



**2025 Community Grants Panel Training**



Community  
FOUNDATION

*for the*  
Central Savannah  
River Area

## Welcome!



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## **Agenda:**

Community Foundation Overview

Grant Process

Group Exercise

Grant Process Continued

Evaluating and Ranking your Grants

Site Visits

Group Exercise

Software Overview (GLM)

Deadlines & Next Steps



# Connecting Passion with Purpose



Our mission is to engage, inform, and inspire donors and nonprofits to build a stronger and more vibrant community.

# In *Everything* We Do, We Strive To:



## Cultivate Generosity

by giving donors the tools and information they need to make a significant difference in our community



## Strengthen Nonprofits

by connecting organizations to financial resources, training, and opportunities for meaningful collaboration



## Engage our Community

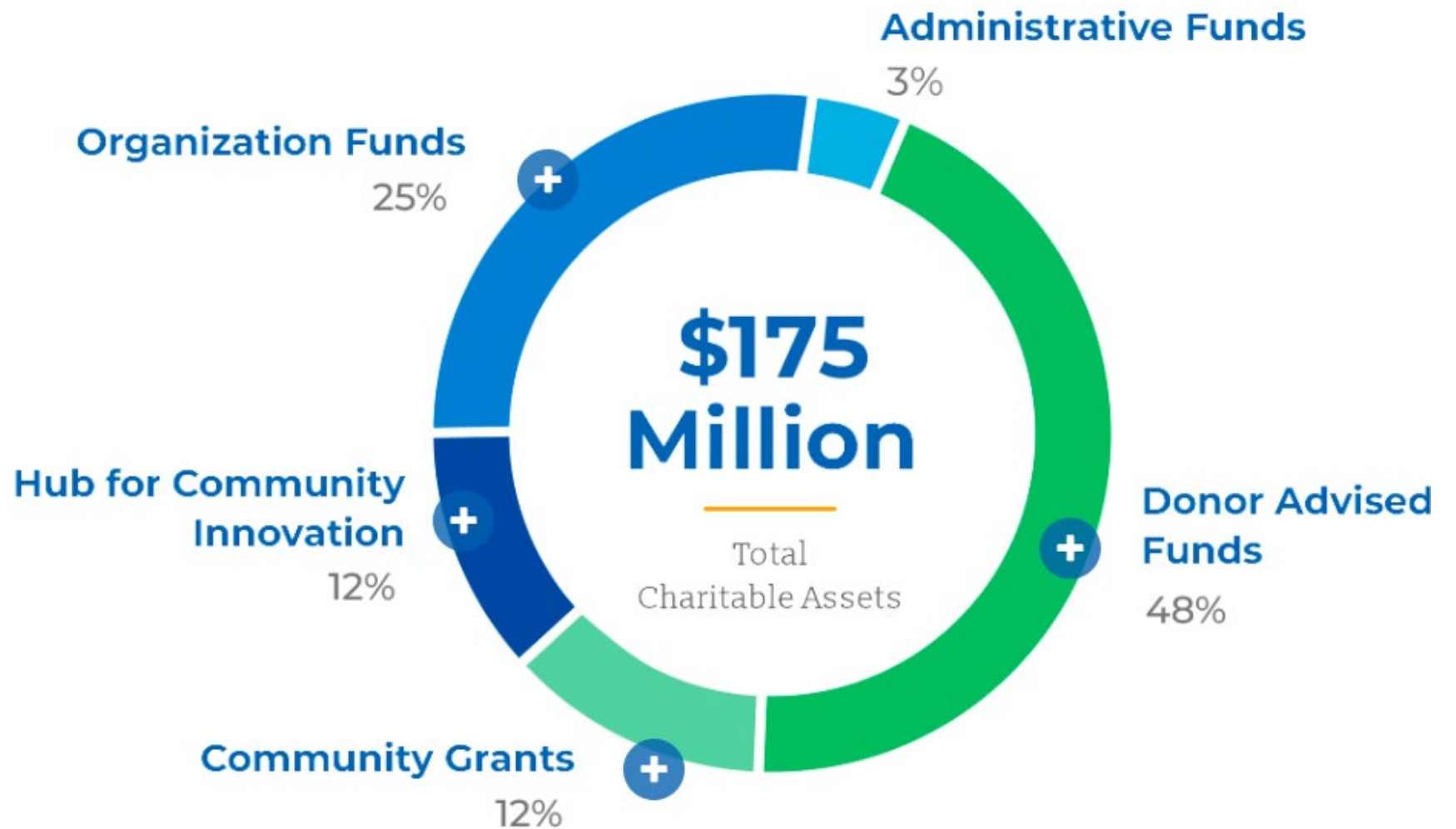
around issues that matter to us all

# Beyond Panels

How you can become part of the  
Community Foundation Family....

Matt Nelson  
Director of Development &  
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706.627.6870





