Community Grants 2023 Guidelines

Community Grants 2023 is open for proposals from Monday, January 23 until Friday, March 10. Learn more and apply here.

The Miami Foundation is grateful to invest in a stronger, more equitable Greater Miami through our Community Grants program. For over 50 years, we've been building endowment funds together with generous donors to create a permanent community resource that enables us to invest in Miami's most pressing needs and greatest opportunities.

We're listening to community and making major shifts to Community Grants in 2023!

The Miami Foundation is committed to trust-based philanthropy and advancing equity in Miami by:

- Investing in mission-building general operating support.
- Moving from annual investments to two-year multi-year grants.
- Reducing our two-phase proposal process to one phase.

Guided by input from community, our programs are constantly growing and evolving to serve residents throughout Miami-Dade County. *Special thanks to The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and Miami-Dade County for their deep partnership in this upcoming cycle!*

Please carefully review these guidelines, proposal questions, and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at the end of this packet. The guidelines explain the application process and how to connect with the Foundation team. These materials are also available in Spanish and Haitian Creole as an important way for nonprofits to engage diverse communities and shape proposal plans. Applications will be submitted in English.

We look forward to working and learning together.

Final Proposals are due Friday, March 10, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The Miami Foundation will make grants across the six categories described below. Category descriptions share our intentions but should not limit your potential approaches. Each applicant may submit only one application to only one category – please review the Eligibility section for limited exceptions.

- **Access to Health and Wellness |** Improve health outcomes by connecting people to quality health resources and education, reducing health disparities, or tackling contributing social determinants of health.

- **Economic Stability |** Improve residents' ability to meet local affordability challenges by providing access to opportunities that promote self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, financial independence, or personal stability.

- **Inclusion of People with Diverse Abilities |** Expand opportunities for people with disabilities to promote inclusion and equity across all aspects of community life. *This category is made possible by the Sofia Isabel Soto Fund for Inclusion of People with Diverse Abilities, in loving memory of Sofia Isabel, the daughter of The Miami Foundation's former President and CEO, Javier Alberto Soto.* See our summary of this funding category here.

- **Inspiring Arts and Culture |** Apply the power of arts and culture to strengthen community. Funding will catalyze work that champions the diversity of our community, expands access to arts and culture experiences for residents, and/or increases opportunities for artistic expression.

- **Sustainable Environment |** Develop a healthier, more resilient community by promoting environmental education and action on the restoration of Biscayne Bay (One Water, One Bay), preservation of the Everglades, protecting our communities from the effects of extreme heat, amplifying opportunities for water preservation or expanding awareness and action on the climate crisis and its local effects. *This category is made possible in deep partnership with Miami-Dade County and dedicated to the life and memory of Harvey Ruvin, a long time County employee with a passion for environmental education and sustainability*. See our summary of this funding category here.

- **Thriving Youth and Families |** Expand opportunities for families (from early childhood to elder-aged) to excel through high-quality education, personal development, and work to ensure their safety and stability.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Our priorities align with our values that we hope to model together with our nonprofit partners. Our priorities also guide application review, so we encourage you to review this section as you develop your proposal.

- **Advance equity of marginalized individuals and communities |** We prioritize support for organizations working directly with communities that face marginalization to tackle disparities around race, age, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, mixed-abilities, and other lines of difference.

- **Focus on progress |** We support organizations whose work is guided by clear goals for the growth of individuals and communities. All partners will have strong potential to create timely, impactful opportunities for individuals and communities to advance and thrive.

- **Build solutions |** We are prioritizing partners that pursue long-lasting change for individuals and communities. Organizations should highlight underlying barrier(s) or challenge(s) they currently address so our residents can pursue their greatest potential.

- **Collaborate with community |** We prioritize organizations with leadership representative and inclusive of the communities they serve, especially those intentionally gathering community feedback to guide their work. We believe in authentic community relationships and resident leadership.

- **Sustainability |** We support high-quality, viable work and prioritize investments that will strengthen organizations serving those most affected by marginalization and inequity. We exclusively welcome proposals that will use awarded funds to strengthen their capacity and expertise to serve our most underserved in Miami.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing with the IRS, religious organizations, and government entities that are serving Miami-Dade County. Projects with an established IRS 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are also eligible to apply.

