foundation
- To be considered, a start-up or new nonprofit can't duplicate services already provided in your service area 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
    - <u>Organization has demonstrated they have spoken to and are working with other community partners</u>

NOTE: All first-time applicants <u>MUST complete their application by the EARLY DEADLINE of July 15th at 12 PM</u>

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.

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.

In What Areas Do You Fund? (cont'd)

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

Problem Areas That We've Seen

❖ Help Notes throughout the application – pay attention to them

❖ Project Description – this is your gateway to tell why your grant is important

❖ Budget Table – take your time, follow directions, ask questions if needed

❖ Outcomes – **Use all three steps**

❖ Partnerships – It is never good to put N/A

❖ Organizational Profile – Remember to check your organizational information each time you complete a new grant. Make corrections when needed to contacts (contact us for this), addresses and other permanent information on a regular basis.

❖ Feedback – early review feedback; post-process feedback

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 can <u>prevent or solve</u> 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.

		Budget Expense Category (choose from the drop-down)	Total Budget	Allocated to This Request
Category 1	▽		$	$
Category 2	▽		$	$
Category 3	▽		$	$
Category 4	▽		$	$
Category 5	▽		$	$
Category 6	▽		$	$
Category 7	▽		$	$
Category 8	▽		$	$
Category 9	▽		$	$

Employees
Employee Benefits
Professional Development
Contract Services
Overhead Costs

Direct Services
Scholarships
Equipment
Supplies
Marketing
In-Kind

B.A.C.K.S.
What are you aiming for?

Determine how you are trying to impact your target group.

Behavior

To do or NOT do a specific action

Condition

State that affects a way of life

Status

Perception or label based on specific characteristics

Attitude

Personal feelings about a subject

Knowledge

Specific information gained from the program

GuideStar
Why it Matters

You already have one

Data from IRS or nonprofits directly

Charitable partner use

Seals demonstrate commitment to transparency & build confidence in your organization

Seals can expire – update your information minimally every 2 years

Go for **Gold**

The Seals of Transparency

Bronze Transparency
Candid.

Silver Transparency
Candid.

Gold Transparency
Candid.

Platinum Transparency
Candid.

Help donors find you

Share your mission and keep basic contact information up-to-date

Guide funding decisions
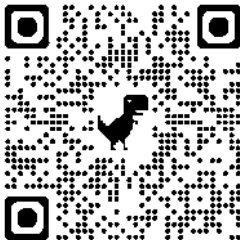
Provide program(s) information and brand details

Gain trust and support

Provide financial and leadership information

Highlight your impact

Share your measures of progress + results

Questions?

Early Review Option

Community Foundation 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

NOTE: When you receive staff feedback, please make suggested changes to your application. Not doing so may keep your application from moving through to a panel sight visit

NOTE: Your application will only be returned to you if changes are needed. Do not submit an early application assuming you can make changes later. If staff deems that no changes are needed, you will be notified that your application will move on to the next phase.

NOTE: If the application is released back to you for corrections it will appear in your organizational profile in a "draft" state. Once you've made changes you will need to resubmit the application before the final deadline.

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. <u>A best practice would be for that person to also attend.</u>

NOTE: Staff may not recommend your grant for a site visit, even if this basic criteria was met, if staff feels you did not adequately make your case for funding consideration.

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 <u>and make it through the initial phases of the application and receive a site visit</u> are the organizations that appear on the Employee Giving list each year.

ANGC shares the list of organizations with their staff who can 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.

Why Are You Doing Youth Panels?

Why we feel it's important
We are growing future volunteers, philanthropists, fellow citizens who know and care about our community.

