2020 Competitive Grant Cycle Guidelines

Through a competitive grant-making process, The Community Foundation of South Alabama (CFSA) awards grants to local organizations serving Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Monroe, Conecuh, Choctaw, Clarke and Washington counties. These grants are funded through the Foundation’s unrestricted funds and field of interest funds established by donors to address the most pressing needs in our community.

The following guidelines offer general guidance to local organizations seeking to apply for funding through the Community Foundation of South Alabama’s competitive grant process. Each proposal is evaluated on its potential impact; the quality of planning, leadership, support and vision expressed; the demonstrated need and evidence for the program proposed; and the current funds available for distribution. Due to the large number of funding requests and the limited amount of funds available, not all proposals can be supported. An unsuccessful proposal does not reflect on the worthiness of a particular project.

2020 Grant-Making Priorities: COVID-19 Response and Relief

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented medical, social and economic strains in communities across the nation. The Community Foundation of South Alabama (CFSA) has created efforts that foundations across the United States have committed to for aiding those that have been affected by COVID-19.

CFSA has identified three focus areas for our eight-county footprint: Food Insecurity, Medical Support, and Housing and Utilities Stability.

For the 2020 Grant Cycle, CFSA will support organizations that support relief efforts to aid those affected by COVID-19 and will accept grant applications in the following priorities:

1. **FOOD INSECURITY**: The Foundation will work with community organizations to support evidence-based, tested and effective programs and activities that aid:
   - Families with young children on free and reduced lunch
   - Low-wage workers without access to meals

2. **MEDICAL SUPPORTS**: The Foundation will work with community organizations to support evidence-based, tested and effective programs and activities that provide:
   - Medical/pharmaceutical aid to the economically vulnerable
   - Childcare for low-wage workers and the economically vulnerable

3. **HOUSING and UTILITIES STABILITY**: The Foundation will work with community organizations to support evidence-based, tested and effective programs and activities that aid:
   - Immediate housing needs of the economically vulnerable populations affected due to business closures
   - Immediate utilities support needs of the economically vulnerable populations affected due to business closures
2020 Grant Cycle Process & Timeline:

**May 8, 2020** – Invitation to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) will made available at [www.communityfoundationsa.org](http://www.communityfoundationsa.org) Please note, the format will be a series of questions and not a formal letter.

**May 18, 2020** – All LOIs must be submitted electronically via CFSA’s Online Portal by 11:59 p.m. CST. LOIs submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

**May 27, 2020** - Select LOIs will be invited to submit a formal application. Application instructions and deadlines will be made available via email. Organizations will submit their formal applicant electronically using the CFSA Online Portal.

**June 5, 2020** – All formal applications must be submitted electronically using the CFSA Online Portal by 11:59 p.m. CST. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Hard copies will not be accepted.

**June 8 – June 12, 2020** – Submissions will be evaluated and follow up phone interviews may be conducted. The length of this phase is dependent upon the quantity of applications received. Please do not contact the CFSA. Applicants will be contacted via email to schedule phone interviews.

**June 17, 2020** - Applicants will be notified of final decision. Grant distribution (via check) will be disbursed in June.

2020 Grant Types & Terms:
Through this competitive grant-making cycle, CFSA will accept grant requests that address both programmatic and operational needs.

CFSA General Limitations, Restrictions & Requirements:
Geographic area: Organizations must serve CFSA’s eight-county region which includes Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington counties. All requested funding must directly benefit individuals who reside in CFSA’s eight-county region.

IRS charitable status: Applicant organizations must be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization, government entity, educational institution, or religious organization. If applying using fiscal sponsorship, the applicant must present a formal written agreement.

CFSA typically does not fund:

- Individuals
- Fundraising events or expenses
- Religious activities
- Conference or seminar expenses
• Lobbying or political activities
• Political organizations or candidates for public office
• Budget deficit or debit reduction
• Scholarship or endowment funds
• Tickets for charitable benefits or events
• Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, marital status, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation
• Capital projects and campaigns; however, specific requests may be allowed by invitation only. If you have a capital project that you would like CFSA to consider, please contact CFSA Director of Operations to discuss.

CFSA seeks to fund programs and projects that:
• Focus on work aligned with one or more of CFSA’s priority of COVID-19 Response & Relief Fund
• Exhibit the potential to accomplish meaningful results or impact in one or more of priority areas
• Address community challenges, underserved populations, and/or service gaps
• Articulate measurable outcomes (desired results), effective approaches, and viable plans for maintaining ongoing efforts
• Demonstrate strong community support, capable leadership and knowledge of, and involvement in, the communities served
• Include a realistic project budget and organizational financial information demonstrates fiscal health (e.g. diversified revenue sources, sustainability, solvent, etc.)

**2020 Grant & Reporting Requirements:** Each successful applicant will be required to sign a grant agreement with The Community Foundation of South Alabama before receiving a grant payment. Grant objectives, outcomes, payment schedules and reporting requirements will be outlined in the agreement. All grant recipients must complete assigned reports.

**Please direct any additional questions you may have about this grant cycle email** [DisasterRelief@communityfoundationssa.org](mailto:DisasterRelief@communityfoundationssa.org) or call 251-438-5591.