

SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Where does the funding for the Safe Communities Program come from?

The Miami Foundation collaborates with more than 1,000 fundholders that seek to invest in the Greater Miami community. Among those, we manage two [field of interest funds](#) set up with the State Attorney's Office for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida: the Denise Moon Memorial Fund and the Safer and Healthier Communities Fund. Charitable contributions to both Funds come primarily from criminal defendants at the time of their sentencing or election to participate in [pre-trial diversion programs](#). These funds will both support the Safe Communities Program and together generated the \$600,000 we plan to award this year.

How is this program different than previous grant opportunities?

The Safe Communities Program aligns two previously separate grant programs, the Denise Moon Memorial Fund and the Safer and Healthier Communities (SASH) Program, through a shared purpose to ensure safety and opportunity for all Greater Miami residents. The Safe Communities Program maintains the focus areas of both previous grant programs. For more context, please review past partners of the [Denise Moon Memorial Fund here](#) and past partners of the [SASH Program here](#). All grants will continue to be selected and awarded by The Miami Foundation.

What organizations are eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants are all nonprofit organizations with an active 501(c)(3) status as a public charity or projects with an established fiscal sponsor with this status. The proposed work must primarily serve Miami-Dade County residents. Your nonprofit does not have to be headquartered in Miami-Dade County, but we encourage organizations based elsewhere to collaborate with local partners to be most effective.

How many proposals can I submit?

All eligible nonprofits may submit one (1) proposal. This proposal will be submitted to one (1) category. The only exceptions are colleges and universities, which may submit up to three proposals from different departments or colleges.

What types of work and funding will you consider?

We welcome a variety of approaches within the funding categories including direct services, community organizing, partnerships, and others as appropriate to your mission and vision.

All grants through the Safe Communities Program will be program support grants, meaning grant funds are to be used only for expenses directly related to implementing the proposed work as well as related overhead costs. Grants may not be used to supplant funds for existing positions and program activities.

APPLICATION AND GRANT DETAILS

How do I submit my proposal through the Submittable platform?

Please note that the process to submit proposals has changed. All proposals will now be submitted online through [the Foundation's Submittable platform \(themiamifoundation.submittable.com/submit\)](https://themiamifoundation.submittable.com/submit). Please select the "Safe Communities Program Proposal" form. Each applicant will sign in with an existing Submittable account or create a free account by providing a name and email address. **If you need technical support, please visit [Submittable's Help Center](#).**

The Submittable platform allows applicants to save their progress and return later, so you will not need to complete the proposal in one sitting.

How do I know which funding category my organization should apply to?

Please apply to the funding category that is most aligned with the goals of your proposed work. Proposals in each category will be considered equally. If a submitted proposal would be more competitive in a different category, the Foundation will recategorize it. This is also an excellent question to bring to office hours with the Foundation team – [please click here to sign up for office hours through Calendly](#).

Can I edit my proposal after submitting?

Yes, prior to the proposal due date, you can edit your proposal. Please contact Valerie Crum (vcrum@miamifoundation.org) to open your submitted proposal for editing in Submittable. After the proposal due date, any requested changes will be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the requested change and how far along the selection process has moved.

Why does the Foundation ask for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) information?

Equity is a core internal Foundation value. We strive to be always learning and improving our practices so they reflect equity. We will use the DEI information to advance our understanding of who we are and are not reaching, the effectiveness of our funding patterns, and the overall diversity of Greater Miami's nonprofit sector. We ask about your executive leader, senior leadership (director level and above) and board members since they tend to significantly influence the organization's direction. We hope it will also prompt nonprofits to examine how diversity, equity and inclusion are reflected in their organizations.

The proposal narrative also invites you to share how your work reflects a commitment to equity of people who have been historically marginalized. The DEI information will complement this by helping us understand who is leading your mission and direction. While we encourage you to provide this information to share valuable context about your work, we have provided an option to opt-out for this initial year of data collection.

What is the review and selection process?

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by Foundation staff based on viability to produce high-quality work, potential impact, operational strength, and alignment with program goals. The Foundation will consult an Advisory Committee that includes staff from the State Attorney's Office with subject matter expertise. The Foundation will then produce final decisions.

What is the grant period?

All grant funds are intended for use over a one-year grant period beginning January 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022.

If my organization receives a grant, what is the reporting process?

The Safe Communities Program will request two reports: an interim, 6-month "update" shared through a conversation with Foundation staff and a final written narrative report to be submitted at the end of the grant period. The Foundation shares reporting questions with partners at least one month in advance.

ELIGIBILITY

Does my organization need to be a certain size to apply?

