



**20
26**

**EXTRA WISH
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Thursday, June 18, 2026
by 11:59 pm ET



About CFGA

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 or connect with us via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

What is Extra Wish?

For more than 20 years, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta has published the annual Extra Wish giving catalog during the end-of-year giving season to uplift the needs of nonprofits in the metro Atlanta region. The catalog is shared with 1,000+ Foundation fundholders and planned giving donors. Extra Wish is both a showcase for local organizations doing impactful work and a unique giving opportunity for our donors. In granting an Extra Wish, they can help strengthen missions and programs creating positive changes in our community.

The Extra Wish catalog has traditionally highlighted "difficult to fund" tangible needs, from backpacks and baby monitors to washing machines and passenger vans.

In honor of the Foundation's 75th anniversary and in response to unprecedented funding changes at the federal and state levels, the 2026 edition of Extra Wish will intentionally focus on general operating requests from small and mid-sized organizations (annual operations of \$25,000 to \$3 million) serving populations most deeply impacted by these changes in the nonprofit funding landscape. Wishes granted by our donors will provide organizations with up to \$5,000 in monetary contributions for general operating expenses.

Please note that Extra Wish requests cannot exceed \$5,000, and inclusion in the Extra Wish catalog does not guarantee funding.



Extra Wish aligns with our vision to collaborate with our community to make our region more equitable and prosperous for all who call Atlanta home.

Selection for inclusion in the Extra Wish opportunity catalog is based on several factors; please refer to page 3 of these guidelines for more information. In 2026, the Foundation seeks organizations who have demonstrated strong community engagement, leadership, and partnership, with a history of impact.



Eligibility requirements

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Nonprofits that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for a grant from Extra Wish:

- **Must not have been featured** in Extra Wish the last three years (2023, 2024, or 2025). If your organization was featured in Extra Wish in 2022 or earlier, you are eligible to apply.
- **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). The I.R.S. determination must be current.
- **Must have a minimum** of two years of operating history after the date of receipt of its 501(c)(3) classification.
- **Must have annual operating expenses** of between \$25,000 and \$3 million as reflected in the most recently filed I.R.S. Form 990 ([click here](#) for more information on Form 990).
- **Must serve populations** within Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, or Rockdale counties.
- While applicants may provide a wide array of programs and/or services to the community, **priority will be given to organizations or wishes that align with the Foundation's mission** of shared prosperity

in the areas of health and human services; economic mobility and access to jobs, education, and youth programming; access to safe, affordable housing; and the environment.

STRONG APPLICATIONS LIKELY INCLUDE:

- **Clear eligibility alignment** and complete, accurate responses to all threshold criteria.
- **A concise, compelling mission statement** that clearly communicates purpose and impact.
- **A distinct and thoughtful approach** that differentiates the organization from others addressing similar challenges.
- **Requests for organizations directly serving marginalized populations** and those populations most deeply impacted by changes in federal and state funding, including but not limited to:
 - Children, youth, and families
 - Immigrants and refugees
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness, housing or food insecurity, job loss or temporary hardship, loss of social service benefits (e.g. SNAP, Medicaid/ Medicare)
 - Individuals lacking access to healthcare and mental health service



How to apply

Applications can be completed by accessing the Foundation's [Grants Portal](#). There are instructions on how to create an account along with step-by-step instructions on how to register your organization and complete an application on our [Grants Opportunities Page](#).

2026 Schedule

MAY 27 AT 2 PM

Online orientation webinar. We highly recommend attending this session. [Register here](#). A recording of this session will be posted to the Foundation's website after the webinar.

JUNE 18 AT 11:59 PM

Deadline for nonprofits to submit their Extra Wish application

END OF JULY

Applicants notified of inclusion in the Extra Wish giving catalog

EARLY NOVEMBER

CFGA will distribute Extra Wish catalog to all current donors. The issue will be available on the website as well. Donors will make grants through the end of the year and in early 2027.

Need help?

For help with application content and/or with the online systems, please email our grants team at grants@cfgreateratlanta.org.





Tips for a successful submission

- **How much can I request?** Total request amounts should not exceed \$5,000.
- **Keep your wish compelling!** How can you describe to donors what makes your organization unique? Make the case for how your organization furthers equity and/or shared prosperity in Atlanta and help donors understand how a \$5,000 contribution would make a meaningful difference in your work—especially if you've been impacted by changes in federal and state funding.
- **Words matter, and so do images!** We strive to share your story in your own words, so use the strongest ones to describe your organization, your mission, and your programs when completing your application. A high-resolution photo of your work can also inspire donors to support your work, so be sure to include at least one as part of your application package.
- **Please keep in mind the timing of your funding requests.** Although the application process is underway now, your organization would not receive potential funding until January 2027, as the catalog will be mailed in mid-November 2026.



We're here to help!

ONLINE ORIENTATION WEBINAR

Community Foundation staff will provide an online orientation on Wednesday, May 27, at 2:00 p.m. [Register here](#). A recording of the webinar will be made available on the Extra Wish section of the [grant opportunities](#) page on the Foundation's website.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL HELP

For assistance with the application or the online system, or if you have other questions, please contact a member of the grantmaking team at grants@cfgreateratlanta.org. Our team monitors this inbox on weekdays during business hours.

If your organization does not qualify for this funding opportunity and aligns with other [TogetherATL](#) priorities, please continue to monitor future [funding opportunities](#).

To receive notifications and to stay up-to-date on upcoming grant opportunities please subscribe to our [nonprofit newsletter](#) for all grant cycle opening announcements, along with additional resources, and follow us on [social media](#).