- **Location |** The proposed work must serve Miami-Dade County residents. While we will give preference to local applicants, organizations do not have to be based in Greater Miami.

- **Compliance |** If you have a current grant through any Foundation program, you must be in compliance with that grant to apply. Please contact your grant manager with any questions.

- **Number of Applications |** Each applicant may submit only one application to only one category. Colleges, universities, and local governments may submit up to three applications, each from a different department or college. Additional exceptions for eligibility can be found in the FAQ section below.

- **Partnership Applications |** We encourage collaboration. For collaborations between two or more nonprofits, the partners should select one nonprofit to serve as the lead applicant. Any awarded funds are to be used for the sole purpose of the partnership's work, and the lead applicant will be responsible for managing the funds on behalf of the partners. The lead applicant organization may also submit a separate individual application for its own organization.

- **Grant Size |** Award sizes will be dependent on an organization's annual operating budget ranging from $30,000 to $70,000 for two years. Total awards, distributed over a two-year cycle, in accordance with an organization's annual operating budget are;
  - **Under $500K |** $40,000 Total Award
  - **Between $500K - $1M |** $50,000 Total Award
  - **Between $1M - $5M |** $60,000 Total Award
  - **Above $5M |** $70,000 Total Award
- **Type of Funding |** All awards will be made with the intention of serving as mission-building, general operating support. The Miami Foundation will not dictate to its grantees how the funds should be used. Our hope is that this funding will help our grantee partners become more sustainable.
  - All grants are considered general funding to be used at the nonprofit's discretion to support the proposed mission.

Approaches | We welcome proposals from organizations from across the spectrum including those providing direct services, advocacy, community organizing, partnerships, and other approaches as appropriate.

Restrictions | As required by IRS rules, grant funds may not be used: a) to carry on lobbying activities b) for partisan political activities c) to make a grant to any individual for travel, study or other similar purposes or to make a subgrant to any other organization or (d) to undertake any activity for any purpose other than the approved charitable and educational purposes.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications open for submission on Monday, January 23, 2023 and are due by Friday, March 10, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

Applicants should apply through The Foundation's Submittable platform (themiamifoundation.submittable.com), where they will select the "Community Grants 2023 Proposal." Sign in with an existing Submittable account or create a free account by providing a name and email address. The full proposal stage will include an option for organizations to share video and mixed media to share their work and community impact.

Community Grants is now a one-stage application process: **Full Proposals are welcomed from all qualifying grantees.** All of the application questions can be found on pages 4-5.

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Review committees of community members evaluate full proposals with support from internal staff. This ensures rich perspectives from people with personal and professional experiences related to each funding category. This year we have expanded our recruitment to ensure that we receive a diverse pool of applicants and community leaders. Since last year's cycle, we have elevated our Community Reviewer role to Community Advisors to increase their involvement in program design.

Grant reviews and ratings will be made in consultation with the advisors, ensuring that multiple considerations are made for final selections. Expanding the Community Advisor involvement in the selection process deepens the deliberation process and ensures that the Community Grants investment decisions remain community driven. We are dedicated to ensuring that the Community Grants process and program evolve further for community, by community, and with community.

CONNECT WITH US

Office Hours | All organizations considering an application, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to sign up for an optional 20-minute meeting with Foundation staff. These one-on-one meetings are your opportunity to learn more about the program, share your work and impact, and answer any questions you may have. Click here to schedule time with us via Calendly.

Informational Webinar | The Foundation team will offer an optional informational webinar for interested applicants on Thursday, February 2, at 1 p.m. Register by clicking here.

Proposal Writing Support | Additional support will be provided by our long-time partner, Radical Partners, to provide guidance and best practices for potential proposal submissions. Check back soon for updates on how to sign up.

Timeline |

- **Application Opens |** Monday, January 23, 2023 Click Here
- **Proposals Due |** Friday, March 10, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.
- **Estimated Notification of Grant Awards |** By Monday, June 12, 2023
- **Grant Period |** July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025

Program Contact | Vicky Checo, Manager of Community Engagement, vcheco@miamifoundation.org

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2023 APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Full Proposal Stage | All are welcome to submit a full proposal. The full proposal will equitably allow all eligible organizations to share the community need they are addressing and target population they are serving and why they are the most well-positioned group to do so. We understand that while your team may not be the best-equipped, we want to know how a Community Grants award will support the sustainability of your mission. We are investing in your organizational success! Tell us how a grant towards general operating funds will strengthen your capacity to elevate your impact.

