



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

FY27 Community

Investment

Grant

Overview

dcahoon@cf-lowcountry.org

About

- Established in 1994
- \$120+ million in assets
- 560+ Funds
- \$139M+ Grants awarded to-date
- \$14M+ Scholarships awarded to-date
- 4-County Area
- 13-member staff

Our mission is to strengthen our community
by connecting people, resources and needs.



Grantmaking

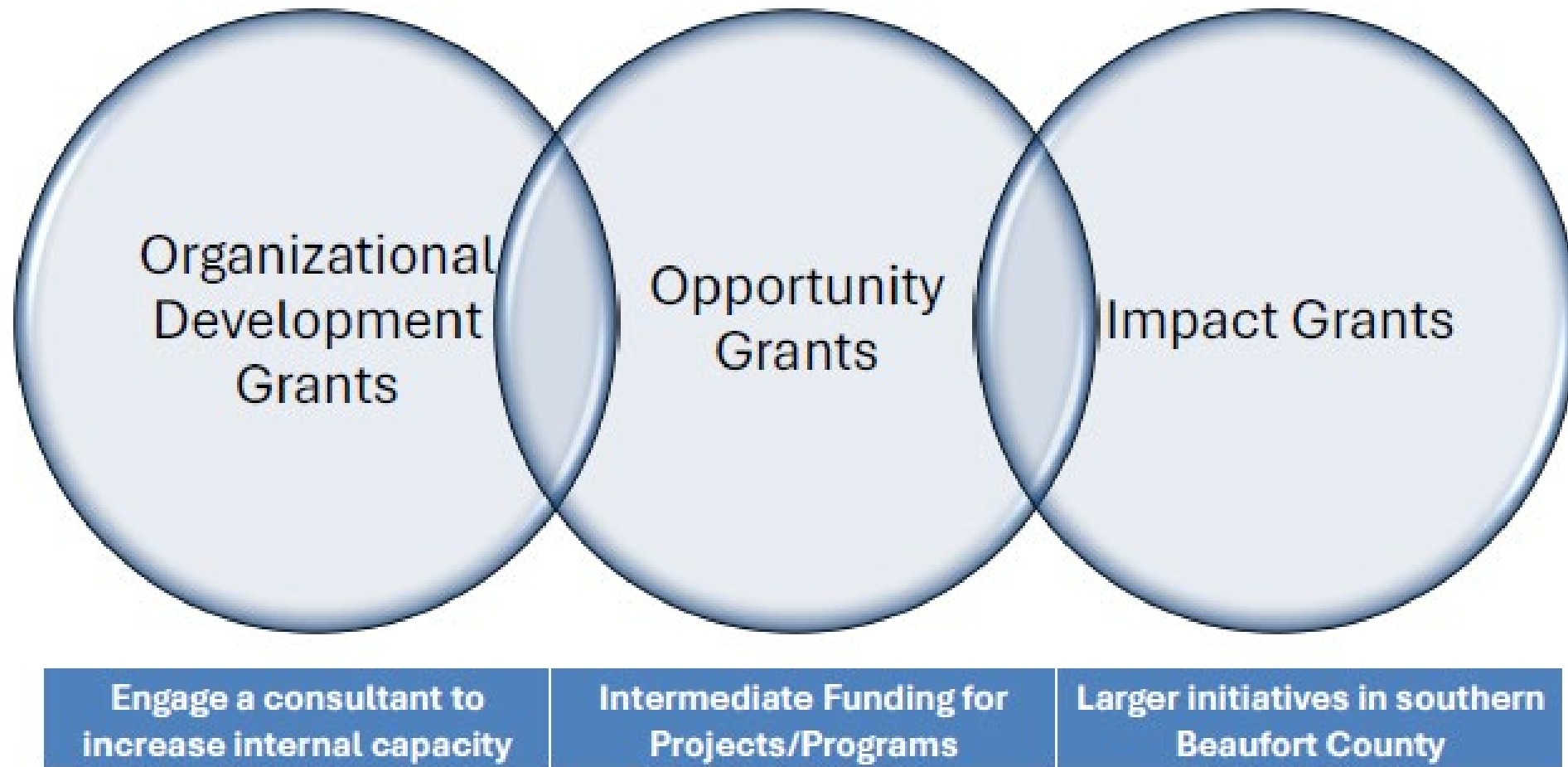
Through our grantmaking, the Community Foundation seeks to build **lasting community benefit**, by making grants that directly support Lowcountry organizations resulting in a positive impact to the community.

Our focus is on the **well-being of the Lowcountry community and the people who call it home**. We prioritize supporting organizations creating equitable opportunities and improving quality of life throughout the Lowcountry.

Our committees review applications and consider **community impact**, **organization capacity**, program/project **sustainability** and **collaboration** as required criteria for most projects and programs.



