

FOCUS AREA GRANT GUIDE

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF BROWARD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Special Grant Opportunity: Collaboration Opportunity 1**
- Focus Area Grants - What We Are Looking For 3**
 - Art & Culture 3**
 - Education & Youth Enrichment 4**
 - Healthy & Thriving Communities 5**
 - Social & Economic Mobility 6**
- Application Process 7**
- Frequently Asked Questions.10**
- Additional Information11**
- Contacts12**

NEW FOR THIS YEAR!

SPECIAL COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

As part of our commitment to strengthening impact through strategic partnerships, we are piloting a Collaborative Grant opportunity. This pilot requires a **minimum of two partner organizations**, with **one organization serving as the lead applicant** to apply for one of our four focus areas. Submit your proposal by the deadline indicated for the focus area under which you will apply.

Collaborating projects must share a common goal, budget, reporting structure, and focus area. **A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the partners is required** to outline roles and responsibilities.

The average grant award available through this collaboration opportunity is \$300,000 per year, with the possibility of renewal for up to two additional years. The grant amount for collaborative projects will be based on the scope and scale of the project. Collaborating partners will determine the allocation of the grant award that corresponds with each partner's roles and responsibilities.

THE COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROCESS INCLUDES MULTIPLE STEPS TO HELP FOSTER STRONG PROPOSALS, EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS, AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY:



1. **MANDATORY WEBINAR** – All applicants must attend a mandatory informational webinar. Upon completion, you will receive access to the collaborative application.



2. **APPLICATION PROCESS** – Applicants will select their focus area and submit their application according to the guidelines. Refer to the Focus Area deadline calendar to determine when to submit.



3. **OPTIONAL CLASS** – A class will be offered by the Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence ("Nonprofit Center") for collaborating partners to strengthen proposals. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



4. **Ongoing Support for Grantees** – Grantees of the collaborative pilot will receive coaching and consulting opportunities, which will be made available by the Nonprofit Center to support the implementation of successful collaboration.



5. **Collaborative Convenings** – All funded collaborations will be required to participate in 2-3 convenings to share learnings, progress, and outcomes with peers and the Foundation.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTMAKING FOCUS AREAS:

Community Impact Grantmaking Focus Areas:
Applications are accepted in these four (4)
Grantmaking Areas

Art & Culture

– to expand, elevate and sustain a vibrant arts community, and increase exposure to unique historical and cultural experiences for all residents.

Education & Youth Enrichment

– to help Broward’s youth gain critical skills to shape their lives and future careers through opportunities to access and attain academic achievement, explore and pursue career paths, and develop interpersonal and life skills.

Healthy & Thriving Communities

– to improve health equity and well-being in Broward by building a culture of health across all populations and communities, while also creating a resilient and sustainable environment.

Social & Economic Mobility

– to empower hardworking residents to move to financial stability and have a strong economic foundation to break the cycle of poverty and to experience a better quality of life.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Leading with Love, we are looking for projects that make a remarkable impact on residents in Broward, and this includes a variety of populations, namely youth, seniors, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ+, individuals living within distressed communities, and others in need.

FOCUS AREA: ART & CULTURE

To expand, elevate, and sustain a vibrant arts community, and increase exposure to unique historical and cultural experiences for all residents.

Proposals must create or expand opportunities for art and culture in Broward under the following categories:

Arts Expressions:

Art and culture are core to thriving communities and elevate the arts through live performances, murals, film, public art installations, song, dance, literary, photography, art education, and therapy.

Cultural Assets:

Sustain and grow art and culture assets in Broward and propel the arts to create a more enriching community.



OF NOTE: Individual artists will continue to be supported through our partnership with the Broward County Cultural Division. For more information on our partnership supporting individual artists' grants [CLICK HERE](#).

FOCUS AREA:

EDUCATION & YOUTH ENRICHMENT

To help Broward's youth gain critical skills to shape their lives and future careers through opportunities to access and attain academic achievement, explore and pursue career paths, and develop interpersonal and life skills. We seek to fund projects that equip at-risk and underserved youth with academic support services, using a lens of prevention to reduce foster care involvement and promote student success.

Proposals must address one or more of the following strategies to expand or create opportunities for youth within underserved communities, particularly those that are at risk of entering the foster care system:

Academic Support Programs:

High-quality programs that support academics and show trackable progress for the enrolled students in grades K-12 in reading, ELA, and/or math. These programs may include enrichment components to experience and explore new paths beyond the present learning environment, in conjunction with an academic program. This includes, but is not limited to, exposure to technology, entrepreneurship, the marine industry, and college tours.

