



## GRANT GUIDELINES:

The Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) was established in 2000 with the vision of making a profound and sustaining difference in the lives of children in Collier County. The founders created the Naples Winter Wine Festival in order to meet the NCEF's mission statement to support programs that improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of underprivileged and at-risk children.

In 2005, the Trustees of the NCEF commissioned *The Study of Child Wellbeing*, an assessment of the needs of children in Collier County. The study found several significant gaps in basic services that included pediatric oral health, early childhood education, child advocacy, pediatric medical services and out of school services. In 2010, a follow up study was conducted identifying additional gaps including childhood hunger, which is now an area of focus for the NCEF. Subsequent studies completed in 2017 and 2022 reinforced the importance and need for the initiatives' work.

These studies led to the creation of the following NCEF Strategic Initiatives:

- Early Learning Initiative (est. 2008)
- Healthcare Initiative (est. 2006)
- Hunger Initiative (est. 2011)
- Mental Health Initiative (est. 2012)
- Oral Health Initiative (est. 2006)
- Out-of-School Initiative (est. 2012)
- Vision Initiative (est. 2012)

See more about the initiatives [here](#).

## Our Operating Principles

We define ourselves as investors and are interested in creating the highest possible levels of human gain for the grant dollars we have available. Given this focus, the Naples Children & Education Foundation reviews each proposal with respect to available funds and asks three overarching questions:

**1. What will be the results from this program and how will we know when those results have been achieved?** Results are defined as the positive changes in behaviors and/or conditions in participants that will be achieved through the program.

**2. How likely is it that the results can be achieved?** Our assessment will be based on factors such as past results and successes of the organization and its programs, validity of the proposed program approach, organizational capability and key personnel leading the program.

**3. Is this the best possible use of the Naples Children & Education Foundation funds given other opportunities before us?** We consider the cost relative to the gain, looking for programs that increase collaboration, quality, and opportunities for replication to other organizations. In reviewing proposals, we look at the use of all monies going into a program, not just dollars contributed by the Foundation, as well as the sustainability of the work.

In making investment determinations, the Naples Children & Education Foundation Grant Committee will look for programs with the following characteristics:

- Programs designed to produce and verify specific changes in behavior and/or conditions of children and changes in organizations that directly contribute to the Foundation results we seek in the respective focus area;
- Programs that can be effectively implemented and ultimately continued without our funding;
- Programs that are replicable and can be shared with other organizations looking to produce similar results; and
- Programs that use evidence-based practices and strategies and/or offer clear results.

Partners will be expected to report on progress quarterly, complete a final grant report and participate in the NCEF's sponsored learning sessions. Opportunities for additional support will be provided to partners who make meaningful progress toward the Foundation's results.

Please review the results we seek and examples of the investments we make to determine how your program aligns with these guidelines.

## **Our Approach**

The Naples Children & Education Foundation will make two types of investments: Program Support and Capacity Building.

1. **Direct Service (Program Support):** Programs selected for direct service investments will answer the question *What positive gains will occur for individual participants or communities?* This includes programs that work directly with children to achieve results.
2. **Capacity Building:** Programs selected for capacity and collaboration building investments will answer the questions; *How will your organization and/or other organizations be different and what will this funding enable you*

*and/or them to do better? And How will collaboration improve effectiveness or efficiency while improving results for children?* Programs include efforts that strengthen the existing capacity and/or collaboration of organizations to achieve results.

The Naples Children & Education Foundation supports efforts in the following four service categories:

- Early Learning: any educational program that serves children from age 0-5.
- Child Advocacy: any program that provides children in need with basic needs, social services, legal assistance, resource and referral, and crisis counseling, etc.
- Medical/Healthcare: any program that serves children by providing medical support or provides services to children with disabilities.
- Out-of-School Time: any program that serves children grades K-12 during non-school hours, i.e. before-school, afterschool, holiday breaks and summer.

## **Our Focus**

We are seeking to support efforts that focus in one or more of these Results Areas:

- Children 0-5 (birth to pre-K) achieve their cognitive, social, physical and emotional developmental milestones and enter kindergarten ready to learn
- Children and Youth 5-14 (Kindergarten through grade 8) have their health and basic needs met
- Children and Youth 5-14 (Kindergarten through grade 8) demonstrate age appropriate academic, and social maturity levels
- Youth 15-18 (grades 9 through high school completion) achieve the academic, financial and social maturity milestones required for college and career success
- Children with Special Needs (birth to high school completion; in crisis or with special health care or developmental needs) are physically and emotionally healthy, safe and connected to needed supports

## **Requirements**

All organizations must allocate 100% of funds received from the NCEF to service underprivileged or at-risk children living in Collier County as indicated in their grant application. Additionally:

- All organizations applying for grants from the NCEF must have provided services in Collier County for at least one year prior to submission date of application.
- Evaluation criteria may change due to circumstances and is at the discretion of the Naples Children & Education Foundation's Grant Committee.
- NCEF will only fund nonprofit organizations serving children in Collier County that are exempt under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and are deemed as "not a private foundation" under Section 509(a).

- ❑ NCEF traditional grants are one-year commitments only.
- ❑ NCEF does not fund endowments or other foundations that in turn grant funds to charities.
- ❑ NCEF will limit the number of grant recipients each year in order to make a meaningful contribution to selected organizations and see measured results from NCEF's support.
- ❑ Notifications of awards will be made in February of 2025. First quarterly allocation will be made on July 1, 2025.
- ❑ **Missing the application deadline will automatically result in elimination of eligibility.**
- ❑ NCEF will **not** fund the following through its traditional grant funding process:
  - Annual campaigns
  - Capital requests
  - Endowments
  - Educational programming taking place during the school day
  - Grants to individuals
  - "Pass through" grants (funds that are transferred to a secondary recipient)
  - Political campaigns/organizations/causes/issues/programs/services
  - Private or public schools (charter schools may be considered an exception)
  - Religious or personal causes/teachings/beliefs/doctrines
  - Scholarly or medical research
  - Start-up organizations
  - Unnecessary duplication of services within the community

For any additional questions regarding the NCEF Grant Application process, please email Jane Gray, Grants Coordinator, at [jane@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:jane@napleswinefestival.com).