

2023–2024 Competitive Grantmaking Guidelines

Established in August 2018, the Tri-City Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Community Foundation of South Alabama (“CFSA”), serves as a comprehensive center of philanthropy to inspire and promote resiliency and enhance the quality of life for its residents in the cities of Foley, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach as well as the communities within their respective service areas. The Tri-City Community Foundation Advisory Committee is pleased to announce its first competitive grant-making cycle which will award grants to local nonprofits whose mission supports initiatives that support the Grantmaking Priorities listed below. These grants are funded through the Tri-City Community Fund, a field of interest fund established by donors to address the most pressing needs in the Tri-City community.

The following guidelines offer general guidance to local nonprofits seeking to apply for funding through the Tri-City Community Foundation’s competitive grant process. Each proposal is evaluated on its potential impact; the quality of planning, leadership, support and vision expressed; the relative need for the program proposed; and the current funds available for distribution. Due to the anticipated number of funding requests and the limited amount of funds available, not all proposals can be supported. An unsuccessful proposal does not reflect on the worthiness of a particular project.

Grantmaking Priorities

For 2023-2024, the Tri-City Community Foundation will accept proposals from organizations that strive to preserve and/or enhance the quality of life of residents in the Tri-City communities. Programs or projects could address one or more of the following: Arts, Mental Health and Wellness, Education and Workforce Development, Leadership Development and/or Economic Opportunity.

Application Guidelines

Eligibility: Applicant organizations must be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization, government entity, educational institution or religious organization. The program and/or activities must serve the Tri-City community which is comprised of Foley, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and surrounding communities. Applicants may be individual organizations or may represent a collaboration of two or more organizations. Proposals that involve collaboration with other organizations, even if submitted by an individual organization, are preferred.

Length of Funding: Funding requests should be for 12 months or less.

Request Amount: Tri-City Community Foundation anticipates awarding approximately \$21,500 total in grants for this grant cycle.

Use of Funds: Funding must be used in alignment with the Tri-City Community Foundation mission and is intended to strengthen the delivery of programs and services in identified areas of programmatic and geographical need. Funding may be applied toward direct program services, as well as to strengthen the organization’s capacity to deliver such services or to collaborate with other service providers.

- Project or program support: supports specific projects or programs that serve the community and are linked to an organization’s primary service.
- Capacity building: activities that strengthen an organization and help it better fulfill its mission, such as equipment, staff, training or convening.

Reporting Requirements: Each successful applicant will be required to sign a grant agreement with The Community Foundation of South Alabama before receiving a grant payment. Grant objectives, outcomes, payment schedules and reporting requirements will be outlined in the agreement. All grant recipients must also attend an orientation.

Evaluation Requirements: To document the impact of the grantee and to track the success of funded programs, grantees will be required to submit customized information such as program-specific data that is collected by individual grantees to demonstrate the progress and outcomes of their specific services.

Grant Restrictions: Proposals will **not** be accepted in support of:

- Individuals
- Debt reduction or endowment funding
- Fraternal, social or athletic clubs or teams
- Fundraising events or conference underwriting
- Labor or political organizations
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, or sexual orientation
- Organizations other than 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, government entities, educational institutions, or religious organizations. (These organizations may be collaborating partners but may not receive funding directly).

Funding Considerations: The Tri-City Community Foundation seeks to fund proposals that:

- Focus on work aligned with the Tri-City Community Foundation's mission
- Exhibit the potential to accomplish meaningful results or impact in one or more of priority areas
- Address community challenges, underserved populations, and/or service gaps
- Articulate measurable outcomes (desired results), effective approaches, and viable plans for maintaining ongoing efforts
- Demonstrate strong community support, capable leadership, knowledge of and involvement in the communities served
- Include a realistic project budget and organizational financial information that demonstrates fiscal health (e.g., diversified revenue sources, sustainability, solvent, etc.)

In addition, we strongly encourage proposals that include one or more of the following:

- Incorporate fresh, innovative approaches that are based on research, experience and best practices in the field
- Use collaborative strategies that support efficiencies, increase the effectiveness and build leadership in achieving broader community impact
- Leverage the proposed grant with other financial and human resources

How to Apply

Applications will be submitted via The Community Foundation of South Alabama's Online Grant Portal which can be accessed on the Tri-City Community Foundation's page on CFSA's website (www.tricitycommunityfoundation.org) or by clicking [here](#).

Important Dates:

- **March 20, 2024** – Invitation to submit an application will be made available at www.tricitycommunityfoundation.org.
- **April 1, 2024** (*optional*) – Q & A virtual session for eligible organizations interested in applying for a grant will be held via ZOOM. To learn more about how to participate, please email lbolton@communityfoundationsa.org by March 28th at 5 p.m.
- **May 15, 2024** – All applications must be submitted electronically using the CFSA Online Application by 4:59 p.m. CST. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Hard copies will not be accepted. Submissions will be evaluated and follow up phone interviews and/or site visits may be conducted.
- **July 1, 2024** – All applicants will be notified of final decision.
- **July 10, 2024** (*tentative*) – Grantee Orientation will be held.

Please direct any additional questions you may have about the competitive grantmaking process to Leigha Bolton at lbolton@communityfoundationsa.org or by calling 251-438-5591.