



This FAQ document contains information about the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's spring 2025 grant cycles which include the Community Investment Funds, The Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts, and the Environment Fund.

Community Investment Funds (Visit <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/community-investment-funds>)

The Community Foundation accepts funding requests in the following categories: Aging, Child & Youth Development, Education, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Lamond Fund to benefit Children and Youth in Alexandria and Fairfax County, The Latino Engagement and Achievement Fund (LEAF)*, Mental Health, Military Personnel & Their Families, and Safety Net Support. The application is for general operating support.

Can I access a PDF copy of the application in advance to work on a draft of our responses?

For a PDF copy of any grant application, an Applicant should log in to Foundant, click on the Preview button, then click on Question List button.

Can you define what "General Operating" funding means for the Community Investment Funds cycle? Can it be related to a program?

General Operating funds are for anything that will help your organization and that it is up to you to determine how to best use the grant. It is intended to be very flexible and can be used for operating support or a program.

Can national, state-wide and/or regional organizations apply for funding, even if they have only specific programs focused in your service area?

National, state-wide and/or regional organizations are eligible for funding, as long as the organization serves residents in Northern Virginia.

Are there restrictions based on geography for any of the open funding cycles?

All 501c3 organizations that provide services in the Northern Virginia region are eligible for grants. The Community Foundation service area includes Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.). The only exception is the Lamond Fund for children and families, limited to organizations along the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax and Alexandria.

Can our organization apply for a grant through one Community Investment Fund area as well as through the Arts or Environment Funds?

No, only one application per applicant will be accepted across all of these funding opportunities. Select the area with which you feel you have the best fit.

** Not running a process in 2025.*

Would a music therapy program be appropriate for the Mental health fund?

Yes.

For organizations that provide food to students, the only funding avenue is the Lamond Fund for Children & Youth. Is this correct?

Lamond Fund is for basic needs. Child and Youth and Safety Net are not eligible for food funding.

When is the grant award meant to be utilized?

The 2025 grant will be awarded by May 1, 2025 and should be utilized by June 30, 2026.

Do organizations have to meet a certain operating budget to apply?

Please refer to the criteria listed on each grant application cycle at www.cfnova.org/grants.

If we submitted an application previously, has our login information changed or anything we need to know about navigating the system?

No, your login has not changed.

Will applications be considered from an all-volunteer organization if there are no paid staff members?

If your organization is a 501(c)3, you are eligible to apply.

Are there any restrictions for previous grantees?

No. As long as previous year's grant reports have been submitted, you are eligible to apply.

Can you please confirm the focus areas?

Please visit <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/community-investment-funds> to learn more about the focus areas for each category.

The Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts (Visit <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/ross-roberts-fund-for-the-arts>)

The Community Foundation accepts applications for organizations that focus on performing and visual arts. The application is for program or general operating support. Grants will be made according to an organization's budget size:

Budgets under \$100,000: Eight \$5,000 grants are available

Budgets under \$500,000: Two \$10,000 grants are available

Budgets above \$500,000: Two \$20,000 grants are available

Environment Fund (Visit <https://www.cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/environment-fund>)

Applications will be accepted from nonprofit organizations that offer an educational program in the area(s) of:

- Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Watershed Management
- Workforce and Climate

Organizations with budgets above \$100,000 must demonstrate that they are collaborating/will be collaborating with a government entity (local, city, county, or regional, within Northern Virginia.)

Grants will be made according to an organization's budget size:

Budgets under \$100,000: Eight \$5,000 grants will be made available
 Budgets under \$500,000: Two \$10,000 grants will be made available
 Budgets above \$500,000: Two \$20,000 grants will be made available

Will the Environment Fund and Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts accept applications for both operational and program/projects?

Yes, both the Environment Fund and the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts will fund general operating and program/project focused grants.

Are the budget levels for the Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts opportunity related to the organization's budget or the specific program's budget?

Please refer to the application to answer the specific financial questions.

Is there any preference from grantors for the Arts or Environment grants whether we choose a project vs. general operating?

No.

2025 Grants and Budget Size Questions

In 2025, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has either narrowed the applicant pool for certain funds by operating budget size, or is able to offer a tiered funding model for organizations of different budget sizes to apply, as follows. Please refer to the specific fund's criteria before applying:

- [Aging Fund](#): Open to All Budget Sizes
- [Child & Youth Development Fund](#): \$150,000 - \$4.5M Only
- [Education Fund](#): \$150,000 - \$4.5M Only
- [Environment Fund](#): Tiered Funding as follows: <\$100,000; \$100,000 - \$500,000; >\$500,000
- [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Fund](#): Open to All Budget Sizes
- [Lamond Fund to Benefit Children and Youth in Alexandria and Fairfax County](#): Open to All Budget Sizes
- [Mental Health Fund](#): \$150,000 - \$4.5M Only
- [Military Personnel & Their Families Fund](#): Open to All Budget Sizes
- [Ross-Roberts Fund for the Arts](#): Tiered Funding as follows: <\$100,000; \$100,000 - \$500,000; >\$500,000
- [Safety Net Fund](#): Two-Tiered Funding as follows: \$150,000 - \$4.5M; >\$4.5M

If you need any technical support in accessing your application on the grants portal, please contact Moses Ulom. If you have questions about which category is appropriate for your organization's application, you may sign up for a brief office hours call with Sari Raskin or Jennifer Cochran during their office hours. Please contact Sari or Jennifer to receive the Sign Up Genius link for office hours.

General Questions	General Questions	Log In Questions
<p>Sari Raskin VP Grants and Community Leadership sari.raskin@cfnova.org 703-879-7641</p>	<p>Jennifer Cochran Manager of Grants and Scholarships jennifer.cochran@cfnova.org 703-879-7639</p>	<p>Moses Ulom Manager of Gifts and Grants moses.ulom@cfnova.org 703-879-7642</p>

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GRANTS FAQ's