# Supporting Our Community... More Than Just Community Grants

## Other Grant Opportunities

Augusta Bar Foundation    Vinea Foundation    J.B. White Foundation

St. Joseph Foundation



Border Bash    Mary Warren    Sand Hills Garden Club

Women In Philanthropy



**CAPACITY  
BUILDING  
COHORT**



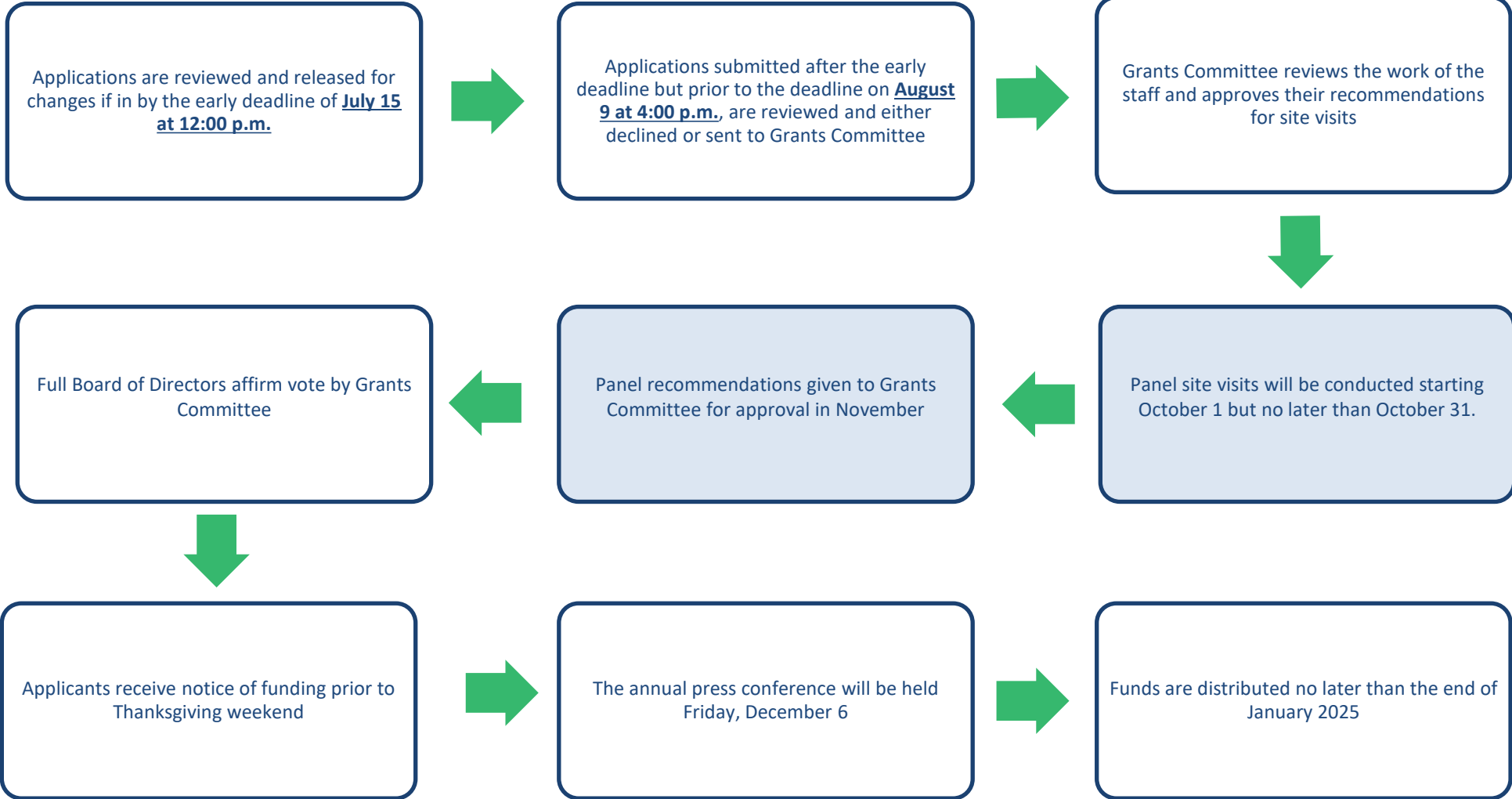


# Why Community Grants?

It is the community's opportunity, through volunteer panel members, to determine what they feel the most pressing needs are in our community in any given year, and then take action by deploying resources to the nonprofit organization(s) they feel can most strongly have a positive impact on those needs.



# What is the Award Process?



# Fast Facts Quiz

1. True or False: We do not fund ongoing expenses, i.e. operational costs.
2. True or False: Your panels' rankings guide final funding choices.
3. What is the highest amount an organization can receive?
4. True or False: You may request that an organization receive more than they asked for in their application if you see they can use it.
5. True or False: If we give an application to you, we can fund it.
6. How many nonprofit service category choices are there? 1, 2, 3, 4

7. What is the highest panel funding score (number)?
8. In forced ranking, each number can be used how many times?
9. In merit ranking, how many times may a number be used?
10. True or false: All panel members should complete their evaluations in the GLM system.
11. True or false: Our feedback is not shared with the nonprofits
12. A site visits versus the application. Which is more important?

# The Program Areas of Funding

**Arts/Culture/History** – recognizing the positive impact arts, cultural and historical organizations have on a community, we welcome innovative and high-quality applications in this area.

**Education/Youth Enrichment** – we welcome applications from organizations that provide enrichment and educational opportunities to disadvantaged children, youth and adults. Examples include: job skill training and/or placement, after school or summer programs, leadership, tutoring, GED and literacy programs.

