Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FEDERAL RESPONSE EVALUATION: CONSULTANT & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Key Dates

Proposals Due: October 23, 2026
Applicant Selection Process: October 26 - November 6, 2026
Tentative Contract Start Date: November 15, 2026

Contact:
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Request for Proposals: Federal Response Evaluation

Nonprofits across metro Atlanta are facing growing challenges due to rising costs, delayed or decreasing government funding, and increasing demand for services. Many organizations are navigating difficult decisions around staffing and programs while continuing to serve vulnerable communities in a changing federal funding and policy climate.

In response, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta (the Foundation), in partnership with local philanthropic organizations and donors, has established a framework to support that seeks to inform stakeholders, invest resources and influence decision-makers across the ecosystem. For the purposes of this RFP, we will separate these into two components.

Component 1: Inform and Invest

Inform: Resource Hub, Convenings

The Foundation has developed - and is continuing to augment - a resource hub, to share information through webinars and other informational offerings, in partnership with Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF)). The Foundation also hosts convenings for various stakeholder groups to keep them aware of challenges and changes faced by the nonprofit sector.

Invest: Nonprofit Sector Sustainability Fund

The Foundation has launched a pooled fund to address how federal funding and policy changes have impacted the sustainability of local nonprofit organizations. The Nonprofit Sector Sustainability Fund (NSSF) was launched in partnership with local philanthropic organizations and donors and is being coordinated through our partner NFF.

NSSF aims to help nonprofits strengthen financial sustainability, explore new operating models and build capacity through multi-year, general operating support grants and targeted technical assistance based on the needs of nonprofits in this moment. By combining financial and non-financial resources, the fund aims to support a resilient nonprofit sector both now and in the long term NFF's Consulting team is utilizing its 45 years of experience to help nonprofits navigate changing funding scenarios impacting their business models, cash flow and sustainability

Component 2: Invest and Influence

Invest: Policy and Advocacy Fund

The Foundation also launched a pooled fund, with the support of generous funders, to impact policy and advocacy work. The Policy & Advocacy Fund is providing primarily flexible, unrestricted grant dollars to support nonprofit coalitions working on policy and advocacy efforts at the local, state, and/or federal level, responding to changes in the federal funding and policy environment. Coalition activities include: direct advocacy with elected and administrative public sector leaders, coalition building, convenings and data collection/research in support of advocacy agenda as established by partners.

Funded coalitions primarily focus some or all of their work on Georgia's most vulnerable populations, who have been already or will be significantly impacted by changes the federal administration has made, including: immigrants, refugees, children, families and youth, and those experiencing housing, healthcare and/or food insecurity. Funding is being used to support both coalition backbones and partnering entities.

Influence:

The Foundation is also working with a broad range of stakeholders to identify opportunities to influence leaders and stakeholders towards a robust response across the region. The convenings mentioned above may also fit into this component.

Consultant Role

The Foundation is seeking a consultant who can help develop an evaluation framework for the federal response work, with a focus on qualitative methods. The Foundation will accept proposals from consultants seeking to evaluate Component 1, Component 2, *or* both (preferred), acknowledging that evaluating the different components may require different skills or resources.

The project includes

- Developing an overall framework for evaluation which combines qualitative and quantitative data from all aspects of the Inform, Invest, Influence project (or those included in the relevant component). This will include funding and convening nonprofits, providing free resources to nonprofits on the Resource Hub, convening donor stakeholders for fundraising and pooled investment, and policy and advocacy work underway. We also want to understand and track how the key partnerships are progressing and their importance to the overall success of the project.
- Expertise, thought partnership, and recommendations on pooling key data points from trusted data sources to make the case as to why this work is needed, to establish baseline data related to the status of the nonprofit sector in Metro Atlanta, and to identify key community impact data points related to the cuts in federal funding and executive orders.
- Developing a structure for grant reporting (from both grantees and donors) that fits within the overall framework
- Identifying and/or developing tools for evaluation (summative and formative) that are replicable across other Foundation programs and projects utilizing existing internal resources
- Liaise with Foundation staff and NFF staff to align on evaluation and leverage existing tools and resources (the Foundation currently utilizes Foundant CommunitySuite for all data, evaluation and reporting purposes.)

The Foundation seeks to tell the story of this work in a comprehensive way, and also in a way that will appeal to donors, so this project can be structured in a way that ensures long-term success and sustainability for the Metro Atlanta nonprofit sector.

Key Deliverables:

- 2026 Q4 Report: Progress/Formative reporting
- 2027 Q2/Q3 Report: Evaluation of Y1 of implementation and outcomes
- (tentative) 2028 Q2/Q3 Report: Evaluation of Y1 & Y2 (full program) implementation and outcomes
- Documentation of methods and approach *(can be embedded in above deliverables)*

NOTE: We recognize that evaluating the impact of policy and advocacy efforts is a unique skillset. If this policy and advocacy evaluation is not within your practice, you are welcome to apply for the rest of the scope. Alternatively, if you specialize in policy and advocacy evaluation, you are welcome to apply for only that portion of the scope.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Contract Start Date (November 2026)
- Planning (November 2026)
- Project Duration (November 2026 through April 2027)
    - Potential to extend until April 2028
- Formative Evaluation: December 2026
- Y1 Evaluation: May 2027
- Tentative Y1 & Y2 Combined Evaluation: May 2028

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

The consultant will be selected based on the quality of the submitted proposal and the applicant's demonstrated ability to perform the functions outlined in this RFP. Proposals should be no more than 5 pages in length, budget included (this does not include attachments, where appropriate, such as case studies, organizational charts, financial reports, etc.), and must include the following:

- A description of the applicant's organization, size, leadership, history, and structure.
- A description of the applicant's experience with the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, including with similar projects.
- A high-level work plan that includes a description of methodology and proposed activities, including a timetable for completing the process and deliverables to be submitted to CFGA.
- A budget that includes a listing of fees and expenses associated with the proposed services, including any payment terms or other relevant information.
- Contact information of 2-3 references demonstrating relevant work experience

Submit proposals by end of day October 23, 2026 to Amy Clarke, Director of Community Impact at aclarke@cfgreateratlanta.org.