Community Grants is The Miami Foundation’s signature program through which we honor more than 100 donors who created permanently endowed funds, entrusting the Foundation to support the issues that mattered to them forever. Thanks to their generosity, the Foundation awards more than $1 million each year through the program.

The Foundation has defined three key themes that reflect its past work and will guide its future: **Opportunity, Creativity** and **Resiliency**. The themes speak to the quality of life the Foundation strives to make a reality in Greater Miami. We have aligned funds available through the Community Grants program with these overarching themes. The Foundation seeks to fund both program-related services and advocacy efforts that can advance change.

**Opportunity** - Greater Miami continues to surge forward as a rapidly growing, global city. As our city prospers, we must develop pathways to opportunity so all residents can benefit equitably and thrive. Opportunity grants will focus on enabling residents who face barriers to the development of their abilities and talents to achieve their potential.

- **Well-being of Children and Youth** | $550,000 – Enable at-risk, abused, or neglected youth to advance their personal development and resilience, physical health, educational readiness, and achievement from early childhood-to-career, or ensure their safety at home and in the community
- **Affordability and Housing** | $200,000 – Improve residents’ abilities to meet cost-of-living challenges by increasing their earning potential and financial stability, providing safety-net basic needs support, ensuring shelter and support for those facing homelessness, and expanding affordable, quality housing options in the community
- **Inclusion of People with Diverse Abilities** | $130,000 – Expand the availability of and access to community resources so people with disabilities can thrive in productive, purposeful lives and are increasingly integrated into all aspects of community life. Please carefully review the separate full summary for this new focus area.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** | $100,000 – Promote adoption of healthy behaviors that support heart health and prevent heart disease among residents of all ages

**Resiliency** | $200,000 - To be more resilient, our community must both address threats to our physical environment and build civic engagement in shaping policy, planning for and recovering from adversity. Resiliency grants will focus on strengthening Greater Miami’s ability to adapt to our unique environmental, growth and socio-economic challenges. The Foundation seeks efforts to achieve any of the following:

- Advance solutions for threats to our physical environment – protecting our environmental resources, adapting to sea-level rise or improving transportation options
- Increase public engagement in understanding and taking action on critical environmental, growth and socio-economic challenges we face
- Encourage residents to take ownership of a civic issue through organizing, advocacy or other engagement tools

**Creativity** | $100,000 - Greater Miami is booming with arts and culture offerings that are shaping our identity and vitality. The Creativity grants focus on harnessing the power of arts and culture to build community. The Foundation is interested in efforts that use arts and culture to achieve any of the following:

- Revive community life or business activity in dormant areas of our city and its neighborhoods
- Engage people who typically lack access in experiencing the arts or developing their own artistic abilities
- Raise the profile of less visible cultures and social issues
- Foster connections and exchange among residents from diverse cultures and walks of life

**Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status as a public charity or projects with an established fiscal agent serving Miami-Dade County. While we will give preference to strengthening nonprofits based in Greater Miami, we also encourage partnerships with those outside Greater Miami to bring high-quality programs to our community. Current grantees must be in compliance with the terms of previous Foundation awards to be considered.
Application Process
There are two stages to the Community Grants program: the initial pre-proposal stage and the full-proposal stage. From the submitted pre-proposals, the Foundation will select applicants to submit full proposals. In the pre-proposal, organizations will be asked to select one of the focus areas. The Foundation may, when appropriate, shift a submitted proposal to a more relevant focus area.

Organizations selected to submit a full proposal will then respond to additional questions that will be shared upon notification of an organization’s selection. Full proposals will be similar in length to the pre-proposal but will expand on details of implementation, targeted populations, goals and outcomes, and program sustainability. They will also include as attachments a proposal budget, organization operating budget and board of directors list.

Pre-Proposal Narrative Questions: (Character counts include spaces)

1. **Purpose:** Describe in one sentence the purpose of this grant request. (350 characters)
2. **Statement of Need:** What is the problem or opportunity to be addressed? *Provide context, data and/or community learnings to define the need in Greater Miami.* (1,250 characters)
3. **Approach:** What solution(s) does your organization propose to address this need? *Provide an overview of your implementation plan.* (1,250 characters)
4. **Target Populations:** What groups will this initiative serve in the Greater Miami community? *Be as specific as possible, i.e., families in a municipality, seniors, or children attending selected schools.* (750 characters)
5. **Assessment:** What are the anticipated, measurable results and progress of a successful initiative toward addressing the identified need? (1,000 characters)
6. **Qualifications:** What project experience and/or allies will strengthen this work? How does this initiative align with your organization’s mission and vision? (1,250 characters)
7. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** How is your organization advancing equity across differences such as race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, and geography? (1,000 characters)
8. **Site Locations:** Applicants will be asked to select the areas of Miami-Dade County that reflect the primary locations of sites where they will provide their programs or services. This will help the Foundation understand where organizations "site" their programs versus their overall service areas.

Grant Amounts and Use
Grants range from $5,000 to $30,000. The average is $15,000. Grant size will be based on how strongly a proposal advances the Foundation’s priorities, its scale, budget and the nonprofit’s capacity to implement the program. Funds may be used for costs directly related to implementing a program, such as salaries of program staff or consultants, outreach, marketing, supplies, events or local travel. Proposals may include reasonable indirect costs. Funds cannot pay for memberships, fundraising events or campaigns, endowments, memorials or reducing deficits.

Number of Requests
A nonprofit may submit one proposal. If a program is a collaborative effort between two or more nonprofits, partners must select one nonprofit to serve as lead applicant. Colleges and universities may submit up to three (3) requests from multiple departments, which we will consider competitively against each other and other applications.

Timeline
- Pre-proposals due: Friday, February 14, 2020, by 4 p.m.
- Invitations to submit full proposals: Friday, March 20, 2020
- Full proposals due: Friday, April 10, 2020, by 4 p.m.
- Estimated notification of grant awards: Friday, May 29, 2020
- Grant period: June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

Office Hours
Organizations considering a proposal to Community Grants are encouraged to register for a 30-minute phone meeting with Foundation staff to learn more about the funding opportunity, introduce new organizations and programs, and discuss program development and evaluation. [Click here to schedule via Calendly](#).

For questions, please contact:
Chelsea Clark, Programs Associate | Phone: 305.357.2088 | Email: cclark@miamifoundation.org
Resources:
Selected links to data resources related to the Community Grants program focus areas:

- **Arts + Social Impact Explorer (Americans for the Arts)** – Interactive tool to explore the impact of arts and culture across communities
- **A Study of Employment of Floridians with a Disability (Florida Chamber Foundation)** – Analysis of employment opportunities and gaps for Floridians with disabilities
- **Connect Capital Miami** – A report providing recommendations for helping to ease Miami’s growing affordability housing crisis
- **Disability Statistics (Cornell University)** – Online resource for current national and state data about people with disabilities, including education, poverty, and annual household income
- **Healthy People 2020 Progress Tracker** – A comprehensive framework for prevention-focused health metrics in Greater Miami, including heart health
- **Miami Affordability Project (University of Miami)** – GIS data tool that locates affordable housing and housing needs in Greater Miami
- **Resilient305** – A region-wide resilience strategy for South Florida between Miami-Dade County, the cities of Miami and Miami Beach, The Miami Foundation and the 100 Resilient Cities program