

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FY24 Grant Guidelines

Through partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, Gulf Coast Community Foundation seeks to transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Gulf Coast's grant making is designed to make the greatest positive impact in our communities. Funding priorities include: health and human services, civic and economic development, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

Who may apply for a Gulf Coast grant?

Organizations classified as 501c3 tax-exempt public charities by the Internal Revenue Service that provide programs and services primarily benefitting the residents of Sarasota County, Charlotte County, and Boca Grande Florida.

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. Only grant requests submitted through the Sarasota or Charlotte County School Districts will be considered. Therefore, individual schools and/or classrooms are not eligible for funding.

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

- Community Grants
- Leveraged Grants

Community Grants – Gulf Coast provides support to nonprofit partners as they initiate projects or plan events that will have a positive impact for the organization and our communities. Community grant requests are accepted on a rolling basis.

Gulf Coast limits Community Grant funding to no more than \$25,000 per organization during the fiscal year. Applicants requesting support for events are asked to provide a full list of opportunities available for support in the July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024 fiscal year.

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

Leveraged Grants – These grant requests should clearly target regional priorities that may include arts and culture, civic and economic development, education, environment, and health and human services, they should 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 an organization’s program or project. Whether the proposal receives funding relies in large part on whether the purpose and goals closely match the priorities of Gulf Coast.

Leveraged Grant requests exceed \$25,000 and are accepted according to the schedule below. Note that Gulf Coast’s support of projects through our Leveraged Grant program generally does not exceed 50 percent of the total project budget. Applicant organizations are responsible for securing (through donors, other grants, etc.) the remaining funds.

Leveraged Grant Inquiry Deadline	Leveraged Grant Application Deadline
September 15, 2023	October 15, 2023
March 17, 2024	April 15, 2024

The first step is to [submit a Leveraged Grant inquiry](#). This should include the project details and budget request. Once this is received, Gulf Coast staff will be in touch to discuss next steps. Not all organizations submitting an inquiry will be invited to submit an 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.

How do organizations apply for a grant?

Click on one of the following links:

- [Apply for a Community Grant](#)
- [Inquire about a Leveraged Grant](#)