



2025



# COMMUNITY GRANTS



2025 CYCLE



THE MIAMI  FOUNDATION

# 2025 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Open Wednesday, January 1 through Friday, February 28 for proposal.

The Miami Foundation is grateful to invest in a stronger, more equitable Greater Miami through our signature Community Grants program. For over 50 years, we've been building endowment funds together with generous donors to create a permanent community resource that allows us to invest in Miami's most pressing needs and greatest opportunities.

**Community Grants is made possible thanks to a deep partnership with the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Miami-Dade County, and the Office of Miami-Dade State Attorney.**



Frederick A. DeLuca  
FOUNDATION



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**Proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 28, 2025.**

## FUNDING CATEGORIES

The Miami Foundation will make grants across the seven issue areas outlined below.

**Each applicant may submit only one application to only one category.** Colleges, universities, and local governments may submit up to three applications, each from a different department or college.



**ACCESS TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS** Improve health outcomes by connecting people to quality health resources and education, reducing health disparities, or tackling contributing social determinants of health.



**ECONOMIC STABILITY** Improve residents' ability to meet local affordability challenges by providing access to opportunities that promote self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, financial independence, or personal stability.



**INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** Expand opportunities for people with disabilities to promote inclusion and equity across all aspects of community life. *This category is made possible by the Sofia Isabel Soto Fund for Inclusion of People with Disabilities, in loving memory of Sofia Isabel, the daughter of The Miami Foundation's former President and CEO, Javier Alberto Soto.*



**INSPIRING ARTS AND CULTURE** Apply the power of arts and culture to strengthen community. Funding will catalyze work that champions the diversity of our community, expands access to arts and culture experiences for residents, and/or increases opportunities for artistic expression.



**SAFER COMMUNITIES** Promote safety and amplify opportunities across five priority areas; crime prevention and deterrence, human trafficking, substance dependence services, survivor assistance, and youth development as it pertains to community safety and the aforementioned areas.



**SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT** Develop a healthier, more resilient community by promoting environmental education and action on the restoration of Biscayne Bay (One Water, One Bay), preservation of the Everglades, protecting our communities from the effects of extreme heat, amplifying opportunities for water preservation or expanding awareness and action on the climate crisis and its local effects.



**THRIVING YOUTH AND FAMILIES** Expand opportunities for families (from early childhood to elder-aged) to excel through high-quality education, personal development, and work to ensure their safety and stability.

## TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY APPROACH

The Miami Foundation evolved its Community Grants approach as part of the 2023 cycle and we are excited to continue the elements that worked well for our nonprofit community while adjusting based on feedback from the field. We are committed to trust-based philanthropy and expanding opportunities in Miami by:

- Investing in mission-building, general operating support
- Awarding two-year grants
- Maintaining a one-phase proposal process
- Including community voice in the application review to inform our decision-making process

Guided by regular input from the community, Community Grants continues to grow and evolve to support our nonprofits that are serving residents across Miami-Dade County.



## PRIORITIES

Our priorities for Community Grants are rooted in our Foundation's values. They are principles that we aim to model together with our nonprofit partners.

- **Advance opportunities for marginalized individuals and communities** | We prioritize support for organizations working directly with communities that face marginalization to tackle disparities around race, age, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, mixed-abilities, and other lines of difference.
- **Focus on progress** | We support organizations whose work is guided by clear goals for the growth of individuals and communities. All partners will have strong potential to create timely, impactful opportunities for individuals and communities to advance and thrive.
- **Build solutions** | We prioritize partners that pursue long-lasting change for individuals and communities. Organizations should highlight underlying barrier(s) or challenge(s) they currently address so our residents can pursue their greatest potential.
- **Collaborate with community** | We value organizations with leadership that is representative and inclusive of the communities they serve, especially those that intentionally gather community feedback to guide their work. We believe in authentic community relationships and resident leadership.
- **Sustainability** | We support high-quality, viable work and prioritize investments that will strengthen organizations serving those most affected by marginalization and limited access to opportunity. We welcome proposals that will use awarded funds to strengthen their capacity and expertise to serve our most underserved in Miami.



## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing with the IRS, religious organizations, and government entities that are serving Miami-Dade County. Projects with an established IRS 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are also eligible to apply.