College and Career Readiness Programs:

Opportunities for students to learn about post-secondary options, and/or to experience college immersion programs. Real-life work experience programs to improve and develop technical, soft, and life skills to increase youth employability.



FOCUS AREA:

HEALTHY & THRIVING COMMUNITIES

To improve the health and well-being of Broward's residents across all populations and communities. Also, we aim to create a resilient and sustainable environment.

Physical & Mental Health:

- Develop or expand programs that help reduce health disparities, improve health literacy, and promote health access—especially for people and communities where these issues exist at statistically higher levels.
- Offer physical wellness opportunities that provide structured, accessible physical activity programs that support overall wellness and help prevent or manage chronic illnesses (like diabetes, hypertension, HIV, etc.).
- Make mental health services available to populations that may not seek or have access to these services. Focus on strategies that reduce stigma, normalize self-care, and foster a supportive environment that encourages individuals to seek help.

Food and Nutrition:

- Improve access to healthy food for people facing food insecurity or living in food deserts by expanding or enhancing an established food bank operation, mobile and on-site meal distribution. Assist individuals in navigating available food assistance through SNAP or other resources as needed.
- Provide local food sourcing through community gardens, food cooperatives, and/or farmers' markets to offer fresh produce and healthy foods.
- Support for congregate meals, prepared meals (soup kitchens or home meal delivery service), emergency "pop-up" kitchens or markets.
- Provide food stipends that are part of a holistic service program that helps stabilize individuals and families.
- Support for Food is Medicine programs to provide medically tailored meals and nutrition education for people with severe illness and health complications to improve their health outcomes.

- Implement strategies to reduce food waste by recovering and distributing nutritious, shelf-stable foods that would otherwise be discarded. (i.e. from grocery stores)
- Develop systems-level interventions—such as policy reform, safety-net improvements, technology, and public-private partnerships—to reduce food insecurity and lessen dependence on external food assistance

Environmental Education and Sustainability:

- Promote environmental health through programs and interventions that reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and create healthier, more resilient communities—especially in areas most affected by environmental risks.
- Support climate resilience programs that help communities prepare for and adapt to challenges like flooding, extreme heat, and severe storms.
- Raise public awareness, engage residents in local solutions, and advocate for changes that strengthen community preparedness and protect the environment.



FOCUS AREA:

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

To empower low-income residents to achieve financial stability and build a strong economic foundation by helping them secure a job or transition to better-paying employment through support services, skills training, and certification programs—ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty, increasing their earning potential, and shifting them into a new tax bracket to improve their overall quality of life.

Proposals must address one or more of the following to expand or create opportunities:

Talent Pipeline:

Strengthen the local talent pipeline by reducing the skills gap through workforce training and development, ensuring individuals are employable. Equip individuals with tools, knowledge, and credentials that increase their income, provide upward mobility, and build lasting financial stability. These career pathways may include but are not limited to tech, AI, trades, GED, plumbing, HVAC, electric, etc.

Remove Barriers:

Break through barriers like transportation, childcare, housing stability, and access to technology — all essential for upward mobility. Create equitable access to opportunity through possible short-term financial assistance, which will support and address the full spectrum of needs that impact employability and job retention.



Future Financial Success:

Support financial literacy, savings programs, investment readiness, and obtain and/or sustain entrepreneurship endeavors to build long-term financial independence. Empower individuals not just to get a job, but to achieve sustainable economic well-being and long-term independence.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are accepted only through our Grants Portal. Create your account as a first step. **Click HERE to get started.**

For additional information or instruction, **click HERE** to watch our tutorial video on setting up your account.

If you receive a system warning indicating that your organization may already exist in our records, do not create a new account. Instead, please contact us at **grants@cfbroward.org** for assistance.

AI USE IN GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Community Foundation of Broward understands that the thoughtful use of AI tools may enhance the development of grant applications. These tools can improve clarity, organization, and efficiency in proposal writing.

However, applicants are strongly advised to ensure that all proposed strategies, outcomes, and impacts genuinely reflect their organization's mission, capacity, and a clear understanding of Broward County's needs. Proposals should remain grounded in the applicant's authentic voice, experience, and ability to deliver.

