



2026 Request for Proposals

Nonprofit Effectiveness 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.

Nonprofit Effectiveness Grant Opportunity

Nonprofit Effectiveness Grants of up to \$10,000 are focused on strengthening the internal capacity or infrastructure of community-based organizations throughout Spartanburg County. Nonprofit Effectiveness grants are designed to grow organizational capacity. Some examples of capacity building grants are increasing effectiveness in board governance, financial management, fundraising, partnering & collaboration, strategic communications, succession planning, and/or evaluation.

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.)*

Nonprofit Effectiveness 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. **Applications will be reviewed quarterly, and have the following due dates:**

Q1- Friday, February 27, 2026

Q2- Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Q3- Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Q4- Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Page 1

- 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

Page 2

- Requested Grant Amount (amount requested should not exceed \$10,000)
- 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. (Awards will be made at the end of each quarter. For example, first quarter 2026 grants will be awarded by February 24, 2026. The project timeline should be for the period of April 1, 2026 – April 1, 2027.)
- 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.).
- Succinctly describe your project in 1-2 sentences. This statement should include project goal, intended population and location. If funded, this description will be used in SCF grant agreements and marketing.

Page 3

- 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.)

Page 4

- 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 = Income “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.**

Page 5

- List your Board of Directors

Page 6

- 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)
- Please give an estimate of how long this grant took for your organization to complete.