Demographic Questions

- **Organization Profile |** Share basic contact information, budget and staff size, diversity, equity and inclusion information. Select a funding category and provide a short statement about the organization's mission and the purpose of the proposed work.

Full Proposal Narrative Questions

1. What is your organization's mission statement?
2. Describe the local community need your organization is addressing. (200 words)
3. Describe how your organization is well-positioned to implement your vision. You can include relevant partnerships, staff expertise, ongoing work. (300 words)
4. What does your organization do especially well? How do you know that you do it well? (350 words)
5. Describe your target population and the main outreach strategies to engage them. (150 words)
6. Tell us about your organization's core programming within your selected category. Please share up to three (3) stories of how your organization has successfully impacted your target population. (450 words)
7. How is your organization's work advancing equity for people and communities that have been historically marginalized? (150 words)
8. How does your organization intend to use the grant funds if awarded? (Multiple choice)
9. Describe in more detail your intended use of the grant funds and how it will support your organization's mission and sustainability. (150 words)

Full Proposal Required Attachments

- Current Annual Operating Budget
- Current Board of Directors list
- **Supplemental Information (Optional) |** Upload any additional information you would like to share about your work such as video, photos, news stories, or brief reports. We recommend sharing no more than five pages of content or five minutes of video.

COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM |

Where does the funding for Community Grants come from?

Since 1967, over 100 generous donors have created permanent endowment funds at The Miami Foundation. They entrusted us to support the issues they cared about, forever. Every year, we use a board-approved spending percentage from these funds to address Greater Miami's current needs while honoring the donors' intent. These endowed funds generate the majority of the available Community Grants funding.

The Foundation is also committed to growing the available funds through Community Grants. This year, we are partnering with a network of philanthropists to grow the amount of funds available for our community. Fundraising is ongoing, but the overall program will invest at least $6 million across the six funding categories. We will share updated category amounts throughout the program process. Special thanks to The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and Miami-Dade County for their deep partnership as part of this upcoming cycle!

What organizations are eligible to apply? Does location matter?

Eligible applicants are all 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing with the IRS, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving Miami Dade County. Projects with an established IRS 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are also eligible. The proposed work must serve Miami-Dade County residents. Your nonprofit itself does not have to be headquartered in Miami-Dade County, but we strongly encourage organizations based outside Greater Miami to collaborate with local partners to be most effective.

What types of work will you consider?

We welcome a variety of organizations whose work operates within the funding categories including direct services, community organizing, partnerships, and others as appropriate to your mission and vision. IRS restrictions on the use of 501(c)(3) funding still apply.

APPLICATION AND GRANT DETAILS |

How do I submit my application through the submittable platform?

All applications should be submitted online through the Foundation's Submittable platform (themiamifoundation.submittable.com). Please select the "Community Grants 2023 Proposal" form. Each applicant will sign in with an existing Submittable account or create a free account by providing a name and email address. This is different from a Spectrum account that you may have used before. 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 do not need to complete the application in one sitting. *Please make sure you are signed into your Submittable account so your information is saved properly. As you are drafting your application, we strongly recom-*

COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

mend saving a backup of your responses in a separate file to prevent technical issues.

What information will you be looking for?

We recommend reviewing the Community Grants program priorities while drafting your response, as reviewers will prioritize applications that align with our priorities. We also recommend signing up for office hours with the Foundation team to discuss your application and answer any questions you may have.

What should I know about the Inspiring Arts and Culture category?

The Inspiring Arts and Culture category values the role of the arts to strengthen Miami-Dade County's diversity and robust cultures. This category will prioritize opportunities to support new or expanded work, particularly to increase access and representation within the arts. *Our work in this category remains to be exploratory as we test how our funding can be most impactful, so we look forward to learning from our partners.*

What should I know about the updated Sustainable Environment category?

