Grant Guidelines:

The Naples Children Foundation (NCF) was established in 2000 to transform the lives of vulnerable children in Collier County by investing in, and partnering with, proven programs that bridge gaps in education, health care and child advocacy to deliver measurable results.

In 2005, we commissioned *The Study of Child Wellbeing*, an assessment of the needs of children in Collier County that found significant shortfalls in basic services including 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 voids including childhood hunger, which is now a key area of focus. Further studies conducted in 2017 and 2022 confirmed the persistent need for targeted initiatives to bridge these gaps. These studies led to the development of — and reinforce — the following seven NCF Strategic Initiatives, each designed to address specific areas of need:

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

Learn more about the initiatives here.

Every dollar we generate fuels high-impact solutions and, since its inception, NCF has transformed entire communities and positively impacted the lives of 420,000 children through its strategic investments in close to 90 nonprofit organizations. Every organization considered for funding undergoes a rigorous vetting process to ensure alignment with our mission and efficient use of resources. Post-award, every outcome is tracked to ensure measurable and lasting benefits for the children of Collier County.

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, we review each proposal with respect to available funds and ask 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 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 NCF, as well as the sustainability of the work.

In making investment determinations, the Naples Children 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

Grant Beneficiaries will be expected to report on programmatic outcomes and progress through a quarterly report process throughout the duration of the funding cycle, complete a final grant report, and participate in the NCF'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 Foundation will make two types of investments: Program Support and Capacity Building.

Program Support: Funding that supports the direct delivery of programs and services to

beneficiaries.

Capacity Building: Funding that strengthens an organization's infrastructure, professional development, and systems to improve long-term impact.

The Naples Children Foundation is committed to supporting programs that transform the lives of children across four key service categories:

- **Early Learning**: Educational programs serving children from birth to 5 years old that support social and emotional growth, as well as help to engage curiosity and develop problem-solving skills.
- **Child Advocacy**: Programs that provide children with basic needs, social services, legal assistance, resource and referral, early intervention and crisis counseling, as well as whole family support.
- **Healthcare**: Programs that provide integrated family-centered medical support or services to children (including those with disabilities) to sustain long-term treatment, prevention and positive health.
- **Out-of-School Time**: Programs that serve children grades K-12 during previously unsupervised non-school hours such as before-school, after school, holiday breaks and summertime that promote future opportunities and build confidence.

Our Focus

We are committed to supporting programs that drive impactful change in one or more of the following **Focus Areas:**

- **Children 0-5 (birth to pre-K):** Programs that help achieve cognitive, social, physical and emotional developmental milestones, and ensure they enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- **Children and Youth 5-14 (K through grade 8):** Programs that guarantee their basic health needs are met and that they reach age-appropriate academic and social maturity levels.
- **Youth 15-18 (grades 9 through high school completion):** Programs that support academic achievement as well as the financial and social maturity milestones required for advanced education and career success.
- **Children with Special Needs (birth to high school completion; in crisis or with special health care or developmental needs):** Programs that guarantee physical and emotional health and assure continued safety and connection to needed support systems.

Requirements

All organizations must allocate 100% of funds received from the NCF to service vulnerable children living in Collier County as indicated in their grant application. Additionally:

- All organizations applying for grants from the NCF 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 Foundation's Grant Committee.
- NCF 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).
- NCF traditional grants are one-year commitments only.
- NCF will limit the number of grant recipients each year in order to make the most meaningful contributions possible to the selected organizations and see measured results from NCF's support.
- Notifications of awards will be made in February of 2027. The first quarterly allocation for the 2027-2028 Grant Cycle will be made on July 1, 2027.
- Missing the application deadline will automatically result in elimination of eligibility.

NCF does not provide funding for the following through its traditional grantmaking process:

- Annual fundraising campaigns
- Capital projects or requests
- Educational programming that takes place during regular school hours
- Endowments
- Organizations that are entirely volunteer-run
  **To ensure effective oversight, accountability, and long-term sustainability, NCF requires funded organizations to have dedicated, paid staff responsible for program management and delivery.*
- Grants to individuals
- "Pass-through" grants, where funds are redirected to a secondary recipient
- Political campaigns, organizations, causes, issues, or programs/services with a political agenda
- Private or public schools (Note: charter schools may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Religious or personal causes/teachings/beliefs/doctrines
- Scholarly or medical research
- Start-up organizations
- Services that unnecessarily duplicate existing resources in the community

For any additional questions regarding the NCF Grant Application process, please email Dani Henderson, at d.henderson@napleschildrenfoundation.org.