



# Triangle Community Foundation Community Grantmaking Program Proposal Guidelines

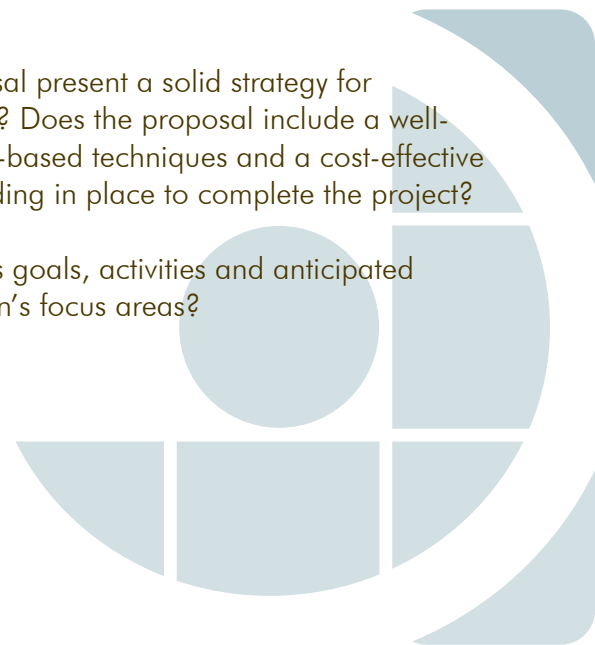
Triangle Community Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program distributes funding through two grant cycles per year. Funding focuses on two themes: *Civic Engagement* and *Youth Leadership & Development*. The Community Grants Program Committee reviews proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Triangle Community Foundation Board of Directors for discretionary grants to nonprofit organizations meeting funding criteria and serving Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties. A list of committee members, background information on each focus area, and a proposal scoring rubric are available on the Foundation Web site.

## Important Dates

Proposals due: February 15 & August 15  
Grants announced: By June 30 & By November 30

## Eligibility and Funding Information

- The Community Grantmaking Program is open to eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, religious congregations, and governmental agencies based in the Triangle (Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties).
- Applicant organizations must have total annual budgets of \$1,500,000 or less.
- In reviewing proposals, the Foundation looks at four areas:
  - Organization - Is the organization applying for the grant financially stable and reaching the communities it intends to serve? Is the organization's leadership engaged and passionate about the work? Are board and staff representative of the community and diverse in nature, or are they working to become more so?
  - Community Need - Does the proposal demonstrate a significant and critical need for this project? Is the organization in a key strategic position to meet that need?
  - Feasibility and Impact - Does the proposal present a solid strategy for achieving anticipated project outcomes? Does the proposal include a well-thought-out timeline, relevant/evidence-based techniques and a cost-effective budget? Are adequate staffing and funding in place to complete the project?
  - Focus Area - Are the proposed project's goals, activities and anticipated outcomes consistent with the Foundation's focus areas?



Eligibility and Funding Information (cont.)

- Funding is for one year and must be spent on Triangle-based activities. Provided that all reporting requirements are met, recipients are eligible to apply for additional funding the following year. Average grant size: \$10,000 – \$15,000.
- 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.

The Foundation annually commits a minimum of \$300,000 of its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds to the program.

Focus Areas

Organizations may apply for funding for projects that fall within one of the two focus areas: Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership & Development.

*Civic Engagement*

*Expanding opportunities for people to engage in their communities and create a vibrant, inclusive, responsive and fair society.*

Everyone in the community can be a source of knowledge and a full partner in social change and community building. Civic engagement refers to individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern. It can take many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement to electoral participation. It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem, or interact with the institutions of representative democracy. Civic engagement encompasses a range of specific activities such as working in a soup kitchen, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official or voting. Indeed, an underlying principal of the Foundation's approach is that an engaged citizen should have the ability, agency and opportunity to move comfortably among these various types of civic acts. Funding will be awarded to initiatives supporting local and statewide public policy issues. Priority will be given to projects that focus on integrating the community's voice and diverse participation in civic life. Supported projects will include those that:

- Analyze the impact of state and local policies on Triangle communities.
- Increase community knowledge of critical issues through grassroots education and policy analysis dissemination.
- Improve community understanding of public policy's impact on daily life.
- Expand participation in public policy activities at the neighborhood, local and state levels.

*Youth Leadership  
& Development*

*Engaging young people in opportunities to gain leadership skills and build power in order to reach their full potential and contribute to positive social change.*

All youth are worthy of investment and can contribute positively to their communities. Youth development is a process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. Youth leadership can be defined as both an internal and external process leading to (1) the ability to guide or direct others on a course of action and (2) the ability to analyze one's own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and vocational goals, and have the self-esteem to carry them out. It includes the ability to identify community resources and use them, not only to live independently, but also to establish support networks, to participate in community life and to bring about positive social change.

Adolescence is a critical time for leadership development. Developing leadership in youth can bolster self-esteem, prevent risky behavior, and serve as a springboard for successful adulthood. Yet many adolescents are never offered the chance to act as leaders. Unlike adult leadership models that are often inappropriate for teens, Youth Leadership is grounded in adolescent development theory and includes three major stages of development: awareness, interaction and mastery.

Triangle Community Foundation believes that the youth are our future and the investment we make today will reap many rewards in the future for our communities. Funding in this area will invest in building "multiple pathways" to success for the Triangle's youth. Funding will be awarded to programs focusing on youth ages 8 to 14. Priority will be given to proposals that engage youth in structured, evidence-based programming over time, and those that incorporate a holistic approach—one that involves the family or other support mechanisms. Supported projects will include those that:

- Increase the likelihood of a successful transition to adulthood.
- Motivate young people to stay in school.
- Foster positive youth-adult engagement through mentoring.
- Strengthen gang awareness and prevention efforts.
- Promote participation in philanthropy.
- Provide leadership opportunities and employment skills training.
- Develop financial literacy.
- Encourage engagement in community service.

## Application Procedure

To apply, please complete the Community Grantmaking Program Application and submit it online at:

[www.trianglecf.org/grants\\_support/cgp\\_proposal\\_application/](http://www.trianglecf.org/grants_support/cgp_proposal_application/)  
no later than 5:00 p.m. on either February 15 (for spring grants cycle) or August 15 for fall grants cycle) Please do not include any additional attachments or materials unless specifically requested to do so by Foundation staff. Proposals received after the due date/time will not be accepted.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

- FAQs - Answers to frequently asked questions.
- Proposal Assessment Rubric - A guide used by the Community Grants Program Committee to score proposals
- Focus Area Primers - Additional information about the program's two focus areas.

The Community Grantmaking Program is one of many initiatives sponsored by Triangle Community Foundation, which annually makes grants totaling nearly \$13 million. The Foundation also manages a number of scholarships and other special programs. For more information, please contact Libby Richards, Nonprofit and Community Program Officer, 919-474-8370, ext. 134, or [Libby@trianglecf.org](mailto:Libby@trianglecf.org), or visit the website: [www.trianglecf.org](http://www.trianglecf.org).

