

Grant FAQs

General information to know about:

- Before applying, please check that your request fits with the grant cycle's funding priorities.
- Please make sure your application is clear and straightforward.
- It is important that the *budget* you submit is easy to understand. A complete budget for the program, along with a clear indication of how CFSC would fit into that budget, would be ideal.
- We do not fund projects retroactively or reimburse funds that have already been spent within the organization.
- We do not fund capital campaigns through the Capacity Building or Programmatic cycles.
- We do not fund travel expenses, facility rentals, or food costs.
- If you have an outstanding grant report, we ask that you please have it submitted before applying for another grant.

Are there restrictions for organizations that have previously received funding in relation to applying for another grant?

- Organizations are not eligible to apply if they have received a grant from the same cycle they are applying for within the last 365 days. (For example, if you have received a Programmatic grant in the last 365 days, you should not apply for another Programmatic grant yet but can apply for another *cycle* such as capacity building).

Can we apply for and receive grants from all cycles? At the same time?

- Applying to or receiving funds through one grant cycle does not disqualify you from the other cycles. However, we do ask that you prioritize your requests and only submit one at a time so we can assess the request that is the most important to your organization first.
- Also, should you receive funding, that does get brought into our committee conversation during future cycles. It doesn't disqualify your organization, but it does come into the conversation where funding decisions are made. That's another reason that it's important to prioritize our requests.

Should I set up a time to discuss a project with you before applying?

- If you have a new program idea or initiative you would like the Community Foundation to know more about, you may click this [link](#) to fill out a brief form detailing your concept. Your Community Impact contact will follow up within two weeks to discuss
- Please review the *funding priorities* for the current grant cycles to determine if your project aligns with the criteria for your application.

How do I know if my project is a good fit for the grant cycle?

These are the priorities for our grant cycles. If your project falls within these areas, it is likely a good fit:

- **Animal Welfare:** This program focuses on supporting organizations in the animal welfare sector in the following ways:
 - Funding emergency veterinary treatment for urgent cases or extraordinary medical needs.
 - Supporting large equipment purchases, such as X-ray machines, for a clinic or surgical equipment.

- **Capacity Building Grants:** Grants focus on increasing an organization's capacity in the following ways:
 - Data Gathering, Evaluation, and Learning: tools, technology, and training to assist with monitoring, evaluation, and collection of data
 - Leadership: board development, professional development, advocacy or strategic planning
 - Assessment, Planning, Evaluation: strategic planning and impact measurement or program tracking
 - Emergency Needs: unexpected expenses for which an organization was unable to prepare
 - Fundraising: purchasing a donor database or other CRM tool, hiring a fundraising consultant, or developing online giving
- **Programmatic Grants:** This grant program focuses on organizations that promote and implement goals toward economic stability and equity. Priority is given to projects that remove barriers to health care, education, or human services to populations who face systemic barriers in our community.
- **Parent Leadership:** This grant program focuses on organizations that promote and implement parent expertise; this might look like one of the following:
 - Adding a parent to the Board of Directors to guide the organization's strategic vision
 - Creating a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to receive strategic feedback
 - Offering intentional leadership development workshops to caregivers
 - Gathering caregiver feedback on program development and implementation
 - Incorporating parent/family experiences into staff trainings
 - Other avenues that allow organizations to learn directly from the community they serve to improve their services and outcomes

Is there a limit to how much money I can request through a grant cycle?

- There is not a formal limit; however, the typical grant award for Capacity Building Grants is \$5,000 to \$15,000, Programmatic Grants: \$10,000 - \$30,000 and Parent Leadership grants: \$2,500 - \$7,500. Support can vary depending on need and alignment with CFSC initiatives.

Do staff positions fall under your definition of Capacity Building in the smaller grant cycle?

- Staffing needs tend not to be the best fit in that cycle because grants are a one-time, up to \$15,000 commitment.
- Sometimes we can support staff if the funding is clearly identified as gap funding (i.e. we have a salary budgeted in our next fiscal year, but need two months of salary now to bring this person on before the next fiscal year starts).
- The Capacity Building cycle a better fit for consultants, interns, or other short-term financial commitments. Please reach out if you have any questions on this topic.

What if my Giving Partner profile isn't updated and I'm panicking because there is a grant deadline approaching?

- Please don't panic. We work closely with our Giving Partner Team. If we can see that you've been working on your profile (even if you're missing one or two things) and that you've been waiting on our review, we will advance your application into the grant cycle.
- We WILL ask that your profile be fully updated before we send a grant check, should a grant be awarded.