

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FY25 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 grantmaking is designed to make the greatest positive impact in our communities. Funding areas include: health and human services, arts and culture, civic and economic development, education, and the environment. Preference will be given to projects addressing Gulf Coast's current priorities of Affordable Housing, Mental Health, and Water Quality & Access to Green Space. [Read our 2023 Regional Scan here.](#)

Who may apply for a Gulf Coast grant?

Organizations located in Sarasota County, Charlotte County, DeSoto County, Boca Grande, Lakewood Ranch, and Longboat Key, Florida that are classified as tax-exempt public charities by the Internal Revenue Service are eligible to receive funding.

First-time applicants, please contact us for guidance prior to completing an application at CommunityLeadership@GulfCoastCF.org

Are schools and classrooms eligible to receive funding?

Individual schools, booster clubs and/or classrooms are not eligible for 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 by authorized representatives of the Sarasota, Charlotte, and DeSoto County School Districts will be considered.

Gulf Coast accepts applications for the following two funding opportunities:

- Community Grants
- Leveraged Grants

Community Grants – Non-profit organizations located within our service area (Sarasota County, Charlotte County, DeSoto County, Boca Grande, Lakewood Ranch, and Longboat Key, Florida) are eligible to receive a maximum of \$25,000 per fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

Community Grants provide support for upcoming special events, programs and/or projects that will have a positive impact for the organization and our region. **Applicants are asked to submit ONE application per year which should include all events, programs, and projects available for**

support between July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. Community grant requests are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed monthly.

Organizations that have received a Community Grant may also apply for a Leveraged Grant within the same fiscal year.

Leveraged Grants- Nonprofit requests that exceed \$25,000 are accepted according to the schedule below.

Leveraged Grant Inquiry Deadline	Leveraged Grant Application Deadline
September 11, 2024	October 11, 2024
March 7, 2025	April 7, 2025

A Successful Leveraged Grant:

- Clearly targets one or more of Gulf Coast’s funding areas of health and human services, arts and culture, civic and economic development, education, or the environment. Preference will be given to projects addressing a priority area: Affordable Housing, Mental Health, or Water Quality & Access to Green Space.
- Is highly collaborative, involving multiple partners.
- Does not exceed 50 percent of the total project or program cost. Applicant contributes at least half of the total project cost (through donors, other grants etc.).
- Includes innovative solutions, measurable data to assess impact, and strategies for sustainability. (Examples: [Bay Park](#), [CareerEdge](#), [PLANit Sarasota](#))

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

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](#)