



Frequently Asked Questions

The **GivHer Circle Fund** supports local nonprofit organizations serving George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, and Stone counties. Through the generosity of our members, eligible nonprofits may apply for grants of up to \$20,000. Priority is given to programs focused on child welfare, education, and health. At the same time, we recognize that important community needs extend beyond these areas and welcome innovative projects that address emerging challenges across our region. If your organization has a project that can make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to apply and share your vision with us.

Q. Do I have to submit a letter of intent to file a grant application?

No, we do not require a letter of intent to check the eligibility of agencies intending to apply for a grant prior to the grant application deadline.

Q. What if our organization is smaller and may not need the full amount of the grant?

This is a transformational grant opportunity. An organization must decide if it has a need or a program that meets the criteria for the full grant. Perhaps collaborating with another agency that has a similar program will work. Try to think outside the box and dream large and then put those dreams to work for you.

Q. What are some of the reasons applications are rejected?

- Agency requested less than the full grant amount
- More than one application came from an organization
- Financial information is missing
- Organization is not yet a 501(c)3 or cannot prove its 501(c)3 status
- Grant project does not benefit residents of the six-county area
- Grant project funds general operating expenses of the organization
- Grant organization does not demonstrate sustainability or there is known existing or potential litigation involving an applying organization
- Applicants must have a minimum of three years of operational history. This requirement ensures that funded organizations have demonstrated stability and capacity to manage grant resources effectively.

Q. What are some of the reasons applications may not be selected as a finalist?

- Grant project may not demonstrate ability to fully expend the grant funds or complete the project within the twelve-month timeframe
- Grant project, if designed to be ongoing, does not show how it will be funded at the end of the grant
- Application is unclear or project is not well-defined
- The project budget is not specific or is inaccurate
- The grant project does not fall within the scope of the focus area as defined on the application



Q. Can our organization submit different grant applications in different categories?

No, each organization may submit only one grant application each year.

Q. If we submit a proposal this year that is not funded, how soon can we resubmit the proposal?

You may apply again the following year.

Q. If we submit a proposal and are awarded a grant, how soon can we apply again?

An organization must sit out two grant application cycles after being awarded. For example, a 2023 grant recipient will be eligible to re-apply in the 2026 cycle.

Q. Which focus area gets the most applications?

The numbers change each year, and we do not know how many will apply in any area from year to year. We believe you are the best judge of which focus area your project best fits. Equal consideration is given to each area.

Q. Can we include our brochures, annual reports and videos about our organization?

No, we do not accept these types of materials with the application, but we do request you submit photos of your organizational activities with your application. We may use these on our website and in other publicity.

Q. How does the GivHer Circle pay out the grant money?

The GivHer Circle pays out the full grant amount, up front at one time, upon award of the grant. All funds must be expended within the twelve-month time period mentioned below.

Q. What is the period of time the money must be spent?

A project must expend the funding within twelve months. Funds are available on November 1 following the award of the grant in October. **Example:** For the 2025 grant winners, the recipient organizations have through October 31, 2026, to expend the funds.

Q. Can organizations work together on a grant project?

Yes! The GivHer Circle encourages collaborative efforts when the project warrants such an approach.

There are two ways organizations can work together:

Lead Agency Model: One organization serves as the primary applicant and grant recipient, taking full responsibility for grant administration and reporting. Partner organizations provide services, resources, or expertise to support the project. The lead agency submits all required documentation, while partner organizations provide letters of commitment detailing their specific contributions to the project.

Requirements for Lead Agency Model:

- Lead agency must be a qualified 501(c)3 organization and submit complete application
- Partner organizations must provide letters of commitment/support
- Lead agency is responsible for all grant funds and reporting
- Only the lead agency is subject to the waiting period if awarded a grant.



Q. What documentation is needed from partner organizations?

Partner organizations must provide:

- Letter of commitment detailing their specific role and contributions
- Any relevant qualifications or certifications related to their role in the project
- The lead agency may need to provide additional documentation about the partnership as requested

Q. Does a collaborative grant application have a better chance of being awarded than an application submitted by a single nonprofit organization?

No, collaborative applications are not given preference. Each grant application is evaluated based on its own merits and how well it meets the GivHer Circle's criteria. Collaboration should only be pursued when it genuinely strengthens the project.

Q. Can a nonprofit organization apply for the grant as part of collaborative effort and then separately as an individual organization?

No. Each organization can apply for one (1) grant either as an individual organization or as part of a collaborative effort.

Q. How many finalists will be selected to make presentations to the GivHer Circle membership? Who will determine the finalists? Will at least one of each of the five categories be represented equally among the finalists?

The number of finalists will vary based on the quality and number of eligible applications received. Committee members will review each application following a rigorous process that includes evaluation of the written application. All finalists will be represented equally to our members through executive summaries that follow the same format. Members of the Circle will then decide on the final grantee(s).

Q. Can I be a member of the GivHer Circle if I am the CEO or a member of the Board of an agency?

Yes! Yes! And YES!

Q. Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact our Grants Director with any questions regarding the grant application process. She may be contacted by email at srhodes@mgccf.org (Subject line: GHC Grants).