



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANT GUIDELINES

WHO WE ARE

Central Carolina Community Foundation, the Midlands local center for philanthropy, is a nonprofit organization that links charitable people and businesses with areas of need in our community.

WHAT ARE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANTS?

What makes residents love where they live? What draws people to a place and keeps them there?

Central Carolina Community Foundation is working to make the Midlands more connected, vibrant, compassionate, and engaged. We strive for a livable, equitable and just community to live, work, play and raise a family. Connected Communities grants support this work through funding innovative ideas from nonprofit organizations that will further knit our community together. The Foundation aims to inspire organizations to engage and invest in our community and build on the community's existing assets.

Connected Communities is a challenge grant for interesting and engaging ideas to improve the community's quality of life and livability and increase residents' satisfaction and community attachment. More specifically, Connected Communities grants will fund the most important elements of an attractive community as identified by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Gallup, and On the Table community surveys.

WHAT WE FUND

Connected Communities projects should increase quality of life, community attachment and satisfaction by increasing Midlands residents' easy access to:

- Safe places to live and work
- Healthcare facilities and services
- Quality job opportunities
- Affordable housing
- Safe, proximal, high-quality recreational areas
- Quality arts and cultural events

Priority will be given to projects that promote equity, and incorporate policy, advocacy, institutional/systems change and/or social justice (equal rights, opportunity, and treatment for all). Central Carolina Community Foundation will continue to prioritize organizations outside Richland County and/or led by Black, Indigenous and people of color.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR IDEAS THAT

- Enhance community connections in the Midlands.
- Incorporate novel approaches to creating a vibrant, connected community.
- Raise public awareness of the area/region.
- Provide a measurable level of community involvement (volunteers or participants).
- Are for new or expansion projects. Current programs from organizations will not be considered.
- Promote philanthropy across our region.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

- Routine operating expenses of the organization
- Programs that are routinely implemented at an organization
- Fundraising projects—including events
- Debt reduction
- Endowment or capital campaigns
- Medical research
- Conference travel, underwriting or sponsorship

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Organizations must be determined as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, public entities or other charitable, educational or faith-based organizations.
- Organizations must be physically located in one of the following 11 counties in the Midlands: Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda and Sumter
- Organizations must register for and participate in Midlands Gives
- Current Connected Communities grantees can apply; the same project can only be funded a maximum of three times. If a program/project is funded more than once, the grantee matching requirement will increase: 1st – 30%, 2nd – 40% and 3rd – 50%
- To ensure the health and safety of Midlands residents as well as the timely completion of this project, organizations must be able to complete their proposed project either virtually or with social distance measures in place.

GRANT AMOUNT

Applicants may request up to **\$50,000**.

GRANT PERIOD

Programs should begin by June 1 and be complete by the following May 31

CHALLENGE GRANT

Funds are **only** available in the form of challenge grants. The challenge portion must generate an additional 30% of the award from the Community Foundation. For example, if your organization is awarded \$50,000, you must match that award with an additional \$15,000. The Foundation will not accept a transfer of internal funds or in-kind contributions. Participation in Midlands Gives can be used to assist in meeting the match goal.

DEADLINE DATE

The Letter of Intent is open October 15-November 15. Organizations asked to submit a full application will be notified no later than December 20.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested organizations may apply online at www.yourfoundation.org under the Grants and Scholarship tab. Mailed, emailed, faxed or hand delivered applications will not be accepted.

Prior to applying, organizations are encouraged to thoroughly review all information about this grant on the Community Foundation's website. Organizations can also contact Community Foundation staff to discuss this grant opportunity.

REVIEW PROCESS

- Central Carolina Community Foundation Trustees (Community Impact Committee) will review the letters of intent and select the organizations that will be invited to submit a full application.
- The Community Impact Committee will review the full applications and select the organizations that will be invited to present their proposal to the committee.
- The Committee will select the organizations that will receive a grant and submit their recommendation to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees will vote to approve, or not, the committee's recommendation.
- Grantees must achieve their Challenge Match (30% of their grant amount) by the interim report (December 15).

For further information, please contact Jamesha Shackerford 803-254-5601 x301, or email Jamesha@yourfoundation.org.