- **Location** | Applicants must have operations in Miami-Dade and serve Miami-Dade County residents. While national and regional organizations are welcome to apply, we will give preference to those with demonstrated active programming physically located within Miami.
- **Good Standing** | If you have a current grant through any program at The Miami Foundation, you must be in compliance with that grant to apply. Please contact your grant manager with any questions.
- **Number of Applications** | Each applicant may submit only one application to only one category. Colleges, universities, and local government entities may submit up to three applications, each from a different department or college.
- **Partnership Applications** | We encourage collaboration and will prioritize organizations that demonstrate various levels of deep partnerships across our community and with different organizations. Since this funding is intended to invest in an organization's sustainability and mission, collaborative proposals will not be considered this cycle.
- **Grant Size** | Award sizes will be dependent on an organization's annual operating budget ranging from \$40,000 to \$70,000 for two years. Total awards, distributed over a two-year cycle, in accordance with an organization's annual operating budget are:
  - Under \$500K | \$40,000 Total Award
  - Between \$500K - \$1M | \$50,000 Total Award
  - Between \$1M - \$5M | \$60,000 Total Award
  - Above \$5M | \$70,000 Total Award
- **Funding Type** | All awards will be mission-building, general operating support.
- **Approaches** | We welcome proposals from organizations from across the spectrum including those providing direct services, advocacy, community organizing, partnerships, and other approaches as appropriate.
- **Restrictions** | As required by IRS rules, grant funds may not be used: a) to carry on lobbying activities b) for partisan political activities c) to make a grant to any individual for travel, study or other similar purposes or to make a subgrant to any other organization or (d) to undertake any activity for any purpose other than the approved charitable and educational purposes.

As we strive to be equitable in our approach, we also want to ensure that we get to know and support new organizations each cycle. With that in mind, **we will be limiting the number of successive years an organization can be a Community Grants recipient to no more than four years.** That means if you received a Community Grant in 2023 and then also get awarded a grant in 2025, your organization will not be eligible to apply again in 2027 – you will have to sit out a cycle and can re-apply again in 2029.

Grant funds may not be used to fund capital campaigns and must be spent fully within the grant period.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**Applications open for submission on Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
and are due by Friday, February 28, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.**

Applicants should apply through The Miami Foundation's new grants management platform at: [grants.miamifoundation.org](https://grants.miamifoundation.org)

Please carefully review the program guidelines, proposal questions, and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The guidelines explain the application process and how to connect with the Foundation team. These materials are also available in Spanish and Haitian Creole as an important way for nonprofits to engage diverse communities and shape proposal plans. Applications must be submitted in English.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Community members with lived experience and subject matter expertise partner with The Miami Foundation staff to evaluate proposals. This ensures rich perspectives from people with personal and professional experiences related to each funding category. We are grateful to our Community Advisors for their expertise and time commitment as we work collaboratively to invest in a greater, more equitable Greater Miami.

Grant reviews and ratings will be made in consultation with the advisors, ensuring that multiple considerations and multiple voices are incorporated into final selections. The Community Advisors' involvement in the process expands the deliberation sequence and enshrines the award process within community and ensures that every award made is driven by our community leaders.

## CONNECT WITH US

**Office Hours** All organizations considering an application, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to sign up for an optional 15-minute meeting with Foundation staff. **Note, these meetings are only open to organizations that did not receive a Community Grant as part of the 2023 cycle.** These one-on-one meetings are an opportunity to share your work and impact and ask any questions you may have. [Click here](#) to schedule time with a member of our Community Engagement team.

**Informational Webinar** The Foundation team will offer an optional informational online seminar for interested applicants on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 10 a.m. [Register here](#). The webinar will be recorded and shared afterwards.

**Timeline**

- Application Opens:** Wednesday, January 1, 2025 ([grants.miamifoundation.org](https://grants.miamifoundation.org))
- Informational Webinar:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 10:00 am ([Register here](#))
- Proposals Due:** Friday, February 28, 2025 at 11:59 pm (do not wait until last minute!)
- Notification of Grant Awards:** June 2025
- Grant Period:** July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027

**Program Contact: Vicky Checo, Director of Community Engagement,**  
[vccheco@miamifoundation.org](mailto:vccheco@miamifoundation.org).

## COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Organization Profile** Share basic contact information, budget and staff size, and diversity, equity, and inclusion information. Select a funding category and provide a short statement about the organization’s mission and the purpose of the proposed work.

### Full Proposal Narrative Questions | Proposal Required Attachments

- Describe the local community need your organization is addressing.
- How is your organization uniquely positioned to address the community need?
- What sets your approach apart from the others in the field?
- What does your organization do especially well? How do you know you do it well?
- Describe your target population. How does your organization engage with communities you serve to identify needs and develop programs or services?
- How does your organization ensure that its programs are culturally competent and accessible to diverse populations?
- Current Annual Operating Budget
- Current Board of Directors list

**Supplemental Information (Optional):** Upload any additional information you would like to share about your work such as video, photos, news stories, or brief reports. We recommend sharing no more than five pages of content or five minutes of video.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

#### Where does the funding for Community Grants come from?

Since 1967, over 100 generous donors have created permanent endowment funds at The Miami Foundation. They entrusted us to support the issues they cared about, forever. Every year, we use a board-approved spending percentage from these funds to address Greater Miami’s current needs while honoring the donors’ intent. These endowed funds generate the majority of the available Community Grants funding.

