

FOCUS AREA GRANT GUIDE

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF BROWARD

LEAD with
LOVE

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FOCUS AREAS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Community Foundation of Broward has a myriad of grant opportunities to strengthen the impact of nonprofit organizations' critical missions. Our grantmaking program is robust and addresses critical issues that support effective and proven solutions. We offer grants in four Community Foundation Focus Areas: Social & Economic Mobility, Art & Culture, Education & Youth Enrichment, and Healthy & Thriving Communities.

During the past three years, we have targeted support within our Focus Areas for several key issues where we are helping drive impact. This includes support for:

- Boosting early literacy proficiency and addressing the gender achievement gap in local schools.
- Empowering residents with special needs through continuing education, workforce training and independent living skills.
- Helping young people and their families overcome homelessness through a collaboration with Broward County Public Schools that helps people navigate support services and tracks outcomes.

- Creating "Health and Resource Hubs" that offer residents community-based opportunities to address pressing challenges and long-term needs. This includes Pompano RYZE, a new Florida Children's Initiative collaboration to improve the lives of children and families in Pompano's Blanche Ely community.

Our Grants Guide includes more information about the types of grantmaking opportunities we are seeking to support in our four Focus Areas. It explains how to use our website to apply for grants. The Grants Guide also highlights the opportunity for nonprofits to form innovative collaborations and apply for Community Foundation support.

We hope you will use our Grants Guide to craft proposals to make a lasting difference in one or more of our Focus Areas. Grants from the Community Foundation support innovative opportunities to transform lives, champion equity and shape a brighter future for Broward. It's all made possible by the dedicated philanthropists who partner with us to create charitable funds that fuel ongoing support for uplifting our community.

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

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 projects.

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:

Elevate the arts through live performances, murals, film, public art installations, song, dance, literary, photography, art education, and therapy.

- Activities, performances, productions
- Artist- and audience-centered
- Short term - Programmatic impact
- Supports what art is made

Cultural Assets:

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

Additional details include:

- Growth and preservation of Institutions, spaces, collections, cultural heritage
- Focused on cultural organizations, venues and community resources
- Supports the creation and presentation of art.

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** or scan.



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. Priority projects will serve at-risk and underserved youth, using a lens of prevention to reduce such things as: foster care involvement, and juvenile delinquency to promote student success.

Proposals will address one or both of the following project areas:

Academic Support Projects may fall into one of these specific areas and must use culturally responsive instruction and practices that promote student engagement, inclusion, and a sense of belonging.

Decrease gender achievement disparities among student populations who are falling the most behind, particularly Black and Hispanic males by providing academic support to through projects that do the following:

- Use evidence-based interventions for K-12 designed for the described population that include mentoring, tutoring, and family engagement strategies providing holistic support to the student
- Improve outcomes in reading, ELA, mathematics, and other core academic subjects.
- Demonstrate improved student engagement, attendance, grade-level proficiency, and behavior

Improve Early Literacy Proficiency for young learners by providing structured instructional activities to improve the literacy among young learners to demonstrate grade level performance or above on the English Language Arts (ELA) assessment. The objective is for students entering kindergarten and in the primary grades to be reading proficient by 3rd grade. Students identified reading below grade level in grades 4-6 may be included in remediation programs to improve reading proficiency.

CLICK HERE to see a report about gender achievement disparities.



NOTE: The Foundation aligns with the Broward County Public School's district plan to improve student outcomes. **CLICK HERE** to see the district's plan.



- **Reduce achievement disparities** among the student populations furthest behind, across core success indicators. For example, closing gaps in reading and math proficiency, chronic absenteeism rates, disciplinary referrals, and on-time graduation.
- **Expand equitable access to opportunity** for historically underserved students by ensuring fair representation in advanced coursework, gifted and talented programs, and supportive, culturally affirming learning environments where students feel a sense of belonging.
- **Set measurable student success goals** for specific student groups and track progress over time, such as targets to reduce discipline or absenteeism gaps between Black and Hispanic male students and their peers, with year-over-year data showing sustained improvement.

College and Career Readiness Projects:

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

- **Build transferable employability skills**, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving, professionalism, leadership, time management, and digital literacy, through structured activities, coaching, and hands-on practice.
- **Provide exposure to high-demand industries and career pathways**, such as technology, healthcare, skilled trades, marine industries, business and entrepreneurship, and other emerging fields, helping youth explore workforce opportunities and understand how those pathways connect to future employment.
- **Help navigate post-secondary education options**, including college tours, application support, and financial aid awareness, as part of a broader strategy to prepare youth for successful transitions into college, training, or other post-secondary transitions.



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 projects 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.

Environmental Education and Sustainability:

- Promote environmental health through projects 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 projects 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:

Workforce & Training Development:

Strengthen the local talent pipeline by increasing skills and education to ensure individuals are employable. Equip them 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.

Help Youth and Families Overcome Homelessness:

Remove barriers to house students identified as homeless by the Broward County Public Schools, providing navigation support and resources and tracking outcomes so they don't fall between the cracks. Create access to opportunity through creating a network of resources to address the full spectrum of needs that improve upward mobility and housing stability.



