



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANT GUIDELINES

WHO WE ARE

Central Carolina Community Foundation, the Midlands expert on 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. 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.

Central Carolina Community Foundation will provide challenge grants for innovative ideas in the following focus areas, identified by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Gallup as the three most important elements for an attractive community: **Welcoming Community**, which supports open and inclusive activities and programs; **Vibrant Social Offerings**, which support the availability of social community events; and **Superb Public Spaces**, which enhance the beauty and physical setting of the Midland's community.

WHAT WE FUND

The Community Foundation is looking for projects that promote:

- **Welcoming Community:** Activities or programs that promote an open and inclusive community making all people feel welcome.
- **Vibrant Social Offerings:** Social community events and arts and cultural opportunities that bring people together.
- **Superb Public Spaces:** Parks, playgrounds and trails that enhance the beauty or physical setting of a community.

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.
- Meet our criteria—not those solely designed around grant amounts.
- Promote philanthropy across our region.

WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND

- Routine operating expenses of the 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 provide services 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 2018 Midlands Gives
- Current Connected Communities grantees are not eligible to apply

GRANT AMOUNT

Applicants may request up to **\$75,000**.

GRANT PERIOD

Programs should begin by March 2018 and be complete by February 28, 2019.

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 due to the Foundation by September 1, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. Organizations asked to submit a full application will be notified by October 1, 2017.

HOW TO APPLY

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

Organizations are also invited to attend an informational webinar on August 10 at 10:00 am to learn more about the Connected Communities grant. Please visit our website for the link.

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 September 15, 2018.

TIMELINE

August 10, 2017, 10:00 am – Connected Communities Grant Information Webinar

September 1, 2017 – Letters of Intent due

October 1, 2017 – Organizations invited to submit full application

November 3, 2017 – Invited full applications due

December 15, 2017 – Organizations notified of application status

January 2018 – Finalist Presentations

For further information, please contact Erin Johnson 803-254-5601 x322, or email Erin@yourfoundation.org.