The Foundation is also committed to growing the available funds through Community Grants. This year, we are partnering with a network of philanthropists to grow the amount of funds available for our community.

#### What organizations are eligible to apply? Does location matter?

Eligible applicants are all 501(c)(3) public charities in good standing with the IRS, religious organizations, and governmental entities that are serving Miami Dade County. Projects with an established IRS 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor are also eligible. The proposed work must serve Miami-Dade County residents. Your nonprofit itself does not have to be headquartered in Miami-Dade County, but we strongly encourage organizations based outside Greater Miami to collaborate with local partners to be most effective.

**What types of work will you consider?** We will consider all nonprofit organizations whose missions and values align with programmatic priorities and whose programs are located and actively operating within Miami-Dade County. IRS restrictions on the use of 501(c)(3) funding still apply.

## APPLICATION & GRANT DETAILS

### **How do I submit my application through the Miami Foundation's grants management platform?**

All applications should be submitted online through the Foundation's online grants management platform - [grants.miamifoundation.org](https://grants.miamifoundation.org). Each applicant will need to complete your organizational profile. If you need technical support, you can email [support@foundant.com](mailto:support@foundant.com), call (406) 602-0600, or start a chat by clicking on the blue question mark at the bottom right of the screen when you are logged into the grant management platform.

The platform allows applicants to save their progress and return later, so you do not need to complete the application in one sitting. As you are drafting your application, we strongly recommend saving a backup of your responses in a separate file to prevent technical issues.

### **What information will you be looking for?**

We recommend reviewing the Community Grants program priorities while drafting your response, as reviewers will prioritize applications that align with our priorities. We also recommend signing up for office hours with the Foundation team to discuss your application and answer any questions you may have.

### **What should I know about the Inspiring Arts and Culture category?**

The Inspiring Arts and Culture category values the role of the arts to strengthen Miami-Dade County's diversity and robust cultures. This category will prioritize opportunities to support new or expanded work, particularly to increase access and representation within the arts.

Our work in this category will be exploratory as we

test how our funding can be most impactful, so we look forward to learning from our partners.

### **What should I know about the updated Sustainable Environment category?**

The Miami Foundation is grateful to continue our partnership with Miami-Dade County to support environmental education in our county. Funding will prioritize environmental education in vulnerable communities that addresses focus areas that are in alignment with Miami-Dade County's environmental priorities. Please review the category summary here for more information.

### **What age range does the Thriving Youth and Families category serve?**

The Thriving Youth and Families category supports the entire family from youth to elderly populations. It will consider work serving infants and children through young adults in their mid-twenties as well as organizations serving the elderly population.

### **How do I know which funding category my organization should apply to?**

Please apply to the funding category that is most aligned with the goals and mission of your organization. If Miami Foundation staff believe a submitted application would be more competitive in a different category, the Foundation will work with the applicant to recategorize. This is also an excellent question to bring to office hours with the Foundation team – please click here to sign up for office hours.

### **What is Mission-Building Support?**

We are committed to creating more flexibility for nonprofit partners. Our funding is designed so that nonprofits can select the best use of funds to support their work and impact. Mission-Building Support, also known as general operating funding, is intended to advance organization-wide work and goals. Mission-building partners seek to become stronger community resources. These funds are often used for more general expenses, which may include support for operations or infrastructure to support organizational success. Proposed goals typically focus on organization-wide activities and outcomes.

**Why does the Foundation ask for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) information?**

Equity is a core value of The Miami Foundation. We are always learning and improving our practices so that they reflect equity. We will use the DEI information to advance our understanding of who we are and are not reaching, the equity of our funding patterns, and the overall diversity within Greater Miami's nonprofit sector. We ask about the executive leader, senior leadership (director level and above), and board members since they influence an organization's direction. We hope this will also prompt nonprofits to examine how diversity, equity, and inclusion are reflected in their organizations.

Through the Community Grants application process, you will be asked to share how your proposed work seeks to advance equity with communities facing marginalization, and you can indicate the geographic locations where your work takes place. The DEI information will complement this by helping us understand who is leading the nonprofit's mission and direction. While we encourage you to provide this information, we have provided an option for Prefer Not to Answer.