SINGLE & JOINT APPLICATIONS

TWO UNIQUE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS

1. TRADITIONAL SINGLE APPLICANT PROJECTS:

One organization may apply for up to \$200,000 in funding under one of the Foundation's four focus areas.

2. JOINT APPLICANT PROJECTS – SUPPORT FOR COLLABORATIONS:

As part of our commitment to maximize community impact through strategic partnerships, we are piloting a Collaborative Grant opportunity for projects involving at least two partner organizations, with one serving as the lead applicant. Collaborative projects must align with one of the Foundation's focus areas and demonstrate a shared goal, budget, reporting structure, and clearly defined partner roles documented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Awards will average approximately \$400,000 annually, with the potential for renewal for up to two additional years based on performance and available funding. 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.

WHO CAN APPLY

Nonprofit Organizations that meet the requirements listed below are eligible to apply. We also encourage applications from small and emerging nonprofits, defined as organizations with budgets of \$150,000 or under.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY: REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE AND JOINT GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Key Requirement:** Nonprofits must have a Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid to apply for Community Foundation grants. Achieving the Gold Seal before applying for a grant assists our nonprofit community in the areas of transparency, accountability, and governance. **Click [HERE](#)** or scan to learn more.
- You must have operated in Broward County for at least three years, actively serving Broward County residents, and be able to demonstrate measurable outcomes and impact for those residents.
- Your organization must be registered with SunBiz (Florida Division of Corporations) and maintain an active board of directors (minimum of three members with evidence of quorum in meeting minutes)
- You must demonstrate financial stability
- If your organization is not a 501(c)(3), you must apply with a qualified 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor must hold 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and a Candid Gold Seal of Transparency
- Your proposals must be submitted by the designated grant deadline. Deadlines are listed on page 10.



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

APPLICATION PROCESS

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



For additional information or instruction, **click HERE or scan** 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.

HOW MUCH CAN BE REQUESTED/BUDGET

- Single Applicant Maximum grant requests may not exceed \$200k per year.
- Joint applicant grant requests average about **\$400k**.
- **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.

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.

CLICK HERE to view a sample of the core questions asked for each focus area.



NOTE: This document is not the application and should not be submitted to the foundation for review.

4

Complete the online application.

Ensure that the project 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: Oct. 15, 2026

Arts & Culture / Healthy & Thriving Communities

Submission Deadline: Dec. 15, 2026

Joint Application (All Focus Areas)

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2027

6

Application review

Applications will first be reviewed by the Community Foundation of Broward team, followed by an evaluation by our community grants committee. Please note that the Community Foundation 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 & Waiting Period

It will take approximately **3 - 4 months to hear back from our team** regarding a final decision about your proposal after you submit your application. 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.

After the review process is completed, 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 within 14 business days, and you can also log in to check the status of your application in February, April and June, following board approvals for the three grant deadlines listed under box 5 above.

For organizations not selected for funding, we will notify your primary contact via the GLM system. They are responsible for sharing any notices from the system to the appropriate staff. That notice will detail the option of a 15-minute virtual meeting to ask questions about your application and the contact of the Director of Community Impact of the Focus Area under which you applied. You will have 30 days from when the email is sent out to reach out to your director to schedule the 15-minute feedback call. **Please wait to receive that invitation before reaching out to our office.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

My organization does not have 501c (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.

Are volunteer-led organizations eligible to apply?

Yes. Volunteer-led organizations can apply for funding.

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 \$200,000, 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

Focus Area Grant 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** or scan to register for the specific day you would like to join us. Scroll to see the specific sessions.



Training at the Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence

The Community Foundation's Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence 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 about the Nonprofit Center.



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.



**BROWARD CENTER
FOR NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of BROWARD

The Community Foundation's Broward Center for Nonprofit Excellence is a go-to resource for nonprofit professionals and volunteers to get valuable training, access tools and forge partnerships to elevate the impact of their critical work in our community.

Our four-year-old "Nonprofit Center" has served 7,000+ nonprofit representatives with in-person services such as training courses, workshops, one-on-one coaching, community convenings, off-site presentations and more. In addition, more than 26,000 visitors to the Nonprofit Center website have benefited from web-based training as well as our online resource library, vendor directory, nonprofits directory, consultant directory and other easy-to-access tools.

Already, more than 1,100 nonprofits have benefited from the Nonprofit Center's many resources, which help grow leadership skills, improve organizational effectiveness and bolster sustainability. Please visit the Community Foundation's website to learn more about the many ways our Nonprofit Center can help amplify your impact.



CONTACTS:

Grant Portal, Application, and Eligibility Questions

954.761.9503

grants@cfbroward.org

Nonprofit Training Resources and Support

Courtney Allshouse

Coordinator, Community Impact

954.761.9503

NonprofitCenter@cfbroward.org

FOCUS AREAS:

**Healthy & Thriving Communities and
Social & Economic Mobility**

Cassandra Burrell

Director, Community Impact

954.761.9503

info@cfbroward.org

**Art & Culture and
Education & Youth Enrichment**

Randy Feliciano

Director, Community Impact

954.761.9503

info@cfbroward.org



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF BROWARD



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.

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