No. We welcome applications from organizations of all sizes that meet our eligibility criteria and are working toward the goals identified in the program guidelines.

I'm a college or university. Can I apply?

Yes. Colleges and universities are eligible to apply to the Safe Communities Program. You may submit up to three proposals and each should be from a different department or college.

I'm a church or faith-based organization. Can I apply?

Yes. We welcome applications from faith-based organizations that provide programs, services, or activities for the broader community that align with our guidelines. However, we do not fund work focused on spreading a particular religious belief or that is limited to serving members of your organization.

Can I apply in partnership with another organization?

Yes! We encourage and welcome collaboration. The partners should select one nonprofit to serve as the lead applicant to the program. That organization may not submit a separate individual application. Any awarded funding will be paid out to the lead applicant organization to manage on behalf of the partners.

Can I apply for the same program I applied for, or was funded for, last year?

Yes! We encourage all previous applicants with aligned work and goals to apply to the Safe Communities Program, regardless of previous funding outcomes.

I have a current grant through another Foundation program. Can I still apply?

Yes. We do not limit nonprofits to receiving funding from just one program. You can apply to the Safe Communities Program as long as your other current grant(s) is in good standing – please check with your grant contact if you have any questions.

Does my program or approach need to be “new” or “existing” to apply?

No. The Safe Communities program will support both new and existing work, as it seeks to sustain, grow, or start community work that advances our shared goals.

How do I get in touch with the Foundation team if I have more questions?

All organizations considering a proposal, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to sign up for an optional 20-minute meeting with Foundation staff to learn more about the funding opportunity, share their work and impact, and discuss any questions they may have. [Click here to schedule via Calendly](#).

If you have unanswered questions after reviewing the guidelines, [program webpage](#), and this FAQ in full, please reach out to Valerie Crum, Program Officer, at vcrum@miamifoundation.org.

ABOUT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

The Miami Foundation builds the philanthropic, civic, and leadership backbone for Greater Miami. Since 1967, the Foundation has invested \$485 million to strengthen our community with partnerships and contributions from more than 1,000 fundholders and 35,000 donors. The Miami Foundation, which currently manages over \$350 million in assets, mobilizes donors, nonprofits, leaders, and locals to set a bold vision for our community's future and to invest in a stronger, more equitable, more resilient Greater Miami.

ABOUT THE SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Miami Foundation collaborates with over 1,000 fundholders that seek to invest in the Greater Miami community. Among those, we manage two [field of interest funds](#) set up with the State Attorney's Office for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida: the Denise Moon Memorial Fund and the Safer and Healthier Communities Fund. Beginning in 2021, these funds will both support the Safe Communities Program, a comprehensive open-call grant program that welcomes proposals from all eligible nonprofits serving Miami-Dade County.

The Miami Foundation acts as an external, independent party that maintains governance and management of the Funds including financial oversight, competitive grant procedures, and grant selection in alignment with the Funds' charitable purposes.

ABOUT THE FUNDS

The Denise Moon Memorial Fund

The Denise Moon Memorial Fund seeks to enhance and ensure community safety and social justice and promote opportunity, diversity, and civility. Grantmaking supports efforts that assist victims of crime, reduce the effect of crime on our community, promote opportunities for job training and placement, expand educational attainment and scholarships, and other efforts providing alternatives to criminal activity. Charitable contributions to the Fund come primarily from criminal defendants at the time of their sentencing or election to participate in [pre-trial diversion programs](#)

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle set up the Denise Moon Memorial Fund in 2009 in memory and honor of Denise M. Moon, who passed away in 2004. She worked for three decades as a pioneering leader and advocate for victim services in Greater Miami, a resolute supporter of the crime victims' movement, and left a strong legacy that continues today.



Denise Moon was hired in 1974 as the first social worker at the Jackson Memorial Hospital Rape Treatment Center/Crisis Intervention Clinic. She went on to serve as director of the SAO's Victim Assistance Unit and to help organize the Children's Center special unit dedicated to the forensic interviewing of child victims and witnesses, the first prosecutor-based domestic violence unit in Florida, and a pioneering misdemeanor domestic violence court.

She crafted a plan to finance the Victim Access Network, a comprehensive, automated victim notification and information system, served on the Board of the Florida Network of Victim Witness Services, including a term as President.

The Safer and Healthier Communities Fund

The Safer and Healthier Communities Fund seeks to support work that effectively curtails substance abuse and impaired driving as well as programs that assist survivors of human trafficking who require substance abuse treatment and counseling. Established in 2013, charitable contributions to the Fund come primarily from defendants charged with driving while under the influence (DUI) who elect to participate in the [Back-On-Track Diversion Program](#).