**What is the review and selection process?**

Full proposals are evaluated by Community Advisors with support from internal staff. This ensures rich perspectives from people with personal and professional experiences related to each funding category. This process also ensures that our grantmaking remains community-driven and inclusive of a variety of voices to prioritize proposals addressing Miami's most pressing needs. All proposals will be considered based on their individual strength and alignment with the Community Grants priorities, as well as in the context of other submissions.

**If awarded, will I get my full funding ask?**

We will fund two-year cycle grants with award sizes to scale in accordance with an organization's annual operating budget to support our partners with trust and stability.

**Will I be able to get feedback on my declined proposal?**

The Community Engagement team will host general introductory calls to learn more about your organization and give you an opportunity to connect directly with us. We will not host feedback calls to discuss individual proposals.

**If my organization receives a grant, what is the reporting process?**

Community Grants will request two reports: an interim "update" after the first full year and a final written narrative report to be submitted at the end of the two-year grant period. The Foundation shares reporting questions with partners at least one month in advance.

**What will The Miami Foundation do with my submitted application?**

The Miami Foundation is committed to maximizing support for organizations like yours. By granting us permission to share your application and organizational information with our network of funders and capacity-building partners, you increase the potential to secure additional funding and resources beyond this grant opportunity. Rest assured, we take data privacy and security seriously and will only share your information with trusted partners with your permission.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Does my organization need to be a certain size to apply?**

No. We welcome applications from organizations of all sizes that meet our eligibility criteria and are working toward the goals identified in the program guidelines.

### **Are colleges and/or universities eligible to apply?**

Yes. Colleges and universities are eligible to apply. You may submit up to three applications, and each should be from a different department or college.

### **I'm a church or faith-based organization. Can I apply?**

Yes. We welcome applications from faith-based organizations that provide programs, services, or activities for the broader community that align with our guidelines. However, we do not fund work focused on promoting a particular religious belief, engages in proselytization, or that is limited to only serving members of your organization, identity, or beliefs, or creed.

### **I'm a local government office. Can I apply?**

Yes. Local government offices are eligible to apply. You may submit up to three applications, and each should be from a different department.

### **Can I apply in partnership with another organization?**

No. While we encourage collaboration and will prioritize organizations that demonstrate various levels of deep partnerships across our community and with different organizations, this funding is intended to invest in an organization's sustainability and mission. Collaborative proposals will not be considered this cycle.

### **Can I apply for the same program I applied for, or was funded for, last year?**

Yes. We encourage all previous applicants with aligned work and goals to apply to Community Grants, regardless of previous funding outcomes. Starting in the 2027, organizations that have been awarded four consecutive years of Community Grants funding (two cycles) will be required to abstain from participating in one subsequent cycle. Organizations awarded in the 2023 and 2025 cycles, will be unable to submit a proposal in the 2027 cycle. Those organizations may re-apply in 2029.

### **I have a current grant through another Foundation program. Can I still apply?**

Yes. We do not limit nonprofits to receiving funding from just one program. You can apply to Community Grants as long as your current grant(s) is in good standing – please contact your grant manager if you have any questions.

### **Does my program or approach need to be "new" to apply?**

No. Community Grants will support existing work to advance our shared goals for Greater Miami. Organizations must demonstrate ongoing and current engagement with Miami-Dade communities.

### **Does my program need to have other funding to apply?**

No. Although we encourage you to share any other confirmed or potential funding sources to show the sustainability of your work, we recognize that not all work needs multiple funders. We do not require other funding or match funding.

### **My organization is a former recipient of Miami-Dade County's Environmental Education program and The Miami Foundation's Community Grants program, am I limited to just one application now that the two have merged?**

Yes, former county grantees of the Environmental Education program may only submit one application across all categories.

### **How do I get in touch with the Foundation team if I have more questions?**

All first-time applicants, are encouraged to sign up for an optional 15-minute Zoom meeting with Foundation staff to learn more about the grant opportunity, share your work and impact, and answer any questions you may have. Click here to schedule via Calendly.

If you have unanswered questions after reviewing the guidelines, program webpage, and this FAQ in full, please reach out to Vicky Checo, Director of Community Engagement, [vcheco@miamifoundation.org](mailto:vcheco@miamifoundation.org)

# COMMUNITY GRANTS

## ABOUT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

**The Miami Foundation builds the philanthropic, civic, and leadership backbone for Greater Miami.**

Since 1967, the Foundation has invested \$485 million to strengthen our community with partnerships and contributions from more than 1,000 fundholders and 35,000 donors. The Miami Foundation, which currently manages over \$350 million in assets, mobilizes donors, nonprofits, leaders, and locals to set a bold vision for our community's future and to invest in a stronger, more equitable, more resilient Greater Miami.