Applicants may be asked to elaborate on their responses during the inquiry or interview stages, especially regarding implementation and expected results.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Overall eligibility requirements for all grants

New Application Requirement: *Candid Gold Seal of Transparency* - To assist our nonprofit community in the areas of transparency, accountability, and governance, the Community Foundation of Broward will require nonprofit organizations to acquire a **Gold Seal of Transparency** before applying.

Nonprofit must:

- Obtain a Candid Gold Seal of Transparency (Click HERE to learn more.)
- Operate for at least two years in Broward County and actively serve its residents
- Apply with a qualified 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor if not a 501(c)(3); the fiscal sponsor must hold 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and a Candid Gold Seal of Transparency
- Demonstrate financial stability
- Register with SunBiz (Florida Division of Corporations) and maintain an active board of directors (minimum of three members with evidence of quorum in meeting minutes)

Of note: City or county agencies may be eligible to apply if their projects demonstrate charitable intent within Broward County.

WHO CAN APPLY

Nonprofit Organizations that meet the requirements listed above are eligible to apply, including Small and Emerging nonprofits – defined as organizations with budgets of \$150,000 or under.

HOW MUCH CAN BE REQUESTED/BUDGET

- Maximum grant requests may not exceed \$150,000 per year
- **No organization may apply for more than 50%** of its most recent annual operating budget.
- The Foundation supports multi-year projects (up to 3 years)
- Minutes documenting your most recent board-approved organizational budget must be included in your application.

Note: Organizations new to the Foundation or applying for a Focus Area grant for the first time may only apply for a one-year grant.

HOW TO APPLY

1

Determine alignment

Review the descriptions of our Focus Areas to learn more about the unique characteristics and priorities for each area. Ensure your application's goals, objectives, and outcomes, will align with one of the four (4) Focus Areas before starting your application.

Community Foundation of Broward's Focus Area grants are to support Broward County Residents only.

2

Grant portal

Login to your organization's account and complete the eligibility quiz. After you've passed the quiz, click the "APPLY" button and review the application and the requirements.

Review the application and determine whether your nonprofit's mission and/or projects align with the Community Foundation's Focus Areas. Make sure it's a strong fit – this will increase the likelihood of a successful application.

3

Review the application and requirements

Determine how you will evaluate results and track successful outcomes.

4

Complete the online application.

Ensure that the budget is thoroughly completed, including other funding sources, in-kind contributions, etc., on Tab 2 of the budget template.

Upload all required documents in the appropriate formats (e.g., PDF, Excel)

Pay attention to character limits

Keep program names brief to meet character limits. Do NOT include your organization's name or abbreviation in the project title.

5

Deadlines

Education & Youth Enrichment / Social & Economic Mobility

- **Submission Deadline #1: September 15, 2025**
- **Submission Deadline #2: January 31, 2026**

Arts & Culture / Healthy & Thriving Communities

- **Submission Deadline #1: October 15, 2025**
- **Submission Deadline #2: March 1, 2026**

6

Application review

Applications will first be reviewed by the Community Foundation of Broward (CFB) team, followed by an evaluation by our community grants committee. Please note that the CFB team may request additional information, and applicants may be invited to participate in a virtual interview as part of the review process.

7

Final Decisions

A final decision about your proposal is made according to the timeline below. Approximately, it will take **3 - 4 months to hear back from our team** after you submit your application. The Foundation's Board of Directors' approval is necessary for all grant recommendations. *Please note: We kindly ask that you do not contact Foundation staff for status updates during the review process, as all applicants will be notified once final decisions are made.*

Your organization may receive full or partial funding, or we may decline to fund your project. You will receive notification of the decision via email from our grant's portal, and you can also log in to check the status of your application.

If your organization is not selected for funding, you may request a 15-minute virtual meeting to ask questions about your application. Please reach out to the Director of Community Impact of the Focus Area under which you applied.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

My organization does not have 501(c)(3) status, but my project has charitable intent. Can I still apply for funding?

Yes. See below for organizations that can apply without a 501(c)(3) status:

- Faith-based organizations with a charitable program
- Organizations proposing a charitable project, has a nonprofit status other than a 501(c)(3), AND has a fiscal sponsor
- Hospital systems
- Educational institutions
- Government, State, County, and City entities

If you are still unsure whether you can apply, please contact the Foundation at grants@cfbroward.org.

What is a Fiscal Sponsor?

A fiscal sponsor is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects. A fiscal sponsor must provide a letter of understanding that outlines their role and responsibilities.

