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**NEIGHBORHOOD FUND  
GUIDELINES**



# NEIGHBORHOOD FUND GUIDELINES

## About Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta inspires and leads the Atlanta region toward equity and shared prosperity for all who call it home. [TogetherATL](#) is the Foundation’s strategic ethos, working through a collaborative approach with community stakeholders, donors, nonprofits, and others to examine complex challenges the region faces and create solutions that build a thriving region. For more information visit: [cfgreateratlanta.org](http://cfgreateratlanta.org) or connect with the Foundation via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The Neighborhood Fund was established in 1991 with a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. It provides neighborhoods of metro Atlanta critical resources for accomplishing community-based projects; building leadership skills of residents; and enhancing the organizational capacity of the group implementing the project.

For more than 30 years, we have provided an estimated \$3.2 million in grants and training to nearly 700 neighborhood projects. Residents have been awarded grants that support civic activism, generate cultural events, organize community members towards a common goal, create welcoming greenspaces, build opportunities for kids in the neighborhood, improve community safety, and much more.

### Goals

Assistance from the Neighborhood Fund is intended to accomplish one or more of four broad outcomes. Below is a list of these outcomes with examples of projects. Please understand that these are examples and they do not begin to exhaust the possibilities.

### DESIRED OUTCOMES

### SAMPLE PROJECTS

Develop active, engaged and knowledgeable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creation of a neighborhood association</li><li>• Voter registration drives</li><li>• Working with local government on a specified need</li><li>• Community newsletter</li></ul>
Creation and participation in a thriving economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Job fairs</li><li>• Resume/interview workshops</li><li>• GED &amp; college recruitment activities or other skills training</li></ul>
Showcase cultural vibrancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Block festivals</li><li>• Community gardens</li><li>• Neighborhood arts &amp; crafts projects</li></ul>
Support strong, healthy and self-sufficient families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children, youth and senior activities</li><li>• Credit and money management training</li><li>• Nutrition/diet/exercise groups</li><li>• Safety block teams</li></ul>

## WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD FUND OFFER?

By providing both financial and capacity-building assistance, the Neighborhood Fund has helped residents transform their ideas and energy into results. Each Neighborhood Fund grant recipient will receive the following three types of support over the course of their grant period:

### ***Community Building Grant***

Neighborhood Fund Community Building grants are project grants addressing a neighborhood issue or concern. Grants of up to \$15,000 are awarded to groups (defined as three or more individuals) for projects such as organizing residents around important issues, creating community gardens, safety patrols, beautification campaigns, community newsletters, etc. Grant periods can be 6 or 12 months.

### ***Community Coaching***

The Neighborhood Fund pairs grantees with a community coach to support the group as they pursue their funded work. A Community Coach works with an assigned group over the duration of the grant period to help set project goals, evaluate neighborhood assets, organize the community, manage the project and complete required reports. Community Foundation staff and paid consultants provide this assistance.

### ***Neighborhood Fund Leadership Institute***

Strong leadership is the foundation of a neighborhood's capacity to address needs and effect change. Neighborhood Fund Leadership Institute (NFLI) increases the ability of residents to organize their communities. A requirement of receiving any Neighborhood Fund grant is that at least two representatives of the group attend the four (4) courses of the NFLI. The curriculum was developed to speak to the distinct capacity-building needs of grassroots and community-based organizations. Courses will always be held on evenings or weekends.

## SESSION

## SUMMARY

<b>1</b> Building power through relational organizing	We will explore relational organizing as an effective community power building approach. Demonstrations of collective action at the local level can gradually build power, which can lead to more decisive, larger-scale changes for communities anchored in their own priorities.
<b>2</b> Data and storytelling for equity campaigns	We will focus on skills building in accessing public datasets, basic analysis, and data visualization. Participants will leave with enough knowledge to build compelling narrative framing projects to advance their own equity campaigns.
<b>3</b> Cultivating capital for community-based organizations	We will provide a clear understanding of fundraising and resource development for community-based organizations, explore underutilized resources and sources of funding, and assist organizations with aligning their fundraising and resource development plan to its mission.
<b>4</b> Wellbeing and self-care for community leaders	We will focus on cultivating practices of wellness and self-care to prioritize mental health. When community leaders create care around all parts of their life, they are better equipped to show up for the communities they endeavor to serve.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD FUND GRANT GUIDELINES**

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To apply for this funding opportunity, groups must meet with following requirements:

### ***Geography***

- Be located and providing services within the metro Atlanta region, including but not limited to: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Henry counties
- Project must serve a geographically distinct neighborhood that has defined project boundaries and is known by name to a majority of residents

### ***Leadership and membership***

- Groups should have at least three active leaders, such as president, secretary, and treasurer. Projects must be planned and led by at least three unrelated residents (including marriages and same household) who are directly affiliated with and reside in the community that the project intends to serve
- If the group has received a previous Neighborhood Fund grant, it must have completed the project and submitted all required reports.

### ***Operations***

- Applicants do not need to have tax exempt status, such as a 501(c)(3)
- If a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organizations must be in good standing with the Georgia Secretary of State (click [here](#) to verify) and Internal Revenue Service (click [here](#) to verify) regulations.
- Funds may be requested for food, material, stipends, honorariums, equipment, space rental, entertainment, etc. requests for funding for administrative or overhead expenses such as rent, utilities, personnel, etc., will not be considered.

### ***Preference will be given to applications from groups that:***

- Demonstrate broad community support and participation
- Are already actively engaged in creative community projects
- Show the capacity to complete the project within 6-12 months
- Propose projects that address significant issues and will have clear benefits for the neighborhood
- Build upon existing strengths and partnerships, such as special skills of residents and relationships with a school or other community partner

### ***Ineligible organizations***

- Applications and requests by and/or for an individual, public institution, or private (for-profit) business
- Applications and requests that require participation in religious services and/or religious education as a condition of receiving services; and/or
- Applications and requests that have discriminatory policies and/or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex/gender, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information or political beliefs.
- Applications and requests by and/or for a nonprofit or community-based organization that does not have active resident-led leadership on its board of directors and/or is not directly involved in the request.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

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The Foundation cannot guarantee funding to every applicant, given the amount of funding available. Awards will vary in size based on the number of applicants and funds requested.

- Total funding available: up to \$100,000
- Grant awards will range between: \$5,000 - \$15,000
- Projected number of grant awards: 5-10

Organizations must complete an [application](#). Interested organizations are encouraged to attend a [virtual orientation](#) on September 21, 2023 from 11 a.m. - noon. A recording of this session will be posted to the Foundation's website after the webinar.

Applications will be evaluated based on the above stated goals, priorities and requirements. Please contact [neighborhoodfund@cfgreateratlanta.org](mailto:neighborhoodfund@cfgreateratlanta.org) with any questions about this funding opportunity.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TIMELINE

September 5, 2023	Application opens
September 21, 2023 11 a.m.-noon	Informational <a href="#">webinar</a>
October 13, 11:59 p.m.	Deadline/application closes
October 30-November 17, 2023	Application review (additional documents and site visits may be requested at this time)
December 15, 2023	Grant notification
January 1, 2024	Grant period begins