

# Triangle Community Foundation Community Grantmaking Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply?

Tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, religious congregations and government agencies whose primary work is in Chatham, Durham, Orange and/or Wake counties, North Carolina, and whose total annual organizational budgets are \$1,500,000 or less.
2. My agency serves the entire state; can I apply for local funds?

Yes. However, the project or program supported must be based in Chatham, Durham, Orange and/or Wake counties. All proposals demonstrating promise of contributing to the welfare of the residents of the Triangle or the state as a whole will be given careful consideration by committee members. Service to the entire state should be clearly stated in your application.
3. I'm the local affiliate of a national organization; can I apply?

Yes. However, the local affiliate must (a) report to a board or advisory committee whose members are Triangle residents; (b) have an approved annual budget for Triangle-based activities of less than \$1,500,000; and (c) spend any Triangle Community Foundation funds on Triangle-based activities only.
4. My program is university-led; can I apply?

No. Triangle Community Foundation does not accept university-led proposals through the Community Grantmaking Program.
5. What if my organization has not yet received its exempt status? What if we are a small group with no plans to apply for tax-exemption?

Because the Foundation can make grants only to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, religious congregations and government agencies, you may ask another tax-exempt organization to act as your fiscal agent. If your proposal is funded, the Foundation will make the grant to your fiscal agent, and they will pass it through to your group. Fiscal agents' total annual budgets must not exceed \$1,500,000. Your organization is still responsible for all reporting and agreements.
6. How will I know that you have received my request?

Triangle Community Foundation prefers to receive proposals via email. Applications should be emailed to Robyn Fehrman, Community Program Officer, at [cgp@trianglecf.org](mailto:cgp@trianglecf.org). You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been received.
7. Can I submit more than one application?

No. We will only accept one application per organization.
8. How often can I apply?

Once per grant cycle. Triangle Community Foundation hosts two grant cycles per calendar year.



9. Can I apply to specific donor-advised funds held by the Foundation?  
Triangle Community Foundation will commit an annual minimum of \$300,000 of its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds to the program. At this time, applications will not be directed to any particular donor-advised funds; however, donors may recommend grants from their donor-advised funds to augment the Community Grantmaking Program.
10. When will I be notified?  
Applicants to the spring grants cycle will be notified as to whether or not they have received funding no later than June 30. Applicants to the fall grants cycle will be notified no later than December 31.
11. Who will evaluate the proposals?  
Applications will be initially reviewed by Triangle Community Foundation staff to ensure the applicant's eligibility and that the proposal meets grantmaking criteria. All proposals that meet the criteria will then be reviewed by a Community Grants Program Committee made up of Foundation Board members and fundholders. Please see the Foundation's Web site for the names of those serving on the committee. That committee will make final recommendations for funding to Triangle Community Foundation Board of Directors.
12. Can I apply for operating costs? Start-up costs? Salary? Conferences?  
Funding can be used for both new and existing projects and can be used for all activities except: construction, endowment, debt reduction and voter registration activities.
13. What if my circumstances change after I've submitted my request?  
We realize that things change; we ask that you contact us immediately if there are significant changes that would drastically impact your request. For instance, if your project is totally funded from other sources, perhaps you would benefit from withdrawing the request and resubmitting another application for a different need. Additionally, sometimes personnel changes affect programs and their timetables; at other times, organizations find that their priorities have changed. Please contact us as soon as possible to discuss any changes that would affect our decision-making or the use of the funds.
14. Is there a time frame for projects? Can I request multi-year funding?  
Funding will be for one year. Provided that all reporting requirements are met, recipients will be eligible to apply for additional funding the following year.
15. Can individuals apply for grants?  
No. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals.
16. I do not have email; is there another way for me to submit an application?  
If you do not have access to email, please contact Robyn Fehrman, Community Program Officer, at (919) 474-8370 ext. 128 to discuss alternative submission options.