



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is eligible to apply to the Neighborhood Fund?**

Neighborhood groups and associations that are able and willing to support a stronger neighborhood or community. Groups must be within The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's 23-county region. Groups must also be serving a geographically distinct neighborhood that has defined boundaries and is known by name to a majority of residents.

Please note: Community members whose community extends beyond a single neighborhood are also eligible to apply (e.g. racial or ethnic groups, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) groups, members of a disability community). *These requests must be small and specific to be considered eligible.*

Additionally, the Neighborhood Fund gives preference to low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Fund uses [Neighborhood Nexus](#), [area median income](#) and [census](#) data to determine which areas are considered low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.

### **What is a neighborhood?**

The Neighborhood Fund defines a neighborhood as a section, district or area with specific characteristics as defined by its location, community and/or residents.

### **Who is not eligible to apply?**

The Neighborhood Fund does not support individuals, businesses, public institutions or community-based organizations working in neighborhoods that are not controlled and/or led by residents. Any grantee with an active grant with the Neighborhood Fund and/or applicants that have failed to successfully carry out projects funded in the two preceding years are also ineligible.

### **What is considered a strong neighborhood group?**

Groups are considered strong if they have defined member roles and have been working together for at least two years on projects or activities to improve the neighborhood. Strong neighborhood groups also have open membership policies (excluding no residents within its geographic boundaries) and receive assistance and/or financial support for community activities from residents and local businesses. Partnership with various community leaders on activities is also considered a plus.

### **Do we need a 501(c)(3) tax exemption status?**

No. The 501(c)(3) tax exemption or any other 501 status is not required to submit or receive a Neighborhood Fund grant.

### **What is the most a group can request from the Neighborhood Fund?**

Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000. The average grant size is between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

### **Can a group have more than one active Neighborhood Fund grant at a time?**

No. Applications from any group or neighborhood with an active grant will not be considered.

### **What is a Community Coach?**

A Community Coach is a person(s) that provides skill-building support to Neighborhood Fund grantees. Community Coaches provide technical assistance including training, workshops and one-on-one teaching of a particular skill or technique. This type of support enables neighborhood groups to build capacity and complete their projects successfully.

### **What types of applications are funded?**

Typical grants include, but are not limited to, requests for cultural events, community organizing, neighborhood newsletters, community gardens and more.

**What are the application deadlines?**

The Neighborhood Fund posts its deadlines on The Community Foundation website ([www.cfgreateratlanta.org](http://www.cfgreateratlanta.org)). Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

**Can a group submit more than one application at a time?**

Neighborhood Fund staff will only review one application per group at any given time; therefore, applicants are encouraged to only submit one application for review.

**How many times can a group apply?**

Groups may apply up to three times per calendar year.

**When will groups be notified about the application once it is submitted?**

Confirmation instructions are provided at the end of the application. Applications are reviewed every other month from March to November. Grants are approved by the advisory committee two weeks following the site visit. The entire grants process will take approximately eight weeks or less.

**Can neighborhood fund grantees apply to other foundations/ organizations for additional funding?**

Yes. Groups are encouraged to seek other support; however, groups must keep separate financial records for expenditures from each funding source.

**How is the Neighborhood Fund connected to The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta?**

The Neighborhood Fund is a long-term community initiative of The Community Foundation. For more details and history, please visit our website at [www.cfgreateratlanta.org](http://www.cfgreateratlanta.org).