

PURPOSE

Impact Grants support larger-scale nonprofit projects, programs, capital expenditures, or capacity building initiatives. These grants are ideal for more complex efforts that involve additional costs. The Impact Grant is similar in scope to Opportunity Grants but requires a larger investment. These grants are designed for organizations with the capacity to manage a significant initiative that will result in meaningful, measurable impact.

BACKGROUND

In 1994 the Hilton Head Island Hospital sold to a for-profit entity. Proceeds from that sale were used to create the Hilton Head Island Foundation. **The mission of the foundation was to support nonprofit organizations that served the individuals who lived in the hospital service area.** Years later, the Hilton Head Island Foundation expanded its service area and ultimately became the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. We currently have over 550 funds, but the majority of our grantmaking budget comes from the original Hilton Head Island Foundation fund. The fund continues to hold geographic restrictions on grant distributions. For that reason, Impact Grants are restricted to organization that serve southern Beaufort County, defined as Hilton Head Island, Daufuskie Island and greater Bluffton.

GEOGRAPHIC ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be located in or serve individuals who live and/or work in southern Beaufort County, defined as:

- Hilton Head Island
- Daufuskie Island
- Bluffton and greater Bluffton area

LIMITED ELIGIBILITY

Must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Must serve residents of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, or Jasper counties, South Carolina

Preference may be given to organizations that have not received an Impact Grant in the past three years.

IMPACT GRANTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR

- General Operating Support
- Grants to Organizations or Scholarships to Individuals
- Activities outside of the southern Beaufort County service area

APPLICATIONS ARE EVALUATED BASED ON

- Community Impact
- Project Sustainability
- Organizational Capacity
- Collaboration*
- Project Readiness**

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

***Collaboration:** Organizations outside of southern Beaufort County may apply only if their work clearly serves residents who live and/or work in the eligible region. Local partners should be secured.

****Project Readiness:** The Grants Advisory Committee prioritizes applications that demonstrate:

- A clearly defined timeline
- Partners, venues, or key resources needed (or nearly secured)
- A logical sequence of activities aligned with the grant period.
- Projects early in the conceptual stage may be considered premature for funding.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

- Launching or expanding a major program
- Building or renovating a community facility
- Acquiring major equipment or technology critical to mission delivery

APPLICATION INTERVIEW

All Impact Grant finalists will participate in a meeting with members of the Grants Advisory Committee. These application interviews are held at the Community Foundation's office and scheduled after applications are submitted. Applicants will be notified of their scheduled time, shortly after the application deadline date.

Application interviews will be scheduled between:

10/15/2026 - 10/31/2026 for cycle 1 and 4/15/2027 - 4/30/2027 for cycle 2

FUNDING DETAILS

Award Range: \$10,001 - \$150,000

LOI Required

LOI Deadlines: 9/01/2026 and 3/01/2027

Application Deadlines: 10/01/2026 and 4/01/2027

Notification: 11/20/2026 and 5/20/2027

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT

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Organizations are generally eligible to receive only one Community Investment Grant per fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Please consider your most urgent or strategic funding need when deciding which grant to pursue.