



Community Assistance Initiative

Objective: To establish a grants program that targets communities of need and provides direct support for projects that significantly enhance the quality of life for citizens within those communities. Proposals will be invited from targeted communities for projects that will help to stimulate economic activity or provide assistance in overcoming barriers to economic transition or community progress.

Initial Commitment: Reserve of approximately \$2 million per county. Grant award amounts may vary.

Process: Proposals will be developed following a process whereby the community reaches consensus on the key issues and objectives that it would like to target and then establishes a priority list of projects that have the most potential for positively affecting the key issues and achieving the desired objectives.

Matching Requirement: Competitive proposals will leverage additional sources of funds and demonstrate community support.

Proposals Due/Decisions to Be Made: Following completion of the Community Assistance Initiative process, priority project organizations must submit proposals to the Golden LEAF Foundation in time for completion of review and due diligence. Proposals may be received for review and action at any regular meeting of the Golden LEAF Board.

Proposals: Proposals may generally fall into one of the following categories:

Project Implementation

Proposals will be accepted from community, town or county nonprofit organizations or governmental entities who wish to leverage a broad-based community planning process for economic development or transition by implementing a key project(s) that is critical to community progress.

Proposals will be accepted from community, town or county nonprofit organizations or governmental entities who have identified a project critical to improving the welfare of their citizenry.

Preference will be given to proposals that reflect broad community support and engagement, motivated community leadership, and a process for evaluating results.

Community Planning

Proposals will be accepted from community, town or county nonprofit organizations or governmental entities who want to engage in a local, county or multi-county planning process to develop a strategic and funding plan to: (a) take advantage of a key opportunity or asset; or (b) overcome an identified challenge or barrier to economic or community progress.

Preference will be given to proposals that reflect broad community support and engagement, motivated community leadership, and a process for ensuring that a diverse range of community citizens are aware of and can participate in the planning process.

Questions?: Contact Pat Cabe or Courtney Mills at the Golden LEAF Foundation at pcabe@goldenleaf.org or cmills@goldenleaf.org. Phone: 252-442-7474 or toll-free: 888-684-8404



Process Outline

Community Assistance Initiative

- **What are the priority issues we need to tackle?** - Identify and reach consensus on key issues – “30,000-foot View”
- **What are the results we want?** - Identify, prioritize and reach consensus on the results needed for our county. What do we want to “move the needle” on? What are our measures of success?
- **What are the project ideas that help us to get there?**
Submit project ideas and get Golden LEAF feedback.
- **What are the priority projects that will lead to success?**
Establish process/criteria for prioritizing projects that have the most potential for achieving the results we want.
 - Gather proposal ideas.
 - Get Golden LEAF initial feedback.
 - Who will do the work of review and prioritization? Establish Review Team.
- **Priority projects/applicants move to meeting with Golden LEAF and proposal preparation**
- **Golden LEAF Board makes funding decisions**



Looking for projects that...

- Clearly meet identified issue/need in county
- Fall into the “sweet spot” where community priorities meet Golden LEAF’s mission
- Help communities to overcome barriers to economic transition and community progress
- Can leverage additional funds/investment
- Will leverage previous community planning processes and build on their results/findings
- Are sustainable
- Will “move the needle” on an important issue - will have impact and provide return on investment. Focus on action!
- Have consensus support from participants across the county



Non-Negotiables

Eligible Applicant – must be a 501c3 or governmental entity

Eligible Uses of Funds

- must be charitable – no impermissible private benefit**
- typically do not make grants for purchase of land or buildings**
- typically do not make grants to reimburse for prior expenditures**
- typically do not make grants to capital campaigns or to build endowments**

Priority projects subject to due diligence by Golden LEAF staff, Board and legal counsel as necessary

Golden LEAF Board of Directors makes final funding decisions

Funded projects subject to all reporting requirements of Golden LEAF Foundation and Office of N.C. State Auditor/Offices of State Budget and Management as applicable. Grantees must meet all compliance conditions as outlined in the grantee agreement

All correspondence/communications to and from Golden LEAF may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Ground Rules

- Full participation and discussion welcome and encouraged – everyone's voice is important
- This is a community discussion – concerns must be raised in meetings
- OK to debate – but remain civil, respect for differing points of view
- Stay focused and on topic
- Consensus/decisions determined by meeting attendees – attendance is important/avoid “backtracking” as much as possible
- Pace determined by group
- No discussion of projects until decisions reached on key issues and desired results

Projected Meeting Plan*

- Meeting One: Introduce Process/Q&A
- Meeting Two: Key Issues/Assets/Prior Planning Discussion
- Meeting Three: Prioritize Key Issues/Brainstorm Desired Results
- Meeting Four: Prioritize/Finalize Desired Results
- Meeting Five: Brainstorm Projects / Outline Proposal Submission Process / Discuss Review Team / Finalize Project Criteria
- Meeting Six: Golden LEAF Feedback on Project Proposals/Select Review Team
 - --- Community Review Team works to prioritize slate of projects
 - --- Priority applicants submit formal proposals/informal meeting with Golden LEAF Board and staff representatives
 - --- Golden LEAF Board makes final funding decisions
- Meeting Plan subject to change