

atlanta civic site



2017 Community Investment Fund

Overview

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site team is pleased to release the grant application for the 2017 Community Investment Fund. The Community Investment Fund (CIF) is a grant opportunity open to resident-led projects in Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, Pittsburgh, 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. Monday, March 20, 2017. 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. Definitions of these categories are as follows:

- *Education Achievement* - NPU-V families have access to quality, affordable birth to 12th grade educational opportunities that will support their development and position them as life-long learners.
- *Family Economic Success* - NPU-V residents acquire post-secondary credentials, access quality financial services, are employed in well-paying jobs, and connect to opportunities to build assets.
- *Neighborhood Transformation* - NPU-V neighborhoods are safe and have strong locally owned businesses, a sustainable mix of housing that is high quality and affordable, and resident networks that improve the community.

Eligibility

- 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 agent who does. Applicants must provide a letter from fiscal agents indicating their

willingness to serve in that capacity and describing the roles and responsibilities of the relationship. They also must provide the fiscal agent'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 2017.

Projects will receive additional consideration if they, in addition to the above, support the following priorities of the 2017 CIF Board:

- involve more than one community;
- include a resident and family engagement component (for example, leadership development, information sharing, transportation, breaking silos, rights);
- address health issues (healthy food, nutrition, access to services); and
- support education for children and youth (STEAM, literacy, arts, parent involvement).

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 and an annual operating budget of more than \$150,000;
- projects that only benefit an individual or household rather than the broader community;
- lobbying or strictly religious programming;
- organizations that have a current CIF Advisory Board member serving in a senior staff, key consultant or board role; and
- nonprofits or community-based organizations that do not demonstrate active leadership by NPU-V residents.

Note: Casey has a separate neighborhood event sponsorship fund (up to \$400) for one time events; please contact Kristina Sales at ksales@aecf.org for the application.

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 2017.

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. Completed applications should be submitted to Kristina Sales at ksales@aecf.org by **5 p.m. Monday, March 20, 2017**. 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 to address applicant questions and provide support. **You are required to attend one of the two grant-writing sessions below.** You may also participate in one of the technical assistance sessions below, 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)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 4, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Dunbar Recreation Center

Conference Room (3rd Floor)

477 Windsor Street SW Suite 302 Atlanta, GA 30312

Technical Assistance Sessions (Individual)

Saturday, Mar. 11, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 16, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: DH Stanton Elementary School

Computer Lab

970 Martin St SE, Atlanta, GA 30315

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

Questions

If you have questions, please contact Kristina Sales at 678.686.0145 or the Community Investment Fund Advisory Board members:

Amber Bell

Jacarreum Bradford

Evelyn Clemons

Desirae' Dillion

Mary Gay

Richard Harris

Margaret Hooker

Tamara Mason

Russell McCray

June Shepherd

Elsie Lee Sullivan

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