



2024 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, these 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 \$25,000 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, home ownership assistance programs
- Supplements for transportation costs, transportation programs for rural areas, ride sharing

Grant Guidelines

The Spartanburg County Foundation only considers organizations and institutions that are recognized as 501(c)(3) nonprofit and/or tax-exempt entities providing services to residents of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Institutions and organizations located outside of Spartanburg County may be eligible for funding; however, funding is restricted to benefit Spartanburg County residents only. Organizations that serve multiple counties must clearly show impact in Spartanburg County and that the funds will remain in Spartanburg County. Organizations must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal non-discrimination laws and policies.

Grants from the Spartanburg County Foundation are for a period of one year.

The Spartanburg County Foundation seeks to support organizations who can demonstrate the following:

- Alignment with the Foundation's mission and vision.
- Services that help Spartanburg County residents achieve their human potential.
- Data-informed responses to one or more of the three Continuous Improvement areas (Quality of Life, Educational Achievement, & Economic Mobility).
- Comprehensive measurement and evaluation tools that track organizational and programmatic outcomes.
- Potential to leverage funding from multiple sources.

The Spartanburg County Foundation does not Generally Provide Funding for:

- Organizations that have been operating for less than one year.
- Annual fund campaigns.
- Endowments.
- Film projects.
- Publication of books or reports.
- Fundraising events, celebrations, or dinners.
- Other grantmaking institutions.

The Spartanburg County Foundation does not Provide Funding for:

- Lobbying activities, political organizations, or candidates for public offices.
- Direct grants to individuals.
- 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 residents of Spartanburg County.
- Debt reductions, deficits, or previous obligations.
- Retroactive expenses/activities.
- Individual schools, including public, private and charter schools. ***(If the project or program is district or county-wide, please contact the Spartanburg County Foundation.)***

Continuous Improvement Grant Opportunity

Application Information

The following is an outline of the online application. All applications and supporting attachments must be submitted using the online application portal. Proposals submitted in any other manner will not be considered. **Spring Cycle Applications are due on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Fall Cycle applications are due on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 5:00 pm.**

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- Name of Organization
- EIN
- Physical Address (Street 1)
- Mailing Address, if applicable (Street 2)
- Grant Contact Name
- Grant Contact E-mail address
- Grant Contact Phone number

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- Requested Grant Amount
- Continuous Improvement category (Quality of Life, Educational Achievement, or Economic Mobility)
- Share your mission and briefly describe the work of the organization.
- Describe the specific need, challenge, or opportunity the project or program will address.
- Provide data which supports the need, challenge, or opportunity.
- Describe the project activities and how funding from the Spartanburg County Foundation will be used.
- Describe the goals your organization hopes to achieve and how you plan to measure progress. Goals should fulfill SMART criteria (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound).
- Include a timeline of the project based on the year-long grant period. (Spring Cycle Grant Period: July 2024 – June 2025; Fall Cycle Grant Period: October 2024 – September 2025)
- 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.).

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- Number of people served by the organization each year
- Number of Spartanburg County residents served by the organization each year (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.)
- Target demographics of those to be served by the proposed project (This may include but is not limited to age, race, employment status, income, education, etc.)

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- List project/program income. Please use the notes section to provide details.
- List project/program expenses. Please use the notes section to provide details

- The “Total Amount” of Project/Program Expenses = “Amount Pending” + “Amount Confirmed.” Make sure your budget balances, which means your total income should be the same as the total amount of all project expenses.

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- List your Board of Directors

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- Attach the organization’s annual budget
- Attach the organization’s most recent 990
- Attach consultant’s proposal (if your organization is using a consultant to accomplish your project)