

The South Financial Group Foundation Grant Request Procedures

The South Financial Group Foundation, formerly known as The Carolina First Foundation, (the “Foundation”) was created in 1999 to demonstrate The South Financial Group’s (“TSFG”) commitment to elevate the quality of education in markets served by TSFG within the states of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida. The Foundation also considers programs that improve education through enhancing the quality of life for communities served by TSFG.

Primary Emphasis on Education

TSFG believes that education is vital to a democratic society and thriving economy and that a well-educated and highly skilled work force will enable citizens to best achieve their individual goals and to effectively compete in the world market place.

TSFG also believes that:

- Society's and TSFG's greatest resource is its human and intellectual capital.
- The public education system must provide quality education for all citizens.
- All sectors of education are inextricably linked and should be considered elements of a single system.
- Parents, teachers, administrators, educational institutions and educational systems must strive to meet high and uniform standards and must be accountable for improving the education of students.
- Schools and educators should employ technologies that are effective in improving education and stimulating students to learn. In addition, students must be equipped to deal with the changing nature of technology, business and society.
- Individuals (parents, teachers, administrators, and students), institutions (schools, public and private agencies, and businesses) and communities should see the ability to learn as one of the most important outcomes of the educational process.
- Active learning experiences promote the education of students by emphasizing outcomes, skills, and the ability to be a self-directed learner.
- Primary and secondary education is the sector of the education enterprise facing the most urgent need to reform. Achievement or failure during these formative years sets the tone for a student's entire life. All other sectors must be linked in a shared mission to improve outcomes for students at this level.
- Good health and the availability of necessary health and social services are needed in order to ensure an environment and atmosphere conducive to successful learning.
- Arts and culture are critical components of learning and the educational experience.

Selection Criteria

The Foundation expects to receive many more requests for grants than it has resources to fund. Proposed programs that are submitted for review must address one or more of the categories outlined above. Proposals most likely to receive a favorable review are those that:

- will improve education in markets served by TSFG;
- focus on learning outcomes which can and will be demonstrated by verifiable quantitative and qualitative data;
- lead to comprehensive, systemic change;
- have a broad and positive impact on multiple vs. single or a few schools, school districts, libraries, citizens,

- communities or counties and on diverse populations, including racial and other minorities and students at risk;
- involve collaborative partnerships with strong and successful partners;
- use technology and innovative teaching methods to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the education process;
- demonstrate the capacity to gain continuing financial support and to link with other reform efforts;
- will result in dissemination of lessons learned and likely be replicated with positive results;
- are most likely to produce measurable positive results;
- are requests for one-time grants not exceeding \$20,000 ;
- are from organizations with strong, dynamic, and experienced management and board members or trustees who have a demonstrated record of raising funds, developing, implementing, and managing successful programs, and measuring and documenting program results;
- are from organizations and/or for programs previously supported by the Foundation which have resulted in positive results;
- fund a portion of a project or program versus requests asking the Foundation to be a significant or single funding source; and
- must be from an organizations having tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and which are recognized as a public charity.

The Foundation will generally not award grants for:

- other than education;
- general operating expenses;
- start-up organizations;
- educational product development;
- single discipline curricula unrelated to comprehensive school reform;
- memorials;
- sectarian or denominational religious organizations;
- programs whose impact is primarily outside of TSFG's markets;
- to other foundations;
- After school and summer programs;
- Day care and private kindergartens;
- Feeding or housing the homeless or abused; or
- Boy and Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs.

The Foundation will not accept grant applications for:

- individual study, scholarship, research, or travel grants;
- private foundations;
- charitable or honorable dinners, balls or galas or auctions;
- charitable sporting events or sponsors of such events;
- fraternal, social, labor or veterans organizations;
- programs that are primarily recreational;

- projects for religious purposes;
- lobbying or election efforts;
- non-charitable purposes;
- requests that may be deemed controversial or which pose a potential conflict of interest to TSFG or the Foundation;
- activities sponsored by any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, creed, gender or national origin;
- goods and/or services provided to or for the benefit of the Foundation, TSFG or TSFG's affiliates; or
- an entity which is not a 501(c)(3) organization;

The Proposal Review Process

Each proposal will be reviewed by the Foundation to determine if it matches the Foundation's objectives. If the proposal is not considered a match for the Foundation's objectives, a letter declining funding will be sent early in the process. Proposals which appear to qualify will be reviewed by the Grants Committee whose decision will be final. All applicants will be notified as to whether their proposal has been approved or denied. The Grants Committee only meets periodically; therefore, please refrain from calling during the review process to check the status of the proposal. We will contact the Organization when a decision is made and if we need further information.

How To Apply For A Grant

Before applying for a grant from the Foundation, review the guidelines set forth herein to determine if the request meets the specific criteria. If there is a match, you may submit a grant request but only on the Foundation's *Grant Request Application Form* (the "Application").

Upon request, an e-mail transmission of the *Grant Request Application Form* (in Word format) will be sent; however, the completed form with the required attachments must be **mailed** (hard copy) to the Foundation.

Specific proposals will be considered, but not general solicitations for funds.

All Requests Must Address the Following:

Purpose: Describe succinctly the project, the activities and time frame, and the short and long-term goals.

Background: Why is this effort important? What reform issues does it address? What previous experiences and/or research speak to its probabilities for success? Who are the other partners in this effort?

Learning Focus: How will this effort lead to improved and more active learning? How will improvements in learning be measured?

Other Community Initiatives: If the grant proposal relates to health and human services and/or arts and culture, please define how this program fosters improvement in the community served by the project, especially with regard to education.

Results: Define the outcomes expected from this effort. How will the results be evaluated? What are the benchmarks by which progress will be measured? What other questions or issues may be indirectly answered by this effort?

Future: How are program activities planned to be sustained after the conclusion of the Foundation's support? What

are the plans for dissemination, replication and/or connections with other reform efforts?

Cost: What is this project's total estimated cost (documented in the form of a line item budget in reasonable detail by type of expenditure and amount)? How much of this is being requested from the Foundation? What other sources of funding have been received and/or are being pursued (name or description of the source and amount)?

Information Required:

- The Foundation Grant Request Application Form in duplicate;
- A transmittal letter dated and signed by an official of the requesting organization;
- Background information on the organization, including a brief history and a listing of the organization's key officers (name and title) and directors or trustees (name, occupation, and name of business association);
- A copy of the requesting organization's financial statements for the two most recent years (audited statements and related management letter where they are available);
- Budget for proposed project and, where applicable, two years of historical financial information on the project;
- A copy of the tax determination letter from the IRS indicating the organization's tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) and public charity status under section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A copy of the organization's most recently filed Form 990 together with applicable schedules, attachments, exhibits or statements; and
- The organization's and project/program's Website address (where applicable).

The request must be submitted to the Foundation in hard-copy format on a *Foundation Grant Request Application Form*. Submit the required documents to the address below. **DO NOT SEND** videos, films, diskettes, photographs, artwork, complex or detailed charts or graphs or other bulky materials. If brochures are necessary to explain an integral part of the project, please submit only one copy. If other information is needed, it will be requested.

Grant proposals and other communications should be sent to:

The South Financial Group Foundation
Mail Code SC968-49
151 Corley Mill Road
Lexington, SC 29072-7600