

LITERACY FOR ALL.



2018 GRANT OPPORTUNITY GUIDELINES

About Literacy For All

Literacy For All is a community literacy fund and advocacy and awareness campaign dedicated to connecting results-focused literacy organizations to each other and the donor community. We believe that literacy is not simply a personal problem, but a larger, multigenerational community issue with interconnected implications to business, government, education, health, culture and family life everywhere in Georgia.

Literacy For All is a donor-advised fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Our **vision** is a Georgia where every person is literate. Our **mission** is to serve as the connector and convener of the Georgia literacy community – linking donors to community partners, and partners to one another – to innovate, champion and fund multigenerational literacy opportunities and spark transformative policy that benefits people of all ages.

Literacy is a fundamental component of a thriving community. Parents and caregivers are a child's first teacher, yet many parents and adults need additional support to help their child achieve critical literacy development milestones. That's why it's important to leverage and support effective partnerships that focus on family literacy.

Literacy For All is focusing on these activities to promote family literacy improvements:

- **Awareness:** Broaden awareness for the issue of multigenerational approaches to literacy to increase engagement.
- **Advocacy:** Leverage credible organizations to embrace and push the multigenerational literacy agenda forward.

- **Alliances:** Create new and strengthen existing alliances by funding literacy programs with a multigenerational approach.

GRANTS, AREAS OF INTEREST AND PRIORITIES

Literacy For All will provide grants to eligible organizations to support the implementation of new and existing programs, projects or efforts that address family literacy from a multigenerational perspective (multigenerational approach not required in summer and after school setting but still preferred).

Preference will be given to applicants whose work aligns with Literacy For All's focus areas which stem from the Georgia Literacy Commission's Preliminary Review and Analysis Recommendations:

- Summer and after school programming
- Literacy programs offered in cooperation with housing authorities and subsidized housing
- Adult literacy and GED programs
- Programs providing training for non-education, community professionals (e.g., nurses, physicians, social workers) to teach them how to talk to parents and caretakers about the need to read and talk to children
- Programs expanding access to health services in learning centers and/or making health services available in schools or after school programs
- Literacy programs using libraries as a resource

Literacy For All will give preference to applicants with collaborative approaches and/or with strong **partnerships**, especially those coordinating with Certified Literate Community Programs and/or Georgia Family Connections Partnerships, as well as applicants whose work aligns with Get Georgia Reading Campaign's four pillars:

- **Language Nutrition:** All children receive language-rich child and adult interactions, which are as critical for brain development as healthy food is for physical growth.
- **Access:** All children and their families have year-round access to, and supportive services for, healthy physical and social-emotional development and success in high-quality early childhood and elementary education.
- **Positive Learning Climate:** All educators, families, and policy-makers understand and address the impact of learning climate on social-emotional development, attendance, engagement and ultimately student success.
- **Teacher Preparation & Effectiveness:** All teachers of children ages 0-8 are equipped with evidence-informed skills, knowledge and resources that effectively meet the literacy needs of each child in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Literacy For All has identified **priority populations**:

- Low-income families
- Adults without a high school diploma or GED

Grants will support the costs of running a program, project or effort, including related operating expenses.

Literacy For All will also consider capacity building grants for organizations that can demonstrate the need and ability to take a program, project or effort to scale or the opportunity to realize greater efficiencies and an enhancement of outputs and outcomes as a result of the investment.

Grants will be awarded for 12-month periods. Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$50,000, and cannot represent more than 50% of the program’s budget. Organizations applying for grants greater than \$25,000 must have programs that are collaborative in nature (involving at least one other entity besides the organization submitting the application).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Nonprofits must complete or update their Organizational Profile and Common Grant Application using the online portal on the Community Foundation’s website to be eligible for the Literacy For All grant opportunity. Organizational Profile and Common Grant Application can be completed at <http://cfgreateratlanta.org/nonprofits>
2. Nonprofits must submit Grant Application Supplement and required attachments
3. Literacy For All staff and external reviewers will review all Organizational Profiles, Common Grant Applications and Grant Application Supplements and select organizations to receive site visits
4. Literacy For All staff, steering committee members and Georgia Literacy Commission members or Advisory Committee members will conduct site visits
5. Funding recommendations will be made to the Literacy For All steering committee for approval; approved grants will be awarded
6. Organizations receiving grants will be required to report at the mid-point and end of their grant.

2018 SCHEDULE

Ongoing	Organizational Profile and Common Grant Application are available to nonprofits
By NOON on Friday, April 13	Nonprofits complete or update their Organizational Profile and Common Grant Application on the Community Foundation’s website and submit a Grant Application Supplement
By Friday, May 25	Selected applicants contacted and site visits confirmed
June 1 – June 28	Site visits are conducted
By Friday, July 20	Applicants notified of selection and funding decision

ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofit organizations that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for a grant:

- Must provide services in the State of Georgia (priority will be given to organizations that primarily serve Georgia residents);
- Must be classified by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. code as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, donations to which are deductible as charitable contributions under Section 170 (c)(2) and the I.R.S. determination must be current;

- Must be registered with the Georgia Secretary of State as a nonprofit (click here to verify: <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch>);
- Must have a minimum two-year operating history after the date of receipt of its 501(c)(3) classification; and
- Must have at least one full-time or full-time-equivalent employee, contractor or volunteer for the 12 months prior to submitting an application.

A note about fiscal sponsors or fiscal agents

Organizations that do not meet the eligibility criteria outlined above may apply through a fiscal sponsor or fiscal agent. A fiscal sponsor should have a mission similar to or aligned with that of the sponsored organization or program. The role of the fiscal sponsor can include performing many different administrative functions on behalf of the sponsored organization or program, including taking on the responsibility of receiving and administering grants and contributions on behalf of the sponsored organization. It is best to outline the responsibilities and obligations of both parties in a written agreement between the fiscal sponsor and the sponsored organization.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- Organizations that require participation in religious services and/or education as a condition of receiving services;
- Organizations that have discriminatory policies and/or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex/gender, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information or political beliefs.

INELIGIBLE USES OF LITERACY FOR ALL FUNDS

Literacy For All funds may not be used to support the following:

- Religious services and/or religious education;
- Administrative/operating expenses not directly related to the program, project or effort being funded;
- Event sponsorship.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE EVALUATED?

Priority will be given to applications that:

- Reflect organization-wide planning and decision-making;
- Propose an evidence-based or proven program, project or effort that aligns with Literacy For All's priorities and multigenerational approach;
- Have a clear and articulated vision for program, project or effort implementation and success;
- Have a track record of supporting program participants to achieve successful outcomes;
- Include staff or volunteers in the delivery of the program, project or effort who have the required expertise and knowledge to carry out the program;
- Demonstrate the financial capacity to carry out the proposed program, project or effort;
- Are continually updating plans and programs to reflect the current economy and community needs;
- Demonstrate an alignment to Literacy For All's areas of interest/priorities;
- Identify partners for greater effectiveness and efficiency (required for requests of \$25,000 - \$50,000);

- Show how the program aligns with the Get Georgia Reading Campaign's Four Pillars.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

Literacy For All staff is available to answer questions from interested organizations. Please contact:

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