



2026-2028 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

This document is designed to assist you in completing the Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties' application for the 2026-2028 Community Impact Grant.

1. Overview

The Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties (CF/UWVFC) invites you to apply for Community Impact funding. CF/UWVFC's new focus areas for Community Impact are Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Healthy Community and Community Resiliency (see section 4). Applicants are required to choose one of these focus areas (also referred to as pillars) that best suits the purpose for which funding is being sought. (We realize that many programs and organizations work under more than one of these pillars, but we ask that applicants choose one for classification purposes.) Applicants may propose a program/project for funding OR request funding for operating supporting. Each organization may submit only one application for this grant cycle.

The application opens on Feb. 9, 2026, and is due by March 13, 2026. A virtual workshop/webinar for prospective applicants will take place at 10 a.m. Feb. 11, 2026. It will be recorded and made available to the public for playback.

All applications received by the deadline will be screened for eligibility (see section 2) by CF/UWVFC Community Investments staff. The Community Impact Cabinet (CIC), which is composed of subject-area volunteers and community leaders, will evaluate all eligible applications to determine which will be candidates for funding. The scoring criteria to be used for these reviews appears in sections 9 and 10. The CIC will then develop and recommend to the CF/UWVFC Board of Directors a 2026-2028 Community Impact funding plan. This plan will be based on review scores and other factors, including the cumulative impact and reach of the grantmaking and the distribution of the funding among the pillars. As part of this process, the CF/UWVFC will schedule interviews only with those candidates whose organizations have not recently (since July 1, 2023) received Community Impact funding. CF/UWVFC staff may also contact candidates by email for responses to clarifying questions. If this occurs, the email messages sent and received will be appended to grant application. Grants will be awarded at the sole discretion of the CF/UWVFC Board. Funding is not guaranteed. A timeline for the process appears in section 8.

2. Eligibility

The Community Impact Grant is intended for well-established nonprofits with programs that foster Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Healthy Community and/or Community Resiliency in Volusia and/or Flagler Counties. To be considered for this funding source, organizations also must meet high standards for financial accountability and have certain organizational policies. Failure to provide the required evidence of eligibility upon submission may eliminate the application from consideration for funding.

This grant opportunity is open to all local nonprofits that meet the following criteria:

- Must be a local 501(c)3 that operates in Volusia and/or Flagler counties;
- Must have at least 2 years of operation in the community;
- Annual revenue of at least \$100,000;
- Must be able to provide an audit or financial review;
- Board of Directors must consist of five or more board members;
- Must have active registration with the Florida Division of Corporations, drug-free workplace policy, ADA compliance policy and non-discrimination policy;
- Must agree that grant funds will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorist financing laws.

Note: Nonprofits with 501(c)3 status that do not meet the eligibility threshold for the Community Impact Grant are welcome to apply for 2025-2026 CF/UWVFC Special Grant Opportunities and also may receive grants from foundation funds.

3. Funding Details

The funding period for the 2026-2028 Community Impact Grant is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. Grant awards are paid by electronic deposit in monthly installments over the course of the two-year funding period. Funding is contingent on execution and ongoing compliance with a [detailed contract](#). CF/UWVFC reserves the right to adjust the annual award amount for the second year of funding (July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028) in response to unforeseen budget constraints.

Each nonprofit may apply for only one Community Impact grant for this 2026-2028 grant cycle. The grant request may be for a project/program or for operating support. Other types of grants from CF/UWVFC, such as Special Grant Opportunities and grants from foundation funds, do not count toward this limit.

The following restrictions apply to 2026-2028 Community Impact Grant requests:

- Maximum request — \$50,000 per year; Minimum request — \$20,000 per year.
- Requests for operating support per year may not exceed 25 percent of an organization's operating budget for the current fiscal year.
- Religious entities and organizations whose operations extend beyond Volusia and/or Flagler counties may not apply for operating support. (Religious entities may apply for program/project support for nonsectarian purposes. Organizations whose operations extend beyond Volusia and/or Flagler counties may apply for program/project support for activities exclusive to Volusia and/or Flagler counties.

4. New Pillars

CF/UWVFC is implementing new focus areas for Community Impact funding to remain in alignment with United Way Worldwide, as follows:

Healthy Community (Improving health and well-being for all). Topics include but are not limited to maternal and child health; nutrition and food security; mental health; substance misuse; disease prevention and awareness.

Youth Opportunity (Helping young people realize their full potential). Topics include but are not limited to: child care and early childhood development; in-school, after-school and summer learning; literacy development; STEM education; college and career readiness.

Financial Security (Building financial stability and strength). Topics include but are not limited to job readiness and workforce development; adult education and job training; financial education and coaching; homelessness prevention and affordable housing; small business support.

Community Resiliency (Addressing urgent needs today and advancing a better tomorrow). Topics include but are not limited to disaster relief and recovery; emergency preparedness; crisis hotline and support; environmental stewardship and sustainability.

5. Shared Outputs and Outcomes

CF/UWVFC completes a United Way Worldwide Annual Impact Survey each year. For the 2026-2028 Community Impact grant cycle, we have adopted shared outputs and outcomes that align with those we report on the global survey. On your application, you will be asked to indicate which of these outputs and outcomes your program (or your organization if you are requesting operating support) collects data about that you would be willing to share with us as part of your grant reporting, if your application is funded.

We ask that you offer to share the data that (1) are applicable to your project/program (or your organization if you are requesting operating support) and (2) you have the capacity to report on accurately without creating an undue burden on your staff or expense for your organization.