**Health/Environmental** – some examples of programs in this funding area include: environmental research or management, animal services, programs that support sustainable community and backyard gardens, medical clinics, drug rehabilitation programs, medical programs for persons with disabilities and mental illness.

**People in Need** – this category is generally, but not exclusively for human service programs that work with people in need. Examples include feeding, housing, financial assistance, programs serving the homelessness, and programs for recently incarcerated individuals.

## What We've Asked the Nonprofits to Emphasize In Their Application

A strong applications will **tell the story** of the organization and the importance of their mission in the community, to include:

- ❖ **Impact** on persons/the community
- ❖ Develop **competencies or skills, or provide for a critical immediate need**
- ❖ Address a **demonstratable, significant need**
- ❖ **Leverage** other funding
- ❖ How they **partner** with other agencies
- ❖ Demonstrate **capacity to provide** services
- ❖ Demonstrate **support from volunteers** and in-kind resources
- ❖ Promote **systems or approaches** that have the ability to prevent or solve problems
- ❖ Be sure that their response(s) to questions **reflect services for the six-county funded area** (Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie, Burke, Aiken, Edgefield)

# What we're asking you to evaluate

## Application Ranking (50 total points)

- ❖ Project Description (15 pts)
- ❖ Financial Attachments & Program Budget Table (15 pts)
- ❖ Outcomes (10 pts)
- ❖ Project Implementation (5 pts)
- ❖ Partnerships/Collaboration (5 pts)

## Site Visit Ranking (50 total points)

- ❖ Application Knowledge (15 pts)
- ❖ Community Impact (15 pts)
- ❖ Organization Knowledge (10 pts)
- ❖ Staff/Facility Assessment (5 pts)
- ❖ Additional Materials/Program Support (5 pts)