There is increased funding available this year thanks to a new partnership with Miami-Dade County. Funding will prioritize environmental education and be aligned with Miami-Dade County's priorities. Please review the category summary here for more information. These priorities include:

1. "One Water, One Bay" - water education, water pollution, water conservation, drinking water quality, and/or the preservation of Biscayne Bay and Florida Everglades
2. Climate Change – extreme heat, energy conservation, urban forestry
3. "Zero Waste" Education
4. Climate Change Adaption
5. Smart Growth and Sustainable Land Use

What age range does the Thriving Youth and Families category serve?

The Thriving Youth and Families category supports the entire family from youth to elderly populations. It will consider work serving infants and children through young adults in their mid-twenties as well as organizations serving the elderly.

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 and mission of your organization. If Miami Foundation staff believe a submitted application would be more competitive in a different category, the Foundation will work with the applicant to recategorize. 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.

COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Mission-Building Support?

We're committed to creating more flexibility for our nonprofit partners. Our funding is designed so that nonprofits can select the best use of funds to support their work and impact. Mission-Building Support is intended to advance organization-wide work and goals. Mission-building partners seek to become stronger community resources. These funds are often used for more general expenses, which may include support for operations or infrastructure to support organizational success. Proposed goals typically focus on organization-wide activities and outcomes.

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

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

Through the Community Grants application process, you will be asked to share how your proposed work seeks to advance equity with communities facing marginalization, and you can indicate the geographic locations where your work takes place. The DEI information will complement this by helping us understand who is leading the nonprofit's mission and direction. While we encourage you to provide this information, we have provided an option for Prefer Not to Answer.

What is the review and selection process?

Full proposals are evaluated by Community Advisors with support from internal staff. This ensures rich perspectives from people with personal and professional experiences related to each funding category. We will consider applications on their individual strength and alignment with the Community Grants priorities, as well as in the context of other submissions.

If awarded, will I get my full funding ask?

Our partners have shared that annual funding limited their impact, and we're listening: This year, we will fund two-year cycle grants with award sizes to scale in accordance with an organization's annual operating budget to support our partners with trust and stability.

Award sizes will be dependent on an organization's annual operating budget ranging from $30,000 to $70,000 for two years. Total awards, distributed over a two-year cycle, in accordance with an organization's annual operating budget are:

- Under $500K | $40,000 Total Award
- Between $500K - $1M | $50,000 Total Award
- Between $1M - $5M | $60,000 Total Award
- Above $5M | $70,000 Total Award

COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I be able to get feedback on my declined proposal?
Yes. After each application stage, organizations will have an opportunity to schedule time with Foundation staff to discuss proposal feedback.

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

Community Grants will request two reports: an interim, annual "update" after the first full year and a final written narrative report to be submitted at the end of the two-year 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 for a Community Grant. You may submit up to three applications, 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.

I'm a local government office. Can I apply?

Yes. Local government offices are eligible to apply to Community Grants. You may submit up to three applications, and each should be from a different department.

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. Any awarded funding will be paid out to the lead applicant organization to manage on behalf of the partners. The lead applicant may also submit an individual application.

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 Community Grants,

COMMUNITY GRANTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 Community Grants as long as your current grant(s) is in good standing – please contact your grant manager if you have any questions.

Does my program or approach need to be "new" to apply?

No. Community Grants will support both new and existing work to advance our shared goals for Greater Miami.

Does my program need to have other funding to apply?

No. Although we encourage you to share any other confirmed or potential funding sources to show the sustainability of your work, we recognize that not all work needs multiple funders. We do not require other funding or match funding.

My organization is a former recipient of Miami-Dade County's Environmental Education program and Miami Foundation's community grants, am I limited to just one application now that the two have merged?

No, former county grantees of the Environmental Education program are eligible to submit two separate applications if one is intended for the Sustainable Environment category. This exception is limited to past recipients of Miami-Dade County's Environmental Education grant only.

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

All organizations considering an application, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to sign up for an optional 20-minute Zoom meeting with Foundation staff to learn more about the grant opportunity, share your work and impact, and answer any questions you 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 Vicky Checo, Manager of Community Engagement, vcheco@miamifoundation.org

ABOUT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

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