General Operating Support: Thriving Communities

2020 Guidelines

Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER ATLANTA

Since 1951, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has been connecting the passions of philanthropists with the purposes of nonprofits doing that work. With nearly 70 years serving the 23-county Atlanta region and a robust team of experts, the Community Foundation leads and inspires philanthropy to increase the vitality of our region and the well-being of all residents, empowering our donors to focus on the joy of giving. The Community Foundation is a top-20 community foundation, among 750 nationally, with approximately $1 billion in current assets and is Georgia’s second largest foundation. Through its quality donor services and bold, innovative leadership on community issues, the Foundation received more than $124 million from donors in 2019 and distributed more than $133 million that same year (unaudited) to support nonprofits throughout the region and beyond. For more information, visit: cfgreateratlanta.org or connect with the Foundation via Facebook, LinkedIn 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.

EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY ARCHITECTURE

Metro Atlanta is a region rich with accomplishment and promise. Yet no matter how smart, how filled with the desire to succeed or how hard they work, most children born in Atlanta’s poorest neighborhoods will not advance beyond their current social and economic status.

Research shows that the Atlanta region tops the U.S. for lack of economic mobility and is among the fastest regions for growth in suburban poverty. This reveals great inequity in income, education, health outcomes and more, especially for our Black, immigrant and Latinx neighbors. When we tackle gaps in equity, we expand opportunity in neighborhoods across the region – providing ALL people opportunities to learn, work and thrive. Equity of opportunity requires lasting change, not a quick fix, and requires partnership between us, our donors, civic leaders and other institutions.

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta invests in our region through grantmaking, partnerships and advocacy guided by ATLevate, our equity of opportunity architecture, a combination of proven practices to combat the disparity in our region and increase economic and social mobility.

We have committed to three pillars upon which to ground our work to increase economic and social mobility for ALL in our 23-county region:

- **Prosperous people**, focused on educational and vocational pathways for individuals, including early childhood education, post-secondary completion and career preparation and access;
- **Strong families**, focused on supporting families of all shapes and sizes to live healthy, fulfilled lives;
- **Thriving communities**, which includes a commitment to strengthening civic voice while increasing affordable housing, transportation access and environmental justice.

Learn more at cfgreateratlanta.org/ATLevate.
ABOUT GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT
General Operating Support (GOS) provides unrestricted funding to help support an organization as it pursues its mission. This type of grant is flexible and gives the recipient the ability to use funding where most appropriate. GOS grants are directly aligned with the Foundation’s goal of strengthening the 23-county region’s nonprofits and awarded based on a number of factors explained more fully in these guidelines.

Nonprofit organizations that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for GOS:

- Must be located and providing services within the Foundation’s 23-county service area; all GOS grant funds must be spent within the 23-county service area;
- 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 annual operating expenses greater than $25,000 for the last completed fiscal year;
- Must have at least one part-time paid employee for the 12 months prior to submitting an application;
- Must have a Board of Directors where 100% of members made personal cash donations or made financially measureable in-kind contributions during the last completed fiscal year;
- Must have a Board of Directors representing the diversity and demographics of the community served;
- Must align with Thriving Communities/civic and community engagement priorities defined below

THRIVING COMMUNITIES
The Thriving Communities pillar focuses on community stability and sustainability by supporting access to equitable economic growth, housing affordability and strong civic and community engagement that ensures residents have access to opportunities for success. The work of this pillar supports organizations providing resources and tools that encourage the activation of civic voice, the nurturing of grassroots engagement, and the support of policy and advocacy that preserves the access of basic human rights of all metro Atlanta residents. In 2020, the following types of organizations will be prioritized within the General Operating Support: Thriving Communities pillar:

Civic and Community Engagement –
- Prioritization will be given to Black Indigenous and People Color (BIPOC) led and serving grassroots organizations defined as organizations that meet two of the following three criteria:
  - Organizational leader is BIPOC
  - Majority of board members are BIPOC
  - Majority of population served are BIPOC
- Increase civic participation of underrepresented groups;
- Inspire and educate residents to become active and engaged citizens;
- Creative and innovative solutions that expand social justice for all metro Atlanta residents
INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS
The following organizations are not eligible to apply for funding:

- Organizations that require participation in religious services and/or religious education as a condition of receiving services; and/or
- Organizations that have discriminatory policies and/or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, economic status, disability, sex/gender, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information or political beliefs.

INELIGIBLE USES OF FOUNDATION FUNDS
Foundation funds may not be used to support the following:

- Religious services and/or religious education;
- Endowment funds;
- Capital campaign contributions (for building construction or renovation) or use of funds to cover capital campaign feasibility studies or campaign implementation expenses. This does not include regular maintenance and capital improvements.

AWARD AMOUNTS
In our upcoming grant cycle, eligible organizations are encouraged to apply for up to 30% of their annual operating expenses based on 2019 year-end expenses with a minimum grant amount of $10,000. Awards will vary in size based on the number of applicants and funds requested. General operating support provides unrestricted funding to help support an organization as it pursues its mission. This type of grant is flexible and gives the recipient the ability to use funding where most appropriate.

The Foundation cannot guarantee funding to every applicant given the amount of funding available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathway/priority</th>
<th>Funding available</th>
<th>Grant Amounts / # of awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thriving Communities/ Community and Civic Engagement</td>
<td>Up to $175,000</td>
<td>Grant awards of $10,000 - $50,000 per year for two-year grants; anticipate funding 2-3 organizations</td>
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## 2020 SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Organizational Profile are available to nonprofits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 15</td>
<td>Launch General Operating Support cycle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of October 19</td>
<td>Online orientation session</td>
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<tr>
<td>By 5:00 p.m. Monday, October 26</td>
<td>Nonprofits complete or update their Organizational Profile and letter of intent</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Wednesday, November 4</td>
<td>Invitation sent to selected applicants to submit additional information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 10 at noon</td>
<td>Additional information due from invited organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Tuesday, November 17</td>
<td>Virtual site visit invitation sent to selected applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30 – December 3</td>
<td>Virtual site visits are conducted</td>
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<tr>
<td>By Wednesday, December 23</td>
<td>Applicants notified of funding decision</td>
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## APPLICATION PROCESS


2] Advancing organizations will be asked to submit required supplemental attachments. Required supplements are:
   - Current fiscal year operating budget as approved by the board of directors with **year-to-date actual information**
   - Most current Balance Sheet
   - Last fiscal year internal year-end balance sheet and year-end budget with **year-to-date actuals**
   - Operating budget for your next fiscal year if your next fiscal year begins on January 1, 2021
   - Strategic, annual or business plan, *if available* (Note: applicants will not be penalized if they do not submit this)

3] Foundation staff reviews all additional information and conducts site visits as necessary

4] Funding recommendations are made to the Foundation’s Community Committee and Board of Directors and grants are awarded

5] Organizations receiving grants will be required to check in with program staff during the grant term and submit an end of grant report

If you have questions after reviewing the guidelines and the orientation session webinar, please email Katrina DeBerry, Program Officer, Thriving Communities: [kdeberry@cfgreateratlanta.org](mailto:kdeberry@cfgreateratlanta.org)