

**Nonprofit Sector
Sustainability Fund**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**





Overview

The Nonprofit Sector Sustainability Fund was created in response to widespread and compounding challenges facing nonprofit organizations, including federal funding cuts, the end of COVID-19 relief funding, rising costs, legal and policy uncertainty, and increased demand for services. The fund is designed to help nonprofits adapt to these conditions and strengthen their long-term sustainability.

What is the purpose of this fund?

The fund aims to:

Help nonprofits adapt their business models to remain sustainable during a period of significant uncertainty

Support learning, innovation, and collaboration across the nonprofit sector

Generate insights that can inform funders, policymakers, and community leaders about systemic solutions

Is this an emergency or replacement funding program?

No. This fund is not intended to replace lost federal or philanthropic funding or provide bridge loans. Instead, it focuses on helping organizations adapt, stabilize, and build resilience for the future.

Eligibility and Who Should Apply

Who can apply?

Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply if they:

- **Are located in or serve** communities within the 11-county metro Atlanta region: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties
- **Have an annual operating budget** of \$2 million or less
- **Have been operating** for at least 3 years at the time of application
- **Have 6 months or less** of board-restrictive operating reserves
- **Do not own property** or other significant assets

Are certain types of nonprofits prioritized?

There is no single sector priority. The fund seeks to be responsive to organizations most affected by recent federal policy changes, funding disruptions, and economic pressures.

Can fiscally sponsored organizations apply?

Yes. Organizations with a fiscal sponsor are eligible to apply.

What if our organization serves multiple counties or works regionally?

Organizations that serve one or more of the eligible metro Atlanta counties may apply, even if their work extends beyond the region.



Funding Loss & Readiness

Do applicants need to show funding loss?

Yes. Applicants will be asked to submit documentation showing this loss.

- **A direct loss** of government funding (federal, state, or local), and/or
- **A significant loss** of funding (public or private) within the past one to two years due to external or economic factors

What if our funding loss is recent or ongoing?

Organizations experiencing recent or ongoing funding disruptions are encouraged to apply and explain their circumstances in the application.

Use of Funds

How can grant funds be used?

Funds are provided as general operating support and may be used flexibly to support the capacity of organizations to be able to participate fully in the cohort and consulting program with Nonprofit Finance Fund.

Does the fund support mergers or strategic partnerships?

Yes. Organizations already exploring or planning a merger or strategic partnership are eligible and may receive support to advance that work.

Application & Timeline

When will funding be awarded?

Funding decisions are expected in early 2026, with grants awarded in Spring 2026.

What materials are required to apply?

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- **Basic organizational information**
- **Financial documentation**
- **Documentation of funding loss**
- **Information about organizational capacity and community impact**

How many applicants will be awarded grants?

The Foundation currently anticipates awarding 10 grants. This number may change based on several factors, including the amount of additional funding the Foundation receives for this program and the applications the Foundation receives. Applicants are not guaranteed funding, and we anticipate that the grantee selection process will be highly competitive.

What level of participation is expected from grantees?

Selected organizations must be willing to:

- **Participate** in technical assistance activities
- **Engage** in peer learning and information sharing
- **Attend** at least one annual in-person convening



Data, Learning & Impact

Is demographic information required?

No. Demographic data is optional and may be shared at the organization's discretion.

Individual organizations will not be publicly identified.

How will information collected through this fund be used?

Information may be aggregated and shared to:

- **Identify trends and challenges** across the nonprofit sector
- **Inform** funders, policymakers, and community leaders
- **Share lessons learned** and best practices

Additional Questions

If we are not selected for funding, can we still participate?

Yes. All nonprofits are encouraged to access the fund's open resources and participate in virtual convenings.

Who is NFF?

This support will be coordinated through our partner, **Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF)**. With 45 years of experience, NFF's Consulting team is uniquely equipped to help nonprofits navigate changing funding scenarios impacting their business models, cash flow and sustainability. Through years of bold cross-sector collaborations and experience leading capacity-building models involving foundations, multiple nonprofit leaders, and a suite of sub-contracted experts simultaneously, NFF will bring unparalleled expertise to the metro Atlanta area.

Who is this fund best suited for?

This fund is intended for organizations that:

- **Are experiencing financial strain** due to federal funding cuts
- **Are open to adapting** how they operate
- **Want to strengthen** long-term sustainability
- **Are willing to learn** alongside peers and share insights

Contact Information

If you have unanswered questions after reviewing this document, please email grants@cfgranteratlanta.org. We ask that you email your questions rather than call so that we can provide you with the most comprehensive response as quickly as possible.