



2021 Enriching Communities Funding Guidelines

The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation was established on the ideals of interconnectedness, of neighbor helping neighbor and of valuing the lives of others. We must invest in one another, now more than ever, to pursue a healthy, just and equitable region for all of our residents.

The Enriching Communities grant program supports a wide range of activities that keep our community vibrant and strong. We are committed to continuing supporting our nonprofits' recovery from COVID-19, and hope that our current social context challenges the status quo and furthers initiatives that help build a more sustainable, accessible, and equitable region.

All of the Foundation's discretionary grant strategies are rooted in best practices in grantmaking, community engagement and a commitment to being led by the experiences, wisdom & guidance of those most impacted by inequity.

AWARD SIZE & FUNDING USES

Enriching Communities awards will be one-time, unrestricted awards of up to \$15,000 to be used over the period of one year. Our goal through this grant program is to support a wide range of activities that keep our community vibrant and strong.

We strive for inclusivity and accessibility. If you are having difficulty imagining how your organizations' work fits into this goal, our Programs Team staff is available to guide you through the process.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Community Foundation will consider proposals affecting populations living in any geography within the City of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Orange and Nelson.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization, governmental or religious entity, or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization. Organizations may only submit one application, unless the organization is a public school. All eligible organizations are welcome to apply regardless if they have previously received funding from the Foundation.

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INELIGIBLE FUNDING REQUESTS

The following requests are ineligible for funding:

- Replenishing reserves or endowments
- Reimbursing expenses already accrued

AWARD CRITERIA

The Community Recovery & Catalyst Grant Committee will use the following criteria when reviewing proposals:

Alignment - The proposal demonstrates an alignment with the timing and purpose of this grant program and fulfills a community benefit.

Capacity - The organization has the leadership, knowledge, partnerships, etc. to be successful.

Engagement & Equity – People most impacted by the work/issue are helping inform/co-create the efforts to solve the issue.

Financial Stewardship– There is clear alignment between the proposed budget and the activities and goals outlined in the proposal.

Impact – The outcomes and expected impact of the organization and/or program are clearly outlined, as well as the methods for evaluation and measuring impact.

EVALUATION PROCESS

1. The Foundation staff screen applications for initial eligibility.
2. Eligible applications are reviewed, summarized, and shared with the Grants Portfolio Committee. This committee is composed of volunteer community members from throughout the region.
3. The applications are reviewed by committee members and scored according to the Grant Criteria listed above.
4. The Grants Portfolio Committee will finalize recommendations and select applications they feel best meet the goals of the grant program.
5. Committee recommendations are approved by the Foundation Governing Board of Directors, and distributions will be finalized by November 2021.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your application through the Foundation’s website. An online application form will be available on **Thursday, July 1, 2021**. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 11:59pm EST**.

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We strongly encourage applicants to complete the application in a Word processing application first, saving frequently, and then copy and pasting into the online application. Please be mindful of the character limits, which includes spaces, for each of the questions.

CONTACT

The Foundation will review all applications and respond to applicants by **November 15, 2021**.

If you have questions about your proposal, please email Aiyana Marcus:

amarcus@cacfonline.org.