6. Application Characteristics by Type of Funding Requested

Program Funding. If your request is for program funding, you will be required to provide a summary of your program. This summary should include information about what community need your program addresses, your target population, how many individuals and/or families are served by the program, how you assist this population (including services provided, any collaboration with community partners, any use of evidence-based practices/curricula) and how you measure success. You will be required to identify at least one specific, measurable output of your program and at least one measurable outcome for your clients. Budgetary information about your program also will be required. (If your application is funded, your required grant reporting will include measurements of the output(s) and outcome(s) you identified, budget performance data and project/program success stories.)

Operating Support. If your request is for operating support, you will be required to provide a statement of how the grant award will enable or enhance your organization’s ability to accomplish its mission. Though funds received as operating support will be unrestricted, you will be required to describe your reason for seeking operating support by completing this sentence: “We will use this grant ...”. You will also be required to describe your organization’s plan for sustaining the work enabled by the grant after the two-year funding has ended. Budgetary information about your organization also will be required. (If your application is funded, your required grant reporting will include a summary of how the funds are spent and organization success stories.)

7. Reporting and Partnership Requirements

When submitting the application, you will be required to acknowledge that you are aware that Community Impact grants are subject to quarterly reporting requirements and partnership obligations. Partnership obligations include, but are not limited to, recognition of CF/UWVFC as a funder, participation in presentations and attendance at funded partners meetings. These requirements will be detailed in the contract that must be executed before funding may begin.

8. Timeline

The schedule for the application and award process appears below. The CF/UWVFC reserves the right to adjust dates if necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

Application Opens	Feb. 9
Workshop Webinar for Applicants	Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. (to be recorded)
Recorded Webinar Posted to Website	Feb. 13
Application Closes	March 13 (11:59 p.m.)
Eligibility/Ineligibility Notifications	March 20
Interviews with Potential New Partners	March 23 through April 3
Notifications of Recommended Funding	April 23
Application Amendments (if necessary) Due	May 1
Funding Recommendation Finalized	May 4
CF/UWVFC Board Consideration of Recommendation	May 18
Notifications of Funding Decisions	May 18
Signed Contracts Due to CF/UWVFC	June 15
Funding Period Begins	July 1

9. Scoring Criteria for Project/Program Grant Applications

All project/program applications will be screened for Eligibility (see section 2) by the CF/UWVFC Community Investments staff. Eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the Community Impact Cabinet based on the criteria below. The review scores will be a factor in the CIC's funding recommendation plan to the CF/UWVFC Board of Directors as described in section 1).

Metric	Criteria	Maximum Points
Organization Suitability	Organization's mission, longevity, history, budget, etc., as described in the application suggest it is suitable for Community Impact grant funding	5
Alignment with Pillar	The program/project proposed for funding aligns with the selected pillar.	5
Community Need	The project/program proposed for funding will address an urgent and/or important community need.	5
Program Effectiveness	The project/program proposed for funding promises to be effective in meeting the identified community need.	5
Amount Requested in Context of Program Budget	The amount requested from the CF/UWVFC is reasonable as related to the potential impact of the program/project and the overall budget for the program/project.	5
Program/Project Staffing	The program/project has or will have staff with appropriate education and/or experience to achieve success.	5
Project/Program Output(s)	The proposed output(s) suggests/suggest the project/program will be impactful in scope.	5
Project/Program Outcome(s)	The proposed outcome(s) is/are ambitious but achievable, relevant to the community need being addressed, clearly articulated and measurable by the method described.	5
Shared Outputs and Outcomes	The organization will contribute data related to the program/project that helps CF/UWVFC measure communitywide progress on key metrics (or adequately explain why it cannot).	5
Virtual Interview (if required) or Bonus for Returning Partners in Good Standing	Interviews will be scheduled with previously unfunded partners only. Returning partners in good standing will receive full points.	5

10. Scoring Criteria for Operating Support Grant Applications

All operating support applications will be screened for Eligibility (see section 2) by the CF/UWVFC Community Investments staff. Eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by the Community Impact Cabinet based on the criteria below. The review scores will be a factor in the CIC's funding recommendation plan to the CF/UWVFC Board of Directors as described in section 1).

Metric	Criteria	Maximum Points
Organization Mission	Mission statement aligns with purpose of Community Impact Grant program. (Purpose of CI Grant program is to strengthen the organized capacity of this community to meet needs with emphasis on Healthy Community, Financial Security, Youth Opportunity and Community Resiliency.)	5
Organization History	History demonstrates capacity to be good steward of operating support.	5
Alignment with Pillar	Organization's mission aligns with the selected pillar.	5
Primary Grant Purpose	Organization's reason for seeking operating support is clear and specific.	5
Organization Operating Budget	Budget summary demonstrates sound spending practices and adequate sources of revenue.	5
Leadership Staff	Organization's leadership staff have appropriate education and/or experience.	5
Readiness for Funds	A clear and convincing case is made that a grant of operating funds would enable or enhance the organization's ability accomplish its goals.	5
Sustainability	A clear and convincing case is made that the organization would sustain progress after the grant is ended.	5
Shared Outputs and Outcomes	The organization will contribute data that helps CF/UWVFC measure communitywide progress on key metrics (or adequately explain why it cannot).	5
Virtual Interview (if required) or Bonus for Returning Partners in Good Standing	Interviews will be scheduled with previously unfunded potential partners only. Returning partners in good standing will be awarded full points.	5