

2017 Community Grants Program Guidelines

The Community Grants program is the Foundation's signature grants program through which we honor more than 100 donors who created permanently endowed funds, entrusting the Foundation to support the issues that mattered to them, forever. Thanks to these generous philanthropists, we are able to invest more than \$1 million annually in quality programs that build a greater Miami.

The Foundation uses the [2016 Our Miami Report](#) in tandem with our Fundholders' intent to connect their philanthropic legacies with issues currently impacting our community's quality of life. The Report examines eight key issues and provides data, goals and a roadmap for addressing them, thereby improving Greater Miami's vitality. We view the Report as a dynamic, unifying platform to advance a collective vision for Miami.

Fund Priorities

The Community Grants Program gives priority to programs that have a measurable **impact**, led by nonprofits that value **continuous improvement** and a **collaborative spirit**. What do we mean?

Impact – Making a measurable difference supported by data

Continuous improvement – Reflecting on past experience to design more effective, enduring solutions

Collaborative spirit – Forging partnerships to use collective strengths and shared resources

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or projects with an established fiscal agent serving Miami-Dade County. While we will give preference to strengthening nonprofits based in Greater Miami, we also encourage partnerships with those outside Greater Miami to bring high-quality programs to our community. Current grantees must be in compliance with the terms of those awards to be considered.

Grant amounts and use

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, with an average award of \$15,000. The size is based on a program's alignment with our priorities, its scope and scale, overall financial needs and the nonprofit's capacity. Grants may be used to support costs directly related to implementing a program, such as salaries of program staff or consultants, outreach, marketing, supplies, materials, events, local travel, and reasonable indirect costs (overhead). We do not provide grants for memberships, fundraising events, annual campaigns, endowments, memorials or reducing deficits.

Number of requests

Nonprofits may submit one proposal. If a program is a collaborative effort between two or more nonprofits, partners must select one nonprofit to serve as lead applicant. Colleges and universities may submit up to three (3) requests from multiple departments, which we will consider competitively against each other and other applications.

Focus Areas

Below are the program's five Focus Areas based on Fundholder intent and informed by the 2016 Our Miami Report. We have included dollar amounts available in each area as well as hyperlinks to specific goals and data points within the Report – you are encouraged to **click the blue hyperlinks below** to explore the 2016 Our Miami Report. Nonprofits must select only one Focus Area that best aligns with their proposed program.

[Arts and Culture](#) - \$100,000

- increase access to and participation in the arts through outreach and engagement activities
- generate and sustain employment in the creative sector
- expand opportunities for arts education

[Healthy Lifestyles](#) - \$100,000

- promote heart health and prevent heart disease by encouraging healthy behaviors

[Housing and Affordability](#) - \$203,000

- prevent homelessness by increasing access to stable housing
- create pathways to economic stability for low-income or homeless residents
- provide low-income or homeless residents access to basic needs (food, shelter and clothing)

[Human Services Facilities](#) - \$84,000

- capital improvements - including but not limited to equipment, furniture and renovations - for human services facilities (eg: centers for child care, recreation, health care, residential facilities for drug treatment, homelessness, at-risk youth, domestic violence victims)

[Well-Being of Children and Youth](#) - \$595,000

- prepare disadvantaged, abused or neglected children and youth to thrive in school and in life
 - promote [educational](#) readiness and personal resiliency
 - increase access to [quality health care](#)
 - improve [safety](#) at home and in the community environment
- prepare young people to successfully make the transition from foster care to living independently

Application process

Applicants must first submit a pre-proposal via the Foundation's online grants application portal. We will invite a limited number of applicants to submit full proposals, which will request more detail on implementation, intended impact, and budget.

To access the online portal, please visit the [Grant Programs](#) page on our website and carefully review the registration instructions.

Pre-proposal narrative questions (Character counts include spaces)

- Please provide a brief summary of the proposed program. (350 characters)
- What community or systems-level issue does the program impact? Who and how many will it serve? (1,000 characters)
- What long-term difference are you seeking to make for individuals, communities, and/or systems? (1,000 characters)
- Describe your program implementation plan, including how its design builds on past experience to be even more effective. (1,500 characters)
- Who else are you working with? How will the partnership(s) deepen your impact? (1,000 characters)

My Miami Story (OPTIONAL)

As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, The Miami Foundation is eager to share stories from organizations building a greater Miami-Dade County. What achievements in your leadership, innovation and legacy of success make your organization particularly proud? Is your organization at a milestone or tipping point to become even more impactful? (1,250 characters)

[Read more](#) about the My Miami Story initiative.

Timeline

- Pre-proposals due: Thursday, February 16, 2017 by 4 p.m.
- Invitations to submit full proposals: Monday, March 27, 2017
- Full proposals due: Thursday, April 13, 2017 by 4 p.m.
- Estimated notification of grant awards: Wednesday, May 31, 2017
- Grant period: June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018

For questions, please contact

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