Community Investment Grants



Grant Types

	Org. Development	Opportunity	Impact
Purpose	Build Agency Capacity	Launch Pilot or Expand Program	New or Significantly Enhanced Program
Typical Request	Up to \$5,000	Up to \$10,000	\$10,001 to \$150,000
Typical Projects	Consultant Plans	Program s, Pilots , Equipment	New Projects, Programs or Capital Expenditures
Geographic Area	4 - County	4 - County	Southern Beaufort County

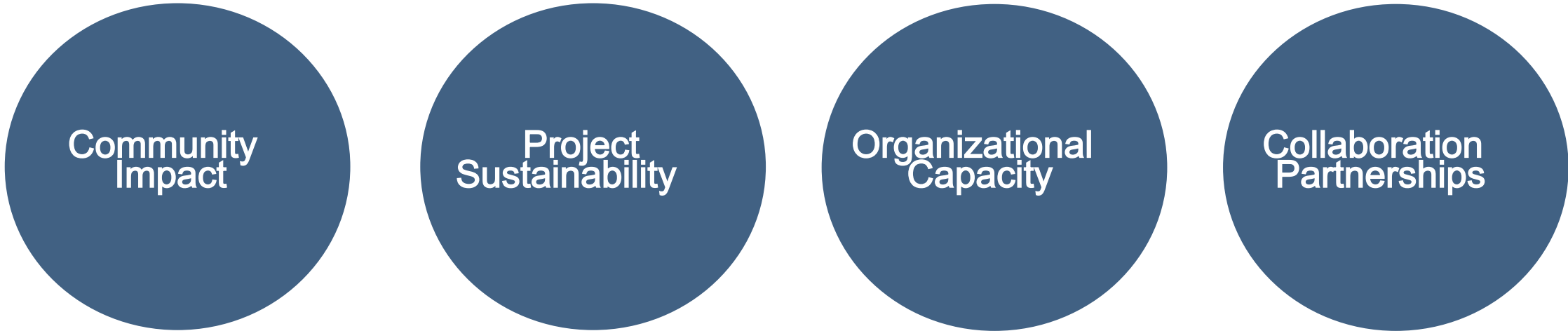
*GENERALLY, ONE GRANT WILL BE AWARDED TO A SINGLE ORGANIZATION PER FISCAL YEAR.



Grantmaking Goals

Through its grantmaking, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry seeks to:

- BUILD lasting COMMUNITY benefit by making grants that support Lowcountry organizations resulting in a positive impact to the community we serve.
- BUILD strong nonprofit organizations to serve our local COMMUNITY, through:



Community
Impact

Project
Sustainability

Organizational
Capacity

Collaboration
Partnerships

We Look For Projects

That:

- ✓ Empower individuals
- ✓ Avoid creating dependency
- ✓ Have lasting benefit
- ✓ Are sustainable after grant funding
- ✓ Are based on best practices
- ✓ Have board and executive support
- ✓ Demonstrate collaboration
- ✓ Create measurable impact



Limitations



WE GENERALLY DO NOT FUND GRANTS:

- that have already started, are in place, or have been previously funded by CFL through the same process.
- are comprised of operating expenses, including operational staff positions.
- for pre-assumed debt. (We will not consider funding expenses that the organization has committed to paying for.)
- that lack strong sustainability plans or do not have a clearly defined, relevant, and achievable timeline.
- that support religious or political activities, or for grant or scholarship programs (regranting)
- for private schools, unless the request is for a project or program that benefits the larger community.

Which Grant is Right For Me?

Grant Type	Organizational Development	Opportunity	Impact
Min Amount	None	None	\$10,001
Max Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$150,000
Geographic Area	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Southern Beaufort (Hilton Head, Daufuskie, Greater Bluffton)
Requires LOI	No	Yes	Yes
Cycles	3	2	2
Deadlines	August 14, 2026 January 15, 2026 June 5, 2027	September 1, 2026(LOI) March 1, 2027 (LOI)	September 1, 2026 (LOI) March 1, 2027 (LOI)
Common Request	Consultant Led Plans	Pilot or New Projects, Programs, Capital Expenditures	Larger-Scale Projects, Capital Expenditures, Programs
Contact	Lisa Hodge	Rose Gomez-Benitez	Debbie Cahoon

FAQ'S



Where do I send my LOI?

You don't! The LOI is a preapplication form that will open once you enter the access code in the portal.



Can I apply for operating expenses ?

No, unfortunately, we cannot fund operating expenses.



Will you fund salary expenses ?

You may apply for a new position. You must be able to demonstrate that individual's impact.



Do you fund existing programs?

We prefer to fund new programs or existing programs that have been enhanced or expanded. Existing programs must demonstrate impact, evidenced by measurable outcomes.



Can I apply if I am not in your service area?

With over 1,000 501(c)(3) organizations in our area, we have lots of local partners to support. You may apply, but we encourage you to find a local partner to collaborate with.



What is a grant application review meeting?

Application review meetings are scheduled in CFL's office for all Impact Grant applications. Organizations are assigned a time and required to attend. They will be asked to present an overview of the request, followed by Q&A.

Resources to view prior to starting the application process

[Applications are accessed in CFL's Grant Portal.](#)

[More information in the Grantseekers Toolkit.](#)

[Checkout the Ekedahl Center for Nonprofit Excellence!](#)

Our TEAM

Please contact the appropriate staff member, prior to applying.

We will help you decide which grant best meets your current needs.

We look forward to working with you!



ROSE GOMEZ-BENITEZ
Program Associate



LISA HODGE
Program Associate



DEBBIE CAHOON
VP for
Community Investment

Contact us



843-681-9100



rgomezbenitez@cf-lowcountry.org

lhodge@cf-lowcountry.org

dcahoon@cf-lowcountry.org



www.cf-lowcountry.org



4 Northridge Dr., Hilton Head Is., SC 29926

