



2018 Guidelines

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER ATLANTA

Since 1951, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has been connecting donors, nonprofits and community leaders to strengthen the 23-county Atlanta region through philanthropy. As a top 20 community foundation of approximately 750 nationally, with approximately \$955 million in current assets, Georgia's second largest foundation exists to connect the passions of donors with the purposes nonprofits strive to improve. Through its quality services and innovative leadership on community issues, the Foundation received more than \$135 million from donors in 2016 (unaudited) and distributed more than \$125 million that same year to support nonprofits throughout the region and beyond. For more information, visit: cfgreateratlanta.org or connect with the Foundation via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

At the Community Foundation, we believe in the power and potential of individuals and organizations to change communities, whether those communities are physical neighborhoods, a group of individuals with a common interest or a cohort of organizations focused on similar issues. We play a variety of roles, but our key goal is to be the connecting point for the various partners, nonprofit organizations and community leaders working together toward the common vision of stronger greater Atlanta region.

IMPACT AREAS

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta fulfills the passions of donors by investing in our region through grantmaking, partnerships and advocacy. To create meaningful, lasting change, our efforts align via measurable objectives through focused "Impact Areas." We practice what we preach – evolving beyond grantmaking strategies and industry jargon to real, tangible impact.

These five impact areas are our promise to the 23-county region - that in partnership with our donors, nonprofits and collaborators, we vow to make Atlanta a better place for all residents to live and thrive.



Arts



Community Development



Education



Nonprofit Effectiveness



Well-being

Arts >> Build a dynamic arts ecology to ensure all residents in our region will have access to high-quality cultural experiences and diverse artistic programs

Community Development >> Advocate for equitable economic growth, strong civic health and safe, sustainable communities

Education >> Improve outcomes and expand opportunities for all learners across the education spectrum

Nonprofit Effectiveness >> Invest in the region's nonprofits with management and financial resources to equip these organizations to effectively manage operations and high-performing programs

Well-being >> Ensure a healthy, safe and engaged region, where all residents have access to quality health care and nutritious food

All of these impact areas are complex and multi-dimensional and require cross sector, regional collaboration: these are problems with solutions that cannot be achieved by any one entity. The Foundation has an extensive base of knowledge and relationships across the region, spanning diverse communities, populations and issues, making us uniquely poised to serve as a hub for impact.



ABOUT GRANTS TO GREEN

The vision for Grants to Green is to be a leading resource in philanthropy in the Atlanta region, recognized for strengthening the nonprofit sector's energy and water efficiency and overall organizational capacity. Grants to Green is distinguished nationally as a model.

In order to stimulate broad change across the region, Grants to Green works with nonprofits serving diverse community needs and different populations, not just those nonprofits with environmentally-related missions. The buildings occupied by nonprofits are often aging structures with inefficient equipment. Generally, staff in the nonprofit sector are more focused on their organization's mission rather than on energy and water consumption or facility management. As a result, utility and maintenance costs can create huge drains on program and operating budgets.

Grants to Green transforms the nonprofit sector in the Atlanta region by encouraging nonprofits to renovate, expand or construct buildings that are energy and water efficient, that make minimal draws on non-renewable resources and give high priority to respecting the physical environment.

Grants to Green is a partnership initiative between the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, a respected grant maker and community leader in metro Atlanta and the Southeastern region, and Southface, a national expert in "green" building science, design and construction.

The Kendeda Fund, a longtime funder of the Community Foundation, funds the Grants to Green initiative.

ABOUT SOUTHFACE

Southface is an independent, 501(c)3 nonprofit. Since 1978, Southface has worked at the intersection of natural ecosystems, the built environment and social fabric of our communities. Southface engages with the construction and development industry and policymakers to forge market-based solutions for a regenerative economy, responsible resource use and social equity through a healthy built environment for all. Recognizing that buildings produce nearly half of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, Southface believes that sustainability initiatives and advocacy focused on the built environment are key to addressing global climate change.

Visit southface.org to learn more.

WHAT COUNTIES ARE SERVED BY GRANTS TO GREEN?

Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton

GRANT TYPES:

Implementation Match Grant

Once energy and water efficiency opportunities have been identified in an Assessment Report, the next step is to take action. Some opportunities identified in the assessment report may be completed immediately without financial or technical assistance. However, many projects require funding for successful implementation. The implementation match grant is a cash award to help reduce the capital costs associated with implementing projects identified during the existing building assessment. The maximum amount of the grant request is dependent upon the number of projects the nonprofit is willing and able to match. Grant-funded projects must be completed within 12 months after receiving the grant; however, utility tracking is expected for twenty-four (24) months. Implementation funding is not a pledge towards a capital campaign and is not intended to be used for such purposes. **Note: If the organization receives a cash grant, 100% of the match funding must be available at the time the grant agreement is executed.**

For renovations of existing facilities, Grants to Green may fund projects including but not limited to:

- Any labor costs associated with implementation of recommendations
- HVAC systems upgrades to high-efficiency units
- Water-efficient fixture replacement, such as low-flow toilets and faucets
- Lighting upgrades
- Building envelope improvements, such as air sealing and insulation

For solar projects, Grants to Green accepts requests for solar energy projects.

