

The Neighborhood Fund is a Community Initiative of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.

About Us

The Community Foundation connects donors, nonprofits, community leaders and others to strengthen the Greater Atlanta region through philanthropy. We believe in the power and potential of individuals and organizations to change communities, whether those communities are physical neighborhoods, a group of individuals with a common interest, or a cohort of organizations focused on similar issues. As a community foundation we play a variety of roles, but our key goal is to be the connecting point for various community groups to help us work together toward the common vision of a healthier, stronger Greater Atlanta region.

Our Philanthropic Framework

In 2008 The Community Foundation postponed our competitive grantmaking programs (Common Good Funds, Neighborhood Fund, Arts Fund, and AIDS Fund) to dedicate time to learn how we can have a greater impact on the communities in the 23-county region. We surveyed donors, nonprofits and next generation leaders to learn more about how we connect best with them. We held almost 20 Community Conversations with small focus groups gaining honest feedback about our work. We participated in training and conferences focused on evaluation methods, regional service, Atlanta's deep history, technology solutions, project management and more. We researched promising practices by leaders in our field. And we ensured diverse experiences and outlooks through cross-departmental teams and full staff retreats.

From all of this The Community Foundation created Our Philanthropic Framework to serve as the guide to all aspects of our work. The four goals of our framework are:

- ***Engage our Community:*** As philanthropists, people invest resources—financial, human and intellectual—individually and collectively to improve the well-being of our region. Philanthropists are knowledgeable and passionate about the issues affecting our community and the institutions addressing those issues.
- ***Strengthen the Region's Nonprofits:*** A strong nonprofit region is a collaborative one made up of organizations that effectively manage operations and high-performing programs based on community need. This requires knowledgeable and capable staff, strong leadership, value for innovation, a clear vision and a plan.
- ***Advance Public Will:*** Individuals and institutions in the Atlanta region understand that the well-being of each community member is connected to that of every other. Community members address critical issues through accessible and collaborative debate, discussion, informed decision-making and targeted advocacy focused on public policy.
- ***Practice Organizational Excellence:*** The Community Foundation must build internal strength to have external community impact. This includes a financial focus on growing an endowment for the region as well as a staff and Board focus on supporting a diverse work environment that encourages learning, leadership and transparency.



NEIGHBORHOOD FUND GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

Changing a community requires the passion and leadership of the residents who live in that community. The Neighborhood Fund works directly with those residents empowering them to positively impact neighborhoods at the local level.

The Neighborhood Fund sees communities based on their strengths and assets – not needs and deficiencies. We provide resources to community groups within the 23-county region seeking to impact community at the local level. Since 1991, we have provided an estimated \$2,000,000 in grants and training to more than 400 neighborhood projects. Typical grants include cultural events, community organizing, neighborhood newsletters, community gardens and more.

The Neighborhood Fund has two desired outcomes that drive our grantmaking and community coaching:

- **Civic Engagement** - Residents take pride in and use neighborhood skills, talents and resources
- **Leadership Development** - Residents have the power to influence and shape their own communities

The Neighborhood Fund’s approach to grantmaking has always supported the development of neighborhood leadership. We are centered on bridging the gap between planning, implementing and longer term community action. This includes a deliberate connection between the *process* of building a strong community and the *results* the community envisions.

In following this philosophy, the Neighborhood Fund believes groups are most likely to be aligned with one of the community engagement phases listed below. The phases do not determine funding amount. Although the Neighborhood Fund understands that groups will fit in multiple categories, the application will ask each group to identify with only one area. Please review and discuss with your group before submitting an application.

Building	Strengthening	Sustaining	Influencing
The group is emerging with limited identified neighborhood assets. The group is working with its neighborhood to develop relationships with residents, local institutions, government and associations.	The group is dedicated and focused on making its existing identified resources stronger. The group is actively involved with residents, local institutions, government and associations on projects and/or activities.	The group has identified assets and has proven results. The group is organizing with residents, local institutions, government and associations to support a community-wide vision and/or plan.	The group is actively engaged with its neighborhood assets and is working with policy makers to address community solutions. The group shares its learning with others, monitors its success and has impact beyond its neighborhood or community.

OVERVIEW

Neighborhood Fund grants are diverse and flexible, but highly competitive. Projects and activities are limited only by the imagination and energy of a neighborhood’s residents and can include one-time events such as cultural fairs, block parties and beautification projects, as well as longer-term undertakings such as after school programs or community organizing efforts.

Neighborhood Fund grantees receive a financial award and a community coach to support the planning and implementation of the grant. **15 to 25 grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 will be awarded to community groups annually.** On average, grants will be between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

All applicants must exhibit the following characteristics.

- The group must have a two-year long history of working together
- Groups submitting the application should consist of residents from neighborhoods within our 23-county region ([see map](#))
- Group members need to reside in the same defined neighborhood or community
- All projects or activities must be planned and led by two or more unrelated residents of the neighborhood(s) seeking funding. Applicant groups **do not** need to have tax exempt status such as a 501 (c)3
- Proposed projects or activities must employ and build on the strengths and assets already existing in the community, such as residents' specific skills, volunteer skills and labor or a neighborhood's public spaces, institutions, businesses, faith organizations, schools or other community partners
- The group must have a structure or system for managing all incoming cash or in-kind donations. A bank account requiring at least two signatures is required to receive funding. No funding will be allocated to an individual (i.e. John Smith)
- If the group has previously received a Neighborhood Fund grant, it must have completed the proposed activities, submitted all required reports and be in good standing.

Preference will be given to applications from groups that:

- Demonstrate broad community support and participation
- Provide a reasonable budget and request amount
- List five or more active resident leaders in the community actively engaged in creative community projects
- Show the capacity to complete the project or activity within six to 18 months
- Submit proposals that address significant community issues and will have clear benefits for the entire neighborhood
- Reside in 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

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Individuals; For-profit businesses; Public institutions;
- Nonprofit or community-based organization that do not have active resident (individuals that live in the community/neighborhood) leadership on its board and/or directly involved request

HOW DO GROUPS APPLY?

Applications can be found at www.cfgreateratlanta.org and can be submitted at any time. All information regarding grant guidelines can be found on the website, by emailing NeighborhoodFund@cfgreateratlanta.org or calling 404-688-5525. **We require all applications to be submitted electronically** and encourage electronic communications as well. A notification of receipt will be sent to groups within three business days of submission.

Email your application to NeighborhoodFund@cfgreateratlanta.org with subject line: Attention: Grant

HOW GRANTS ARE AWARDED

The Neighborhood Fund reviews applications every other month. Remember, the Neighborhood Fund receives many requests and will not be able to provide grants to all groups.

Applicants will receive a response from Neighborhood Fund staff within six to eight weeks of submission. Neighborhood Fund staff will contact groups with questions via phone and/or schedule an appointment for a site visit for requests that need further review. We welcome your questions at any time prior to or during the application review.

GRANTEE ORIENTATION

A requirement for receiving any Neighborhood Fund grant is that at least two representatives of the group meet with their community coach within 7 days of notification of award. At this meeting, grantees will review information regarding the actual grant, required reporting documentation, asset-based community development and other information. In addition, grantees will receive the first half of their funding at this meeting. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the forfeit of the grant.

REPORTING

Grantees are required to submit an End of Grant report when the entire project is completed. Any group that fails to submit this required report will not be considered for future grants by the Neighborhood Fund.