



## FY21 Grant Guidelines

Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, Gulf Coast Community Foundation seeks to transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Each year, Gulf Coast's grant making evolves to address emerging issues and make the greatest impact in our communities.

**Gulf Coast's responsive grant-making program includes the following funding opportunities:**

- Leveraged Grants
- Community Grants
- Sponsorship Grants

**Leveraged Grants** – These grant requests should clearly target [regional priorities](#), utilize creative strategies, provide measurable data to assess impact, and include strategies for sustainability.

Successful Leveraged Grants involve *multiple partners* that extend the impact of your program or project. Whether your proposal receives funding will rely in large part on whether your purpose and goals closely match the priorities of Gulf Coast. Careful consideration will be given to those organizations that support Gulf Coast's top two regional priorities:

***Workforce Housing*** – Housing is directly connected to transportation costs, challenges retaining essential workers, and limited opportunities for young and diverse residents. Addressing the housing imbalance requires regional leadership, innovative market solutions, and education and communications initiatives to reframe the problem and dispel myths surrounding affordable housing.

***Mental Health*** – At-risk and underserved populations face barriers to care, including cost, access, transportation, and stigma. Regional partnership and support are needed to identify and close gaps in mental health support systems and to backfill lagging funding for treatment programs and services.

Leveraged Grant requests are accepted according to the schedule below and typically exceed \$10,000. Note that Gulf Coast's support of projects through our Leveraged Grant program will not exceed 50 percent of the total project budget. Your organization is responsible for securing (through donors, other grants, etc.) the remaining funds.

Pre-Application Deadline	Full Application Deadline
August 10, 2020	August 31, 2020
March 25, 2021	April 15, 2021

The first step in applying for a leveraged grant is to [complete part 1 of the application](#). Once this is received, Gulf Coast staff will be in touch to discuss next steps and, if approved, schedule a face-to-face interview. Not all organizations completing pre-applications will be invited to submit a full application.

Only one Leveraged Grant per organization may be awarded each fiscal year. Any organization that has an open leveraged grant with Gulf Coast and has not submitted a final grant report is ineligible for a Leveraged Grant.

**Community and Sponsorship grants** – Gulf Coast provides support to nonprofit partners as they take on smaller projects or plan fundraising events that will have a positive impact for the organization and our communities. Community and Sponsorship grant requests are accepted on a rolling basis. Cumulative funding for your organization through Community and Sponsorship grants may not exceed \$10,000 during the fiscal year. When requesting a Sponsorship Grant, we ask that you provide us a full list of the opportunities available for support in the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, fiscal year.

Please note: Organizations that have received a Leveraged Grant may also apply for Community/Sponsorship support. Gulf Coast will ask for appropriate recognition for our total overall funding.

**Who may apply for a Gulf Coast grant?**

- Organizations classified as 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charities by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Organizations that provide programs and services that benefit the residents of Sarasota County, its immediately surrounding communities, or Boca Grande.

**Are schools and classrooms eligible to receive funding?**

Gulf Coast is strongly committed to supporting academic excellence in our region’s schools, and as a result we have made significant investments in systemic initiatives such as 21st Century Learning and Reading Recovery. At this time, Gulf Coast is focused on funding school and classroom activities through our initiatives. Therefore, individual schools and/or classrooms are not eligible for funding. Only grant requests submitted by the Sarasota County School District will be considered.

**How do organizations apply for a grant?**

Easy, just click on one of the following links:

- [Apply for a Leveraged Grant](#) (part 1)
- [Apply for a Community Grant](#)
- [Apply for a Sponsorship Grant](#)