Can individuals apply for a grant?

No. If you need to connect resources in our community, reach out to 211 Broward for assistance. If you are an artist, contact the Broward County Cultural Division for more information on our partnership for individual artists' grants.

Is there anything you will not support?

- Fundraising event sponsorships, such as galas and golf tournaments.
- Construction of brand-new buildings
- Grants to individuals for memberships, annual campaigns, endowments, memorials, or reducing deficits.
- Organizations that, in their constitution or practice, discriminate against a person or group based on religious belief, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, political affiliation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or age.

Will a volunteer-based organization be penalized?

No, we do not penalize if volunteers staff an organization.

If my organization currently has a designated, donor-advised grant or an agency fund with the Foundation, can we submit a focus area application?

Yes.

My organization does programming in Broward with headquarters elsewhere. Are we still eligible?

Yes. Your organization can still apply for a grant as long as the program goals will directly benefit Broward County residents, and you have had two (2) years of service in Broward County.

Do you give preference to previously funded applicants?

No. Each application is evaluated on its individual quality.

FOCUS AREAS

I'm not sure which focus area to choose, as my project fits into more than one.

You should apply under the focus area in which the outcomes/impact of your project align best with the "What Are We Looking For" section of the focus area.

Does the Foundation still support animal welfare?

Absolutely! If you think you have a project the Foundation can support, email grants@cfbroward.org with your one page proposal of your project. Note that most of our available funding is for spaying/neutering.

Does the Foundation still support cancer research?

Yes, by invitation only.

FUNDING

Do you have multi-year funding opportunities?

Yes. However, if your organization is new to the Foundation or has not been supported in the past 10 years, your organization will be considered a new applicant and will be eligible for one year of funding.

My organization is applying for multi-year funding. Does the funding amount have to be the same each year?

No, the budget can be divided based on each year's specific needs up to \$150,000, but no more than 50% of your organization's annual operating budget.

FUNDING CYCLE

How many applicants will receive a grant per cycle review?

There is no set number of applicants per review cycle. Grant support is dependent on the availability of funding.

How many times can my organization apply per year?

If your organization has a current focus area grant, contact the director over your focus area of interest to determine the best time to re-apply.

If you have submitted an application that was not supported, you will need to meet with the director over the focus area to which you applied before submitting a new application to determine if your proposal aligns with the Foundation's goals.

Can my organization apply for more than one focus area?

No. An organization can only submit one application for review at a time.

Is there a separate application for Small and Emerging Nonprofits?

All applicants, including small nonprofits, will apply under a focus area. Nonprofit organizations with an annual operating budget of or under \$150,000 will be reviewed alongside same-sized organizations to ensure an equitable selection of projects that align with the Foundation's goals.

ADDITIONAL GRANT SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION

Technical Assistance Sessions/Tutorials

We will be providing in-person and virtual (live and recorded) technical assistance workshops and videos that will provide a walkthrough of the application and other useful information to navigate our grantmaking process. Check the grants portal for updates.

Virtual Office Hours

Join us online with other prospective applicants serving Broward to ask questions in a group setting about the application process, technical assistance, project ideas, and any other questions that will help applicants successfully complete an application. Registration closes at 5:00 PM the previous day. Click [HERE](#) to register for the specific day you would like to join us.

Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence Training

The Nonprofit Center provides classes, workshops, and training sessions along with opportunities to attend convenings, peer roundtables, and other issues-driven events that help you learn, forge collaborations, and gain insights that grow your skills and amplify your impact. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

All of our sessions are open to everyone, but smaller nonprofits and organizations that have never applied for funding before are highly encouraged to participate in one or more of the above sessions with the Foundation.

CONTACTS:

Grant Portal, Application, and Eligibility Questions

Noel Mitchell

Grants Administration Manager

nmitchell@cfbroward.org

Nonprofit Training Resources and Support

Cathy Brown

Director, Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Courtney Allshouse

Coordinator, Community Impact

NonprofitCenter@cfbroward.org

FOCUS AREAS:

Art & Culture and Education & Youth Enrichment

Healthy & Thriving Communities and

Social & Economic Mobility

Cassandra Burrell

Director, Community Impact

cburrell@cfbroward.org



910 East Las Olas Boulevard | Suite 200

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

954.761.9503 | cfbroward.org

We were the first community foundation in Florida and remain among an elite group of community foundations nationwide to be confirmed in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

Publication Date: July 2025

