

CITY OF GAINESVILLE **COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

As stated in the City Commission Strategic Plan: "*The City Commission has identified a number of strategic goals that encompass a variety of City services, including public safety, economic development and redevelopment, human capital, government effectiveness and fiscal responsibility, infrastructure and transportation, neighborhoods, the environment, and partnerships and intergovernmental relationships.*" It is the City Commission's desire to meet the needs of the community by providing citizens with appropriate service levels through the implementation of this Strategic Plan.

As part of this Strategic Plan, the City has created a Community Grant Program designed to assist in providing direct financial grants to help further the goals of non-profit organizations for projects and activities that provide community services, which improve the quality of life for Gainesville residents. This program is contingent upon the annual budget and appropriation of available funds in the sole discretion of the City Commission. The following outline provides the eligibility criteria and program requirements for the City of Gainesville Community Grant Program:

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the Community Grant Program is to provide limited funding to eligible non-profit organizations to assist them in providing direct community services in one or more of the following categories:

- meals served to elderly and homeless persons;
- homeless persons temporarily housed;
- health care services provided to low-income individuals, including families with children, seniors, homeless persons and persons with disabilities; and
- transportation services provided for all of the services listed above.

II. Maximum Grant Award:

Eligible non-profit organizations may receive a grant award up to a maximum of \$TBD per entity.

Available grant awards will be allocated among applicants based on factors such as their quality of services, quantity of services, and costs related to direct services. Applicants may receive less than the maximum grant amount.

III. Eligible Program Sponsors:

- Each applicant organization must be registered as a non-profit corporation with the State of Florida.
- Organizations must be non-profit entities with current 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status.
- Non-profit organizations must have applicable federal, state and/or local license(s) as required to operate an entity within the City of Gainesville.

IV. Program Requirements:

All proposed programs/projects must provide a detailed budget showing that requested funds meet the categories and goals of the program.

Organizations must have other revenues or matching dollars to support the proposed grant.

Applicants must demonstrate the ability to generate revenue from other sources. The City of Gainesville shall not serve as the exclusive source of financial support for any applicant/program.

All proposed programs/projects are strongly encouraged to place a high priority on: 1) serving under-served participants, 2) being open to the public, and 3) meeting objectives set forth in the currently adopted City Commission Strategic Plan. If the program/proposal does not comprise these priorities, the applicant is encouraged to demonstrate how the proposed project will enhance the quality of life for City of Gainesville residents.

Applicants must provide direct services and/or materials for projects and activities that provide community services to improve the quality of life for Gainesville residents.

The City encourages collaboration between organizations and other types of community groups and/or individuals.

All proposed programs/projects must take place in the city limits of Gainesville.

Funds for all proposed programs/projects must be expended based on the City's annual fiscal year between October 1 and September 30.

Grant recipients will be required to execute a grant agreement with the City prior to the disbursement of any funds.

Only direct costs for the specified program/project are eligible for funding. The City will reimburse the Provider based on actual expenditures which are properly documented as eligible costs. All funded organizations will be required to submit status reports on the provision identified services.

Grant recipients must comply with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the City's Discrimination Ordinance, Chapter 8 of the City's Code of Ordinances, to assure that no person will be excluded from participation or be denied the benefits of any program or service on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity.

The organization must be in compliance with all local, federal and state laws and also in good standing with any loan agreements, zoning requirements and payments for GRU services. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the organization being ineligible to participate in the program.

Grant funding may only be used to assist in provision of the identified services. Non-profit organizations receiving City funds may not use such funds to promote the religion of the provider or any other religion, or provide religious indoctrination or engage in any religious ritual as part of or related to the services funded by the City's grant.

The City will consider applications to fund the same project/program in multiple years. Applicants must re-apply each year and there is no guarantee of on-going funding for programs/projects.

V. Ineligible Program Activities:

An existing deficit from a previous year or project.

Organizational grants which fail to demonstrate other revenues or matching dollars to support the project/program.

Personal expenses such as childcare and unrelated wages due to proposed project commitment.

Operational expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, and taxes.

Joint and collaborative applications without letters of intent/agreement signed by the principal director of all parties to the project outlined in the application.

Applicants that are governmental organization/agency or a subsidiary thereof.

Organizations that are not located in the city limits of Gainesville.

Applicants who submit late and/or incomplete applications.

VI. Review Process:

The City's SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will serve as the Grant Review Panel to review grant applications submitted by organizations. The Grant Review Panel meetings will be open to the general public. The Grant Review Panel will review all Community Grant Program applications and provide recommendations to the City Commission. The City Commission will determine the final approval of the funding awards for the Community Grant Program.

Applying for a Community Grant does not guarantee receipt of funding. All proposed programs/projects are subject to the prior approval of the City of Gainesville City Commission. The City of Gainesville reserves the right to reject any and all applications submitted for funding consideration.

VII. Grant Administration:

The Community Grant Program will be administered by the Housing & Community Development Division. The total amount of funding available through the City's general fund for the Community Grant Program will be determined annually by the City Commission as part of the City budget process. Ten percent of the total grant funding will be used to cover the costs of administering this new grant program.