For new construction projects, Grants to Green will consider Innovation project requests from organizations that can present a compelling and unique case expressing how Grants to Green implementation funding will support advancement of their high-performance building project. Organizations must address specific factors that convey how Grants to Green will position the facility as one of the "greenest" buildings in the metro Atlanta region. Funding provided must be matched by the organization, used within a 12-month time period, and requires a Green Champion.

NEW IN 2018

After ten years of supporting nonprofits in greening up their facilities, the partners have determined this will be Grants to Green's final grant cycle. Staff highly recommends past Assessment and/or Implementation grantees apply for a grant this cycle.

There will be no Assessment grants awarded. If your organization is interested in having an Assessment conducted, please contact Shane Totten (stotten@southface.org) at Southface.

2018 IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants to Green will offer its final implementation grant opportunity in 2018:

Spring Cycle	February 7, 2018	Online Orientation, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon
	March 2, 2018	Application deadline (Complete applications include an Organizational Profile, Common Grant Application, Grant Application Supplement and required attachments)
	Apr 6 – May 3, 2018	Site visits and/or interviews
	By June 29, 2018	Nonprofits notified and agreements emailed

GRANTS TO GREEN APPLICATION PROCESS:

Implementation

- 1] Organizations must complete or update their Organizational Profile and Common Grant Application using the [Nonprofit Online Portal](#) on our website and submit the Grant Application Supplement and any required attachments
- 2] Foundation staff and the Grants to Green Advisory Committee reviews all application materials to determine which organizations should move forward in the process
- 3] Foundation staff and Committee members conduct site visits and/or interviews with selected applicants
- 4] Funding recommendations are made to the Foundation's Board of Directors and grants are awarded
- 5] Organizations receiving grants will be required to complete baseline, interim and end-of-grant reports/surveys

GRANTS TO GREEN APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- [Grants to Green Implementation: Application Supplement](#)
- [Grants to Green Implementation: Application Supplement Instructions](#)
- [Grants to Green Innovation Application Supplement](#)
- [2018 Leverage Request Form](#)
- [2018 Board Information Form](#)
- [Green Champion Volunteer Job Description](#)
- [2018 Green Champion Form](#)



ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofits that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for a grant from Grants to Green:

- Must be classified by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. code as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, donations to which are deductible as charitable contributions under Section 170(c)(2) and the I.R.S. determination must be current;
- Must be registered with the Georgia Secretary of State as a nonprofit (click here to verify: <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch>);
- Must have a minimum two-year operating history after receiving its 501(c)(3) classification;
- Must have at least one full-time paid employee (paid minimum wage or more, working at least 35 hours per week, classified as a W-2 employee) for the 12 months prior to submitting an application (please note that contractors or consultants do not count toward this requirement);
- Must have annual operating expenses of \$100,000 or greater as reflected in the most recently filed I.R.S. Form 990 (click here for more information on Form 990: <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Form-990-Resources-and-Tools-for-Exempt-Organizations>);
- Must have a current written strategic or business plan for the whole nonprofit organization that covers at least 24 months which covers the nonprofit organization's entire current fiscal year and includes the following:
 - Mission and vision statements
 - Evidence of an environmental scan (an assessment of stakeholder and community needs)
 - Stakeholder participation (staff, board, consumers/clients, volunteers, etc.)
 - Strategic goals and measureable objectives
 - Implementation plan showing action steps, a timeline and assigned staff and board responsibilities
 - Quarterly, semi-annual or annual written assessment by staff and board to measure organizational progress towards goals
 - *Preference will be given to strategic plans that include reference to resources (expenses and staff/board capacity) necessary to achieve goals and objectives*
- Must have audited or reviewed financial statements that follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or Government Auditing Standards (GAS) for the past two completed fiscal years as required by budget size. Nonprofit organizations with annual budgets over \$250,000 must have audited financial statements; nonprofit organizations with annual budgets between \$100,000 and \$249,999 must have reviewed financial statements;
- Must provide the previous 12 months of utility bills/statements for existing buildings.