Accountability
The adult chair walks with the youth throughout the entire process and makes sure they understand the importance of their role.
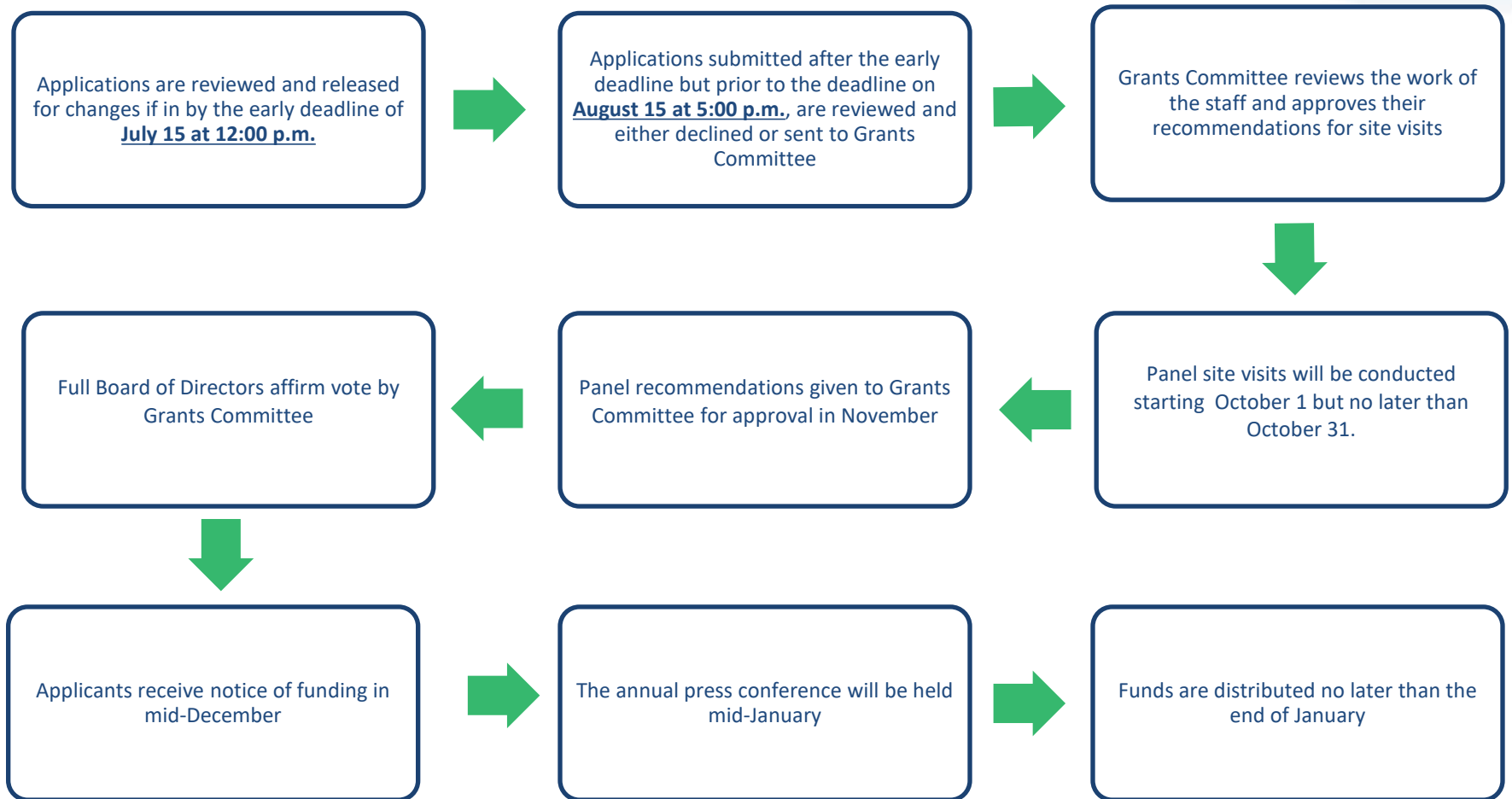
Knowledge
The youth volunteers go through a specialized training with their Panel Chair. They, like adult panels, read your applications, attend site visits and take part in a group discussion on why they recommend specific organizations for funding.

BEST PRACTICE: Treat your youth panel with the same respect you would show to any other panel.

If Funded, are there Reporting Requirements?

❖ If your grant application is for a summer-only program that is completed by the time the new school year begins, or is for a single item purchase, **AND** <u>you have met all your outcomes</u>, you will not be required to complete a mid-year report, you will only do a final report

❖ Stories Matter – when doing your reports we want to know lives were impacted. Tell us your stories and share ***quality*** photos

❖ All agreements and reports 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. If you are a current grantee, your final report must be complete and submitted prior to disbursement of new grant dollars (which may be before the noted deadline).

❖ Submit a mid-year report by July 15, 2026

❖ Submit a final year-end report by January 15, 2027

What is the Award Process?

Applications are reviewed and released for changes if in by the early deadline of **July 15 at 12:00 p.m.**

Applications submitted after the early deadline but prior to the deadline on **August 15 at 5:00 p.m.**, are reviewed and either declined or sent to Grants Committee

Grants Committee reviews the work of the staff and approves their recommendations for site visits

Full Board of Directors affirm vote by Grants Committee

Panel recommendations given to Grants Committee for approval in November

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

Applicants receive notice of funding in mid-December

The annual press conference will be held mid-January

Funds are distributed no later than the end of January

What are the Deadlines?

❖ Application opens on **July 1** and will be accepted through **August 15**

❖ **BEST PRACTICE:** The Early Deadline for review with feedback is **July 15 at 12:00 pm**

❖ **NEW:** 1st time applicants MUST submit by the Early Deadline

❖ The Final Deadline is **August 15 at 5:00 pm. No exceptions.**

2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS TIMELINE

LAST WEEK OF JUNE
Grant Seeker Sessions

JULY 1, 2025
Application opens

JULY 15, 2025 BY 12:00 PM ET
Early review application due

OCTOBER
Site visits

THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER
Applicants will be notified of advancement in the grant process

AUGUST 15, 2025 BY 5:00 PM ET
Application closes

MID-DECEMBER
Grant recipients notified

MID-JANUARY 2026
Grant recipients announced via press conferernce
(funds distributed)

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE CSRA · COMMUNITY GRANTS

Questions?

Community Foundation Grants Portal
What you need to know

❖ All communications about your application will be done through the Grants Portal and will come to the staff person and email address that you entered as the contact for that grant.

