

## 2019 Community Grants | Issues, Priorities + Proposal Questions

Community Grants is The Miami Foundation's signature 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 their generosity, the Foundation awards more than \$1 million each year through the program.

The Foundation marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and identified three key themes that defined its past work and will guide its future: **Opportunity**, **Creativity** and **Resiliency**. The themes speak to the quality of life the Foundation strives to make a reality in Greater Miami. The funds available through the Community Grants Program have been aligned with these areas. **Opportunity** and **Creativity** include issues that have long been a part of Community Grants. **Resiliency** has been added through gifts from new donors and is based on current Foundation priorities.

**Opportunity** - Greater Miami continues to surge forward as a rapidly growing, global city. As our city prospers, we must develop pathways to opportunity so all residents can benefit equitably and thrive. Opportunity grants will focus on enabling residents who face greater barriers to success to develop their abilities and talents and use them to overcome hardships, achieve their potential and aspirations.

- **Well-being of Children and Youth | \$583,000** - Enable at-risk, abused or neglected youth to advance their personal development and resiliency; physical health; educational readiness and achievement from cradle-to-career; or ensure their safety at home and in the community
- **Affordability and Housing | \$215,000** - Enable households to gain financial stability and increase their earning potential; to prevent homelessness; provide safety-net basic needs (shelter, food and clothing); or expand affordable housing options in the community
- **Healthy Lifestyles | \$100,000** - Promote adoption of healthy behaviors that support heart health and prevent heart disease among residents of all ages

**Resiliency | \$200,000** - To be more resilient our community must both address threats to our physical environment and build civic engagement in shaping policy, planning for and recovering from adversity. Resiliency grants will focus on strengthening Greater Miami's ability to adapt to our unique environmental, growth and socio-economic challenges. The Foundation seeks efforts to achieve any of the following:

- Advance solution for threats to our physical environment - protecting our environmental resources, adapting to sea-level rise, or improving transportation options
- Increase public engagement in understanding and taking action on critical environmental, growth and socio-economic challenges we face
- Encourage residents to take ownership of a civic issue through organizing, advocacy, or other engagement tools

**Creativity | \$100,000** - Greater Miami is booming with arts and culture offerings that are shaping our identity and vitality. The Creativity grants focus on harnessing the power of arts and culture to build community. The Foundation is interested in efforts that **use arts and culture** to achieve any of the following:

- Revive community life or business activity in dormant areas of our city and its neighborhoods
- Engage people, who typically lack access, in experiencing the arts or developing their own artistic abilities
- Raise the profile of less visible cultures and social issues
- Foster connections and exchange among residents from diverse cultures and walks of life

**Selection Priorities:** Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate the strongest potential to achieve improvement in the lives of our residents and community, regardless of the theme or sub-issue they address.

- **Progress:** What and how much measurable improvement will result for people and communities reached, so they are not only better off now, but better prepared to succeed in the future.
- **Innovation:** We don't mean a new program. We mean how well the organization is using past and new knowledge to improve its approach to achieve better results.
- **Collaboration:** How well the organization is leveraging its relationships to effectively and efficiently reach and serve those it seeks to benefit.

**Pre-proposal narrative questions:** (Character counts include spaces)

1. **Purpose:** Describe in one sentence the purpose of this grant request. (350 characters)
2. **Core Challenge:** What is the core community need or opportunity to be addressed? (1,000 characters)
3. **Approach:** What does your organization plan to do to advance change on this issue? For who and how many? (1,250 characters)
4. **Innovation:** How will your organization use its experience and expertise to be innovative in your approach to this challenge? (1,000 characters)
5. **Partners:** Who are your organization's key partners and how will those partnerships maximize your efficiency and impact? (1,000 characters)
6. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Briefly explain if and how your organization advances diversity, equity, and inclusion in its practices at an organizational level (e.g., staff and board composition, values). (1,000 characters)

**Full proposal questions:** (Character counts include spaces)

1. Is this an existing program or a new program?
2. Describe the **details of your implementation plan** including: your goals; the main activities you will conduct, how often each will occur (*i.e. once/ daily/weekly/ monthly*), and how many people will be reached by each one; and a planned timeline. (2,000 characters)
3. Describe the **population(s) and neighborhood(s)** you will serve, key strategies to reach them and the locations where activities will take place. (1,000 characters)
4. Define the **outcomes and measures** you will use to know how, as a result of this project, the people or communities you served will be stronger and better equipped to succeed in the future. State up to 3 key outcomes and the corresponding measures. Example - number or % of *participants will achieve what result; as measured by what method*. (750 characters)
5. Describe your **capacity** to implement the program, including past experience and results for this program or a similar one, and the roles and qualifications of key staff or volunteers. (750 characters)
6. How will you **sustain the program** once this grant ends? (500 characters)

**Full proposal attachments** will include a Proposal Budget, organization operating budget, and Board of Directors list

**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. The average is \$15,000. Grant size will be based on how strongly a proposal advances the Foundation's priorities, its scale, budget, and the nonprofit's capacity to implement the program. Funds may be used for costs directly related to implementing a program, such as salaries of program staff or consultants, outreach, marketing, supplies, events or local travel. Proposals may include reasonable indirect costs. Funds cannot pay for memberships, fundraising events or campaigns, endowments, memorials or reducing deficits.

**Number of requests**

A nonprofit 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.

**Timeline**

- Pre-proposals due: Monday, February 11, 2019 by 4 p.m.
- Invitations to submit full proposals: Friday, March 22, 2019
- Full proposals due: Friday, April 12, 2019 by 4 p.m.
- Estimated notification of grant awards: Friday, May 31, 2019
- Grant period: June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020

**For questions, please contact**

Jordan De Leon, Programs Associate | Phone: 305.357.2088 | Email: [jdeleon@miamifoundation.org](mailto:jdeleon@miamifoundation.org)