# Questions?



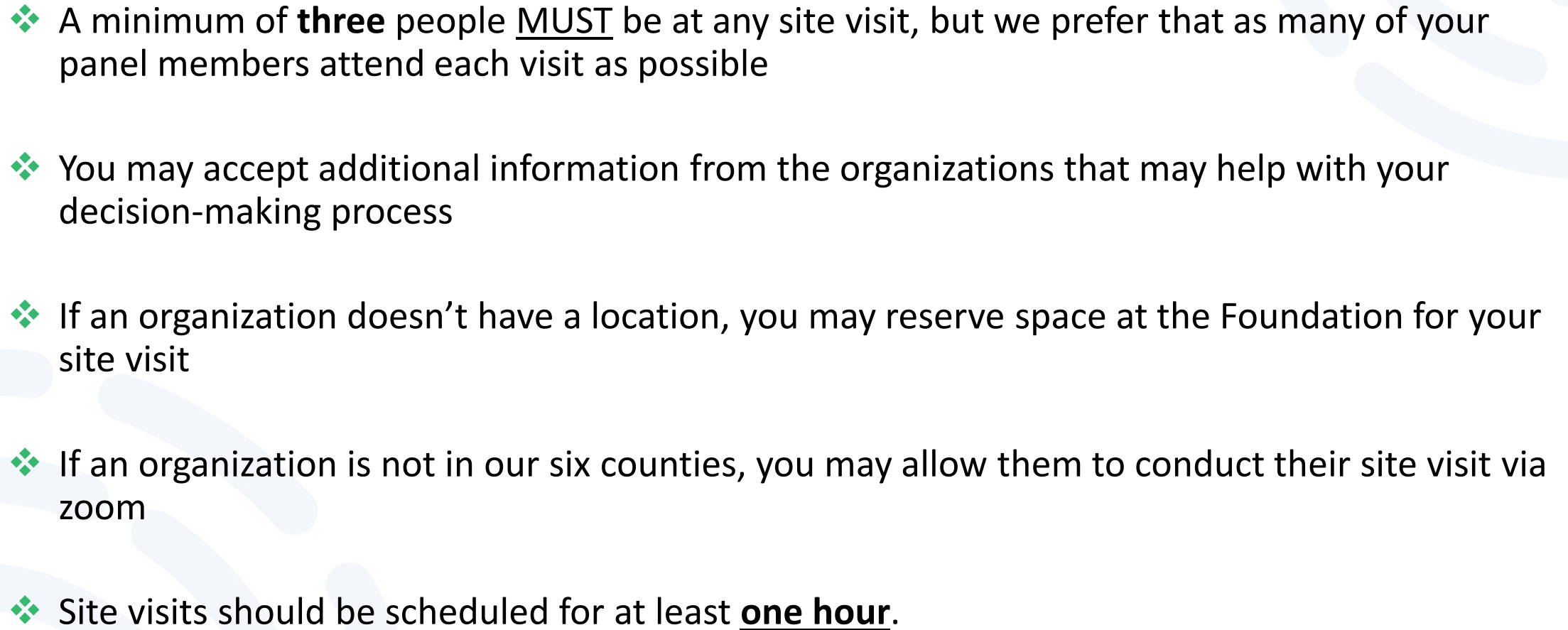


# Is a Site Visit Really Important?

- ❖ **YES. You are our proxy eyes and ears with your assigned nonprofits. We need your help and guidance! An application alone never tells the entire story.**
- ❖ This year we received 150 applications but not all applicants receive a site visit. All applications were read by the program team to determine that they asked for something we fund, are in our service area, answered the questions, had all needed attachments and were submitted by the deadline. 120 made it to a site visits
- ❖ A compelling application along with a great site visit is an opportunity for the nonprofit to secure funding. We've asked our nonprofits to prepare for their site visit with that thought in mind, and to be prepared to "sell" their grant proposal and organization to your panel!
- ❖ We have told all of the nonprofits to make sure the person who wrote the grant preps those who will be present at the site visit. They know that whenever possible a best practice would be for that person to also attend.