❖ 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.

❖ Applications for Augusta Bar Foundation, Mary Warren Fund, Sand Hills Garden Club, St. Joseph Foundation, Vinea Foundation, and Women in Philanthropy are all hosted on the Community Foundation's Grants Portal.

Questions?

The Community Foundation Program Team

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Using the Grants Portal

How Do I Get Started?

Logon Page

Welcome to the Community Foundation's Online Grant's 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@cfcsra.org to receive your username
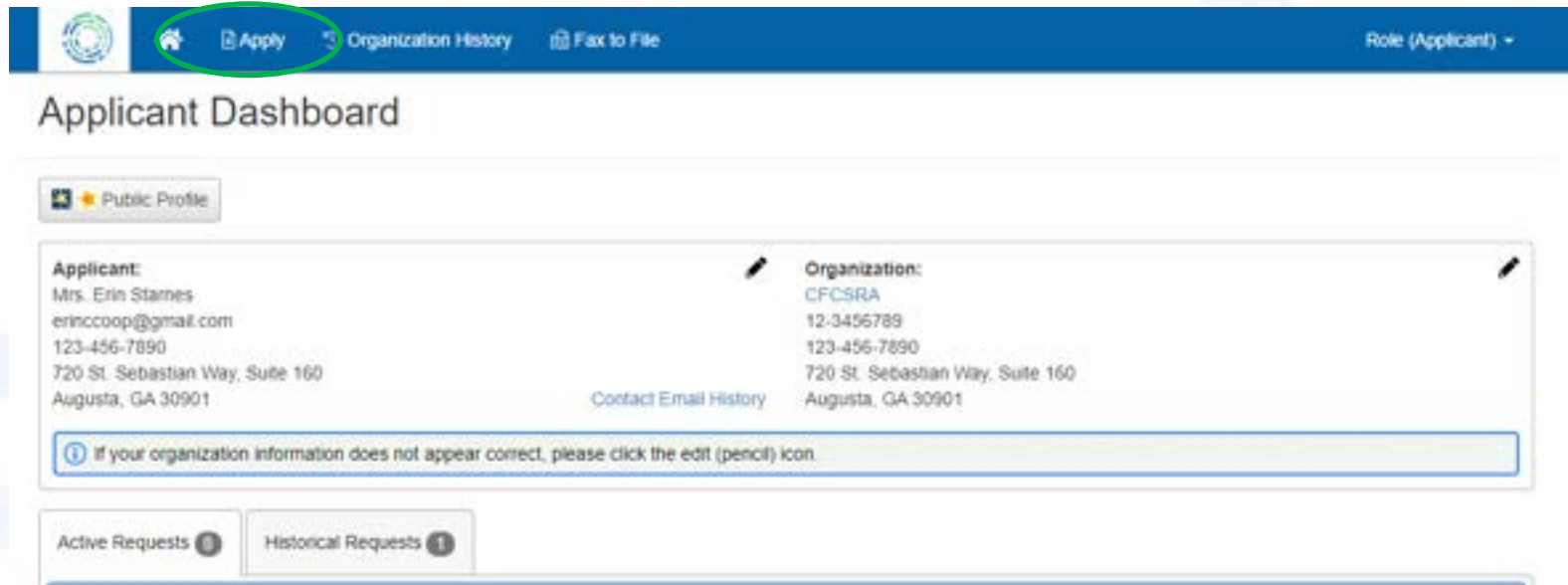
- Written Tutorial
- Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation
- Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding
- Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard
- Apply for a Grant - Applicant Overview Video

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.

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 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 **2026 Community Grants Program**

2025 Community Grants Application   Accepting Submissions from 07/01/2024 to 08/09/2024

Community Foundation 2025 Community Grants Program

The Community Foundation for the CSRA's Community Grants Program is made possible through the generosity of the Masters and individual donors. These grants are distributed through a highly competitive process designed to help nonprofit organizations meet needs within a six-county area. Through a careful review process, our staff, community volunteer panels, and board work together to award grants based on identified community issues and the relative merit of the proposals received.

👁 Preview   ↱ Send to GrantHub   ⓘ
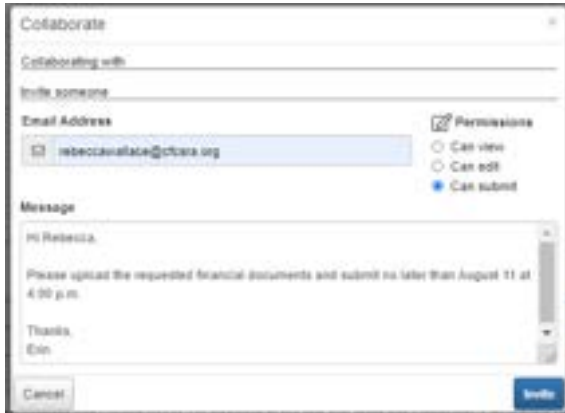
Need to Collaborate?

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

[Collaborator Tutorial](#)

Questions?