



2022 Request for Proposals

Continuous Improvement Grant Opportunity

Vision

All Spartanburg County residents achieve their human potential through continuous improvement in quality of life, educational achievement, and economic mobility.

Mission

The Spartanburg County Foundation is committed to improving the lives of Spartanburg County residents by promoting philanthropy, encouraging community engagement, and responding to community needs.

Background

Using data, the Spartanburg County Foundation's vision statement was created to be externally reflective of the community. The same data, along with several other sources, substantiated that the wellbeing of many Spartanburg County residents falls below the state and national averages on poverty, educational attainment, wage and earnings, and health equity; and that these disparities adversely affect quality of life for many Spartanburg County residents and prevent many from achieving their potential as human beings.

With the aim of every resident achieving their human potential, the 2022 Grant Opportunities were developed. To reach this vision, we must first understand that not all residents are starting from the same point. When it comes to life expectancy, educational achievement, and median household income, looking at the data disaggregated by race, illustrates the disparities in our community. The goal of these grant opportunities is to address those disparities by supporting a range of nonprofit organizations meeting the needs and improving the lives of Spartanburg County residents.

Continuous Improvement Grant Opportunity

Continuous Improvement Grants of up to \$30,000 will focus on the three amplified areas in the Foundation's vision statement by which all Spartanburg County residents can reach their human potential: **quality of life, educational achievement, and economic mobility**. Further descriptions of these areas and examples of potential funding opportunities are listed below.

Quality of Life

This area addresses opportunities to improve the overall well-being of Spartanburg County residents through access to community and cultural programs, activities, and green spaces; improvement of physical and mental health with cultural competence; and access to resources that provide household stability. *Examples of these opportunities may include, but are not limited to:*

- Community/cultural programs, physical activities that strengthen health and well-being, outdoor spaces accessible to the community
- Care for uninsured adults and children, Spanish speaking staff, programs to address mental health needs for diverse populations
- Mobile food markets, rent/mortgaging assistance, utility assistance, home repairs

Educational Achievement

This area is focused on reducing barriers to academic success and improving the educational achievement of Spartanburg County residents through supportive services and programs for K-12 students, access to post-secondary education and careers, and opportunities for return-to-learn adults. *Examples of these opportunities may include, but are not limited to:*

- Mentoring, out-of-school-time programs, summer learning/learning loss prevention
- Internships, programs for first-year college students
- GED completion, internet access, books and other academic materials

Economic Mobility

This area is focused on improving the potential for upward economic mobility in the Spartanburg County community through increased ability for financial self-sufficiency, opportunities for asset building, and access to affordable and reliable transportation. *Examples of these opportunities may include, but are not limited to:*

- Job training/certification, job search/placement, financial coaching
- Small/minority business development, small/minority business lending, home ownership assistance programs
- Supplements for transportation costs, transportation programs for rural areas, ride sharing

Grant Guidelines

The Spartanburg County Foundation considers only those organizations and institutions that are recognized as 501(c)(3) non-profit and/or tax-exempt entities providing services to the residents of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. By meeting these criteria, certain institutions and organizations located outside of Spartanburg County may be eligible for funding; however, funding is restricted to benefit Spartanburg County only. Organizations that serve multiple counties must clearly show that the funds will remain in Spartanburg County.

Grants from The Spartanburg County Foundation are for a period of one year. Except in unusual circumstances, multi-year grants are not considered.

The Spartanburg County Foundation does not Generally Provide Funding for:

- Annual fund campaigns.
- Recurring requests from a grantee for the same purpose for which a Foundation grant has been previously awarded.
- Endowments.
- Film projects.
- Publication of books or reports.
- Fundraising events, celebrations, or dinners.
- Individual schools unless the proposed project is district- or county-wide and is supported by the District Superintendent(s).

**Requests from public school systems must come from the superintendent's office and include a letter of support from the superintendent. **

The Spartanburg County Foundation does not Provide Funding for:

- Lobbying activities, political organizations, or candidates for public offices.
- Individual projects.
- Organizations that require membership in certain religions, require participation in a religious activity, or advance a particular religious faith. **(Faith-based organizations with a 501(c)3 status may be eligible if they welcome and serve all members of the community regardless of religious belief.)**
- Research that is of a non-community nature or that does not have promise of near-term benefits to the citizens of Spartanburg County.
- Debt reductions, deficits, or previous obligations.
- Retroactive expenses/activities.

Continuous Improvement Grant Opportunity

The Foundation uses an online grant submission process. Applications and all required supporting documents must be uploaded using the online system. Proposals submitted in any other manner will not be considered.

Spring Cycle applications are **due on Monday, March 28, 2022 by 5:00 pm.**

Fall Cycle applications are **due on Monday, June 6, 2022 by 5:00 pm.**

Application Information

Completed applications will include the following components. Please note that on the application, each bullet point will have a separate comment box or picklist to answer each question.

Organization Information

- Name
- Organization
- Physical Address
- Mailing Address (if different from above)
- E-mail address
- Phone number
- Date organization was established
- Mission Statement
- Requested Grant Amount
- Continuous Improvement category (Quality of Life, Educational Achievement, or Economic Mobility)

Project Overview and Narrative

- Briefly state the purpose of the grant request.

Need/Opportunity

- Describe the specific need, challenge, or opportunity the project or program will address.
- Provide data which supports the need, challenge, or opportunity.

Goals, Activities, and Timeline

- Describe the project activities and how funding from The Spartanburg County Foundation will be used.
- Describe the goals your organization hopes to achieve within the time of this grant. Goals should fulfill SMART criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound).
- Include a timeline of the project.

Outcomes

- What are the measurable outcomes you hope to achieve and how do you plan to measure progress?
- What additional funding do you anticipate receiving for this project/program as a result of funding from The Spartanburg County Foundation? (i.e., foundations, donors, etc.). (250 words)

People Served

- Number of people served by the organization annually
- Number of Spartanburg County residents served by the organization annually (if different from above)
- Geographic areas served (Please list specific municipalities/townships, Spartanburg County, or a specific region such as the Upstate of South Carolina, etc.)
- Demographics of those served by the proposed project (age, ethnicity, income, education)

Project Budget (income and expenses)

- Project revenue – list specific sources and amounts
- Project expenses –Please note that the Foundation does not generally provide funding for annual operating support (i.e., salaries/benefits, utilities, etc.) other than for start-up purposes.
(Use 2022 Project Budget Form)

Required Attachments

- Verification of tax-exempt status (IRS determination letter)
- List of Board of Directors and officers including race/ethnicity, gender, and home address (Use 2022 Board Roster Template)
****Demographics are used to determine the diversity of Spartanburg County's nonprofit boards. This information will NOT influence The Spartanburg County Foundation's determination for requested funding.****
- Annual Budget
- Organization's most recent IRS form 990
- **Organizations that are using the services of a consultant for ANY portion of their grant request MUST submit a copy of the consultant's proposal as an additional attachment. If you need assistance in identifying a consultant, please contact the Foundation and we will provide you a list of consultants who may be suitable for your project.**