# Preparing for a Site Visit

- ❖ Please begin contacting your nonprofits by October 5<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Panels Chairs coordinate with their panelists and assigned nonprofits to schedule site visits. **Please be flexible and provide the nonprofits with more than one option for their site visit.**
- ❖ Make sure everyone reads the applications thoroughly before the visit
- ❖ Prepare questions in advance and don't hesitate to ask questions even if they are not part of the application
- ❖ Try and be as consistent as you can with questions asked of each reviewed organization
- ❖ Please be aware we also receive feedback from our nonprofits experience with their panel

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- ❖ A minimum of **three** people MUST be at any site visit, but we prefer that as many of your panel members attend each visit as possible
  - ❖ You may accept additional information from the organizations that may help with your decision-making process
  - ❖ If an organization doesn't have a location, you may reserve space at the Foundation for your site visit
  - ❖ If an organization is not in our six counties, you may allow them to conduct their site visit via zoom
  - ❖ Site visits should be scheduled for at least **one hour**.

# Questions?



# Scenario # 1

## Organization A

- Small grassroots passionate organization
- One paid staff person
- Mostly run by volunteers
- Provide food and social gatherings within a targeted community for Sr's in need

## Organization B

- Nationally known organization
- Highly qualified paid staff
- Some volunteers
- Serving large numbers of people per year with multiple basic needs



# Scenario # 2

## Organization A

- Small organization
- Serves a large number of people. Each can come one or two times throughout the year
- Provide multiple services
  - Id's
  - Bus vouchers
  - Clothing and food

## Organization B

- Small Organization
- Narrow demographic
- Works with 20 people per year
- Has a job skills training program with 80% success rate for long term self-sufficiency



# Scenario # 3

## Organization A

- Provide mental health services to the uninsured
- Grant request is for counselor salaries and utility costs
- Medium size organization
- Has a small endowment

## Organization B

- Grant to pay for summer camp scholarships for low-income children
- Also has an incredible at-risk teen leadership program that they talk about, but they are not asking for funds for that program
- Medium size organization



# Scenario # 4

## Organization A

- Application is not professionally done
- Attachments have mistakes
- Site visit blows you away

## Organization B

- Professionally done application
- Words jump off the page with their impact
- Site visit is done by a staff person with little enthusiasm or knowledge

