

atlanta civic site



2016 Community Investment Fund

Overview

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site team is pleased to release the grant application for the 2016 Community Investment Fund. The Community Investment Fund (CIF) is a grant opportunity open to resident-led projects in Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, and Summerhill and Capitol Gateway, known collectively as NPU-V. The primary objectives of these grants are to:

- support volunteers and grassroots organizations taking ownership in improving their communities;
- foster relationships by encouraging diverse community partnerships to work toward common goals;
- build capacity within the community through training and leadership development; and
- support and track at least one measureable neighborhood improvement from each grantee, with the understanding that incremental improvements lead to broader community impact.

Awards range from \$500–\$5,000 annually. **The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, March 18, 2016. No exceptions.**

Funding Priorities

Funding priorities fall within three categories, which align with the broader Atlanta Civic Site team's strategies: Neighborhood Transformation, Education Achievement and Family Economic Success. Examples of projects for each category include but are not limited to:

- *Neighborhood Transformation*: community or school gardens, community clean-ups and beautification, neighborhood safety, local business improvements;
- *Education Achievement*: mentoring, parent training/education engagement; after-school programs;
- *Family Economic Success*: savings and budgeting groups, youth entrepreneurship, youth summer jobs, cooperative businesses, adult education or skill-building programs.

Eligibility

All applicants must exhibit the following characteristics:

- Resident networks consisting of at least two unrelated NPU-V residents (with at least one applicant over age 18) **or** a community organization with active community membership.
- Building on the strengths and assets already existing in the community.
- Applicants do not need to have tax exempt status such as 501(c)(3), but if they do not have tax exempt status, they must have a fiscal sponsor who does. Applicants must provide a letter from fiscal sponsors indicating their willingness to serve in that capacity and describing the roles and responsibilities of the relationship. They also must provide the sponsor's IRS tax exemption letter. The Foundation will issue awarded grant checks to the tax-exempt organization, which must have a business bank (and indicate possession of one).
- Showing the capacity to complete activities funded by the Foundation by December 2016.

Projects will receive bonus points if they, in addition to the above:

- involve more than one community; or
- include a parent involvement component.

Preferred attributes include:

- demonstrating broad community support and engagement;
- addressing significant community issues and having clear benefits for the entire neighborhood;
- having a plan for sustaining the project beyond the initial Foundation investment; and
- providing a reasonable budget that does not include compensation for time.

Ineligible projects/organizations include:

- for-profit businesses and/or government/public agencies;
- nonprofits that have more than three full-time paid staff members;
- projects that only benefit an individual or household rather than the broader community;
- lobbying or strictly religious programming;
- event sponsorships (AECF has a separate community event sponsorship fund); and
- nonprofits or community-based organizations that do not demonstrate active participation by NPU-V residents.

Grantee Requirements

Selected grantees must:

- attend the grantee orientation to receive the first distribution of funds;
- submit midterm and final reports with itemized receipts (Grantees who do not submit the midterm report and itemized receipts will not receive the second half of their grant award. Grantees who do not submit reports will not be eligible for consideration in future rounds of the Community Investment Fund);
- schedule and invite their assigned CIF Advisory Board member to visit their project; and
- participate in related events throughout 2016.

How to Apply

In addition to submitting a completed application with all requested information, your submission should include a clear budget with a request of no more than \$5,000. For physical improvement projects, applicants should include pictures of the project site.

Completed applications should be submitted to Kristina Sales at ksales@aecf.org by **5 p.m. Friday, March 18, 2016**. While email is preferred, applications may be submitted by mail or in person at this address:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta Civic Site
Dunbar Neighborhood Center
477 Windsor Street, SW
Suite 304
Atlanta, GA 30312
ATTENTION: Community Investment Fund Application

Available Support

We will host grant-writing and technical assistance workshops for applicant questions and support. We encourage you to attend a grant-writing session first, followed by one for technical assistance, if needed. To maximize the technical assistance session, please bring a copy of your draft application. Computers will be available, so please feel free to bring a flash drive loaded with your application or email the file to yourself.

Grant Writing Training Sessions (Group)

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10–11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 8, 6–7:30 p.m.

Technical Assistance Sessions (Individual)

Thursday, March 3, 3–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12, 2–4 p.m.

Location: The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center; 967 Dewey St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310 (Enter door where balloons are located.)

Please call Kristina Sales at 678.686.0145 to RSVP (walk-ins also welcome!).

Questions

If you have questions, please contact Natallie Keiser at 678.686.0151 or the Community Investment Fund Advisory Board members:

Chartez Bailey

Amber Bell

Evelyn Clemons

Mary Gay

Richard Harris

Tamara Mason

Sabrina Mobley

June Shepherd

Carl Towns

LaKeta Whittaker

Philip Wu

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Atlanta Civic Site

477 Windsor Street SW

Suite 304

Atlanta, GA 30312

678.686.0145 P

www.aecf.org/atlanta