

Knight Foundation Grant Program Guidelines

Supporting successful, inclusive cities

WHO WE ARE

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is a national foundation with deep local roots. We have offices in eight cities where the Knight brothers once published newspapers, and work through community foundations in 18 others, including Central Carolina Community Foundation. We work to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. Knight Foundation operates on a small scale, and therefore intentionally seeks to build upon the natural momentum of the community, while also leveraging existing assets and resources.

WHAT WE FUND

The Knight Foundation is particularly interested in supporting collaborative programs in Richland and Lexington counties. that are innovative and create impact in the following categories:

- **Building on Assets** – better connecting the community to key assets like universities, corporations or nature. This includes
 - **Attracting and nurturing talent** – projects that cultivate, connect and attract talented people to the Columbia area.
 - **Enhancing opportunity** – projects that accelerate inclusive economic opportunity and entrepreneurship.
- **Fostering civic engagement** – breaking down barriers between residents and decision makers; engaging underrepresented communities in civic life and leadership roles.
- **Facilitating public space public life** – enhancing the public realm to be more connected and vibrant. Columbia's [Public Space Public Life Action Plan](#) provides good examples.

GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Organizations that have been determined as charitable under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, public entities or other charitable, educational or faith-based organizations.
- Organizations must provide services in one or both of the following counties in South Carolina: Lexington and Richland. Priority will be given to programs that benefit both counties.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

- Fundraising projects
- Debt reduction
- Endowment development or capital campaigns
- Medical research

- Sponsorships

GRANT AMOUNT

Funds are only available in the form of challenge grants. Therefore, grantees must generate a minimum 30% match to the grant award. All applicants must disclose other committed or potential funders and the dollar amount allocated for assessment and accountability in their budget. Grants amounts range, but are not typically more than \$75,000.

GRANT PROCESS

Applications are accepted by invitation-only throughout the year. Interested organizations should first contact the Community Foundation to discuss their project and determine eligibility. If invited to submit a proposal, the Community Foundation will work with potential grantees to submit an application to Knight Foundation.

If approved, grantees will be required to submit additional documentation to the Community Foundation throughout the year, including budgets, program plans, and interim and final reports.

THINK YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA?

If your organization has an innovative project in mind that fits Knight's funding priorities, please contact Erin Johnson at Central Carolina Community Foundation to discuss it further.

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