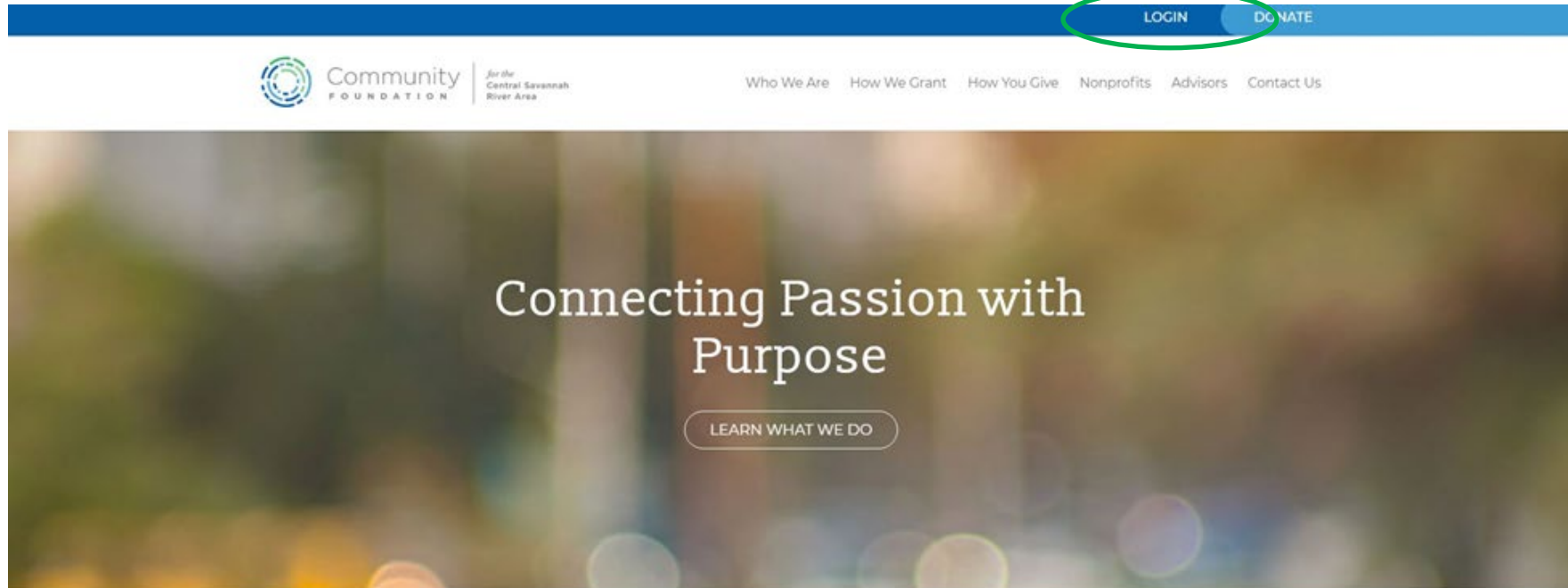






# Using the Grants Portal

## How Do I Get Started?



The Community Foundation for the CSRA is our region's trusted philanthropic partner. We work with donors and nonprofits to connect passion with purpose so that, together, we can strengthen our community for all.



# 2023 Community Grants Panel Member Information ✕



Are you a grantseeker or  
volunteer panel member?

Access applications.

ACCESS GRANT PORTAL

Are you a fund holder?

Access your fund information and recommend grants  
online.

ACCESS DONOR PORTAL

The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area values your time and your wisdom as you help us select this year's grant recipients. You will find resources on this page to assist you during the grant process. We will continue to add information and resources as they become available. We are here to help, so do not hesitate to call if you need more information.

COMPLETE THE PANEL REGISTRATION FORM

## New Panelists –


### Do not create a new account!

One has been created for you with the email address you provided on your panel registration form. Enter your email address and click “Forgot your password?” to create a unique password.

## Returning Panelists

Use previous credentials. If you provided a different email address this year or forgot your password, click “Forgot your password?” to regain access.

tralsavannah



Community  
FOUNDATION

for the  
Central Savannah  
River Area

### Logon Page

Email Address\*

Password\*

Log On Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

**Welcome to the Community Foundation's Online Grants Portal.**

**New Users:** Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

**Not Sure?** If you think that you **or someone at your organization** has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact Rebecca Wallace at [rebeccawallace@cfcra.org](mailto:rebeccawallace@cfcra.org) to receive your username.

- [Written Tutorial](#)
- [Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation](#)
- [Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding](#)
- [Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard](#)
- [Apply for a Grant - Applicant Overview Video](#)

**Existing Users:** We are now using a new grant platform. If you, or someone from your organization, has not written a grant to the Foundation since March of 2020 you will need to sign in as a new user. Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the left to reset your password.

## Evaluator Dashboard

Your Dashboard will show the applications assigned to your panel. To begin your evaluation, click Start. Save your responses. You may return to the evaluation throughout the process.

Dashboard

Your Evaluations **12** Your Follow Ups **0**

Pending **9** Draft **1** Complete **2**

Quick Search

FORM	PROCESS	ORGANIZATION	APPLICANT FIRST NAME	APPLICANT LAST NAME	PROJECT	SCORE	
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Arc of the US	Nathan	Murphy	Creating creative awareness	57%	Update
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Boys & Girls Clubs of America	Arthur	Mitchell	General operating support and facility improvements	57%	Update
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.	Juan	Taylor	Conservation operations support		Start
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	International Association of Fire Fighters	Joshua	Smith	General Operating support		Start
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Direct Relief	Abigail	Clark	No needles here- drug addiction recovery community support		Start
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Covenant House	Douglas	Smith	Community Closet		Start
Staff Evaluation - Spring	Spring Grant Process	Global Peace Film Festival, Inc.	Richard	Robinson	Lodging for Filmmakers		Start

[Click Here for a Helpful Evaluator Tutorial](#)

# Deadlines

**Thursday, September 26 by noon** – Last call for added panel members and conflicts of interest

**Saturday, September 28 through Saturday, October 5** – Panel chairs schedule site visits with nonprofits

**Thursday, Oct 31** – All evaluations are due to CFCSRA by noon

**Friday, December 6** – Press conference/Announcement of awardees



OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>

By Noon!

# We're Here To Help!



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[Panel Member Page](#)



# Questions?

