



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How do I know if the project has “high impact”?**

Impactful projects can be achieved in a variety of ways:

- Enabling an organization to affect a large group of people (in need)
- Directly benefiting a small group of people resulting in significant change that will have wider implications for the group of people as well as the community
- Changing the way an organization pursues its mission, resulting in a fundamental shift in how it provides services to its stakeholders
- Creating/reinforcing new collaborations with other organizations to address a broader spectrum of the community
- Enabling an organization to address an unmet need or issue within the community

### **Will startup or small organizations be considered?**

Yes, startup and small organizations will be considered if they meet all the criteria. They need to demonstrate the ability to manage the grant and its sustainability. They should strongly consider collaborating with another nonprofit already demonstrating capabilities, such as successful outreach into community/population to be served, which is needed to assure greater impact.

### **Will applications from unincorporated groups be considered?**

No, applicants must be incorporated and approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

**If an organization receives a \$100,000 grant, when can the organization reapply?** Previous recipients must wait for three years before applying for a new grant. They may partner with another organization that submits a grant; partners do not share in the funding of a grant.

### **Are grant finalists prohibited from reapplying for 3 years?**

No, only the recipients of the \$100,000 Impact Grant are prohibited from applying for 3 years.

### **Can an organization submit a program/project that was submitted in a previous year which did not receive the \$100,000 Impact Grant?**

Yes, a previously submitted program/project can be submitted again as long as it did not receive a \$100,000 Impact Grant. We recommend, however, that the organization discuss issues such as the reasons why the program/project did not receive a grant and how to improve the proposal with The Community Foundation Martin-St. Lucie.

**May applicants submit multiple letters of intent (LOI)? Specifically, may an organization apply as part of a collaboration and separately apply as an individual organization?**

No, an organization may only submit one LOI annually, either as an individual organization or as part of a collaborative effort with another organization or organizations.

**Will multi-year funding requests be considered?**

Yes. However, the full amount of the grant must be used within three years.

**May funds be used for equipment?**

Yes, as long as the equipment is directly connected to the proposed program/project.

**May funds be used for capital expenditures/improvements?**

Yes, but the applicant must own the property or have a lease with a minimum of five years remaining as of July 1st of the grant award year.

**May funds be used for current operating expenses?**

No. Organizations must already have sufficient funds to sustain their ongoing operations. Impact Grants are intended to enable a nonprofit to pursue a program/project that it might otherwise not be able to implement. Operating funds must be solely related to the proposed program/project and a sustainability plan must be included in the proposal.

**May funds be used for salaries?**

Yes, as long as the salary is directly connected to the proposed program/project.

**May funds be used to offset administrative costs?**

Yes, it is permissible up to 12% of the funds requested for costs related to administrative expenses (not salaries) directly connected to the proposed program/project.

**What is collaboration?**

Collaboration exists when two or more qualifying nonprofit organizations have the responsibility of managing and contributing to the proposed program/project in a significant manner and the Impact Grant funds will be shared between them. One organization will need to be identified as the lead: responsible for completing the LOI and grant applications, financially manage the grant funds, and provide all reports. The non-lead organization(s) may be asked to provide organizational and financial information.

NOTE: A nonprofit can apply for only one grant each year, either as an individual organization or as part of a collaborative effort, whether the organization is or is not the lead in a collaboration.

**What is the difference between being a collaborator and being a partner in a program/project?**

If funding is not being shared, this is a partnership. An organization can be a partner with another organization's project AND submit its own grant application.

**Should collaborative organizations outside of the proposed program/project be listed on the LOI application?**

No, the collaboration section of the LOI should only include those who are working directly on the specific program/project.

**Do organizations need to show they have matching funds for a new program/project?**

Matching funds will be viewed favorably but are not necessary. However, the organization does need to demonstrate that the program/project is sustainable.

**What role does the application video play in the grant process, and does it need to be done by a professional?**

The application video does not need to be done by a professional. The video is an opportunity for the nonprofit organization to provide information about the organization not included in the grant proposal that may enhance the understanding of the reviewers.

**Who should I call with questions about the LOI or the grant application?**

All questions and concerns regarding the LOI, grant application, using Foundant or reasons why the grant application was not funded should be directed to Ellie Gundrania at The Community Foundation Martin – St. Lucie at [Ellie@tcfmsl.org](mailto:Ellie@tcfmsl.org) or 772-288-3795.