Building Requirements

- Building must be located in the Community Foundation's 23-county service area;
- Own or lease the entire building the nonprofit is requesting support for. If leased, must have evidence to show five or more years remaining on current lease(s) at the time of application. If the entire building is not owned by the nonprofit or if portions of the facility are leased to other tenants, see Tenant Space Requirements section below;
- The nonprofit can only apply for those items for which it owns and directly pays the utilities. For example, if you do not control or pay for water directly, then you cannot request funding for water-related projects;
- Metering should be configured such that the consumption of utilities can be monitored and tracked by building.

Tenant Space Requirements

Tenants of a Larger Building

Nonprofits that do not own or lease their entire building are eligible for an Implementation grant if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The nonprofit pays for the utilities that they consume in the portion of the building that they occupy and can provide records of utility consumption from the utility company or installed submeters. Nonprofits whose utility costs are included in the lease, allocated based on building floor area, or allocated based on any metric other than units of measured consumption are ineligible;
- The heating, cooling, ventilation and domestic hot water systems serve only the space occupied by the nonprofit and do not serve other tenants within the building;
- The conditions of the lease allow the nonprofit to conduct major renovations to the space.

Lease Space to Other Tenants

Nonprofits that own their own building and lease space to other tenants (or lease a building and sublet to other tenants) are eligible for an Implementation grant if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The nonprofit pays utility costs for the entire building;
- The conditions of the leases for all tenants allow the nonprofit to conduct major renovations to the space occupied by each tenant;
- The space occupied by the tenant is accessible at the time of the site visit.

In addition, the following requirements must be met to be eligible to apply for implementation match funding:

- Complete a building energy assessment for existing buildings and present results to your nonprofit organization's Board of Directors or relevant board subcommittee before submission of your application.
- Provide a match for implementation recommendations in the funding request.
- Match (cash or combination of cash and in-kind) can be fulfilled in the following ways:
 - Any portion of the project's cost paid directly by the nonprofit or its donors/funders;
 - In-house labor or personnel costs paid by the nonprofit or its donors/funders;
 - New equipment purchased specifically for this program at the expense of the nonprofit;
 - Services donated by a third party, if the nonprofit can provide appropriate documentation of the value of services;
 - Documentation attesting to the value of in-kind contributions will be required. Cash match must exceed in-kind match.
- Complete implementation projects within 12 months (Grants to Green encourages nonprofits to complete all projects expeditiously and efficiently).

NOTE: Match rate depends on the nonprofit organization's budget. Match amount is based on the implementation project budget.

- Match of \$0.50 to \$1 for organization's with budgets of \$100,000-\$499,999
- Match of \$1 to \$1 for organization's with budgets of \$500,000 or more

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- A nonprofit operated by a religious organization is eligible to apply for an Implementation grant for the spaces and systems of a facility dedicated to secular needs. If participation in a religious activity is a condition for receiving services from a nonprofit, then the nonprofit will be deemed ineligible for a Grants to Green award. Religious nonprofits seeking funding are referred to Georgia Interfaith Power & Light Energy Improvement Grant Program, which is similar to Grants to Green. To learn more about this funder, please visit gipl.org.
- Nonprofits that have discriminatory policies and/or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information or political beliefs.
- Publicly funded schools (K-12) and institutions of higher learning. This does not include nonprofit charter schools, private schools (K-12) or private institutions of higher learning;
- Nonprofits that exclusively raise funds for publicly funded schools (K-12), institutions of higher learning and government agencies.

QUESTION:

Are former grantees eligible to apply?

ANSWER:

Implementation Grantees

Different Building – Former implementation grantees may apply for another implementation grant *for a different building* **after** all previous Grants to Green grants or awards have been closed out, per the definition below.

Same Building – Former implementation grantees may apply for an implementation grant for projects *on the same building* that were identified in the Assessment Report but may not have been undertaken for a variety of reasons. In order to do so, however, the previous implementation grant must be closed out, per the definition below.

NOTES:

- *For former grantees who are seeking a second Implementation grant, requests will be prioritized as follows: (A) Organizations applying for an Implementation grant for a second building; (B) Organizations applying for an Implementation grant for a previously assessed (same) building.*
- *“Closed out” means that all baseline, interim and final surveys have been completed, the Grants to Green monitor has visited the site to ensure the work is complete, utility data is current, the Grant to Green web seal is posted to the nonprofit’s website and grant funds have been appropriately spent.*

QUESTION:

Is participating in the orientation session required?

ANSWER:

No, it is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. Foundation staff believes that it is in the best interest of all potential applicants to participate in an online orientation session before submitting an application. The online session is designed to answer questions frequently asked by prospective grant applicants and is open to all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that meet the eligibility requirements. The link to register can be found on the Grants to Green page of the Foundation’s website.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions, email us at grantstogreen@cfgreateratlanta.org.