



The Georgia United Foundation exists to improve the quality of life for children and families in our communities. We accomplish this mission by supporting programs that strengthen our school systems, help advance financial literacy and enrich lives. The Foundation was approved by the IRS in 2017 as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We received our charitable solicitation license from the State of Georgia in 2021.

### **Giving Focus**

#### **Programs in Which We Invest:**

##### **To Enrich Families Lives:**

- Can Hunger Food Drive
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Wish Tree Program for Foster Children
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

##### **Financial Literacy and Education Support**

- Scholarships for High School Seniors
- School Crashers®
- Junior Achievement
- 4-H Life Smarts

##### **New Programming That Aligns with Our Organization**

- Sponsorships, Charitable Contributions
- Volunteer & In-Kind Donations
- New, Quarterly Mini-Grants

\*New Foundation Grants are typically in the \$250 - \$2,500 range.

### **Types of Events/Sponsorships Not Supported by the Georgia United Foundation:**

- Individuals or Family Events
- Political Candidates
- Religious Organizations
- Projects or Organizations outside our geographic service area
- Organizations that are sensitive, controversial, harmful or pose a potential conflict of interest to Georgia United (i.e., crisis pregnancy center)
- Non-501(c)(3) organizations or brand-new organizations that don't have infrastructure or resources to adequately support the mission of the GUCU Foundation (i.e., viable website, organization email, solid program planning and volunteer opportunities)

### **Grant Request Process**

#### **How can an organization make a grant request?**

- All grant requests should be submitted through our online Grant Request Form and completed in full. Only organizations with tax-exempt status under IRS Section 501(c)(3) will be considered for a grant.
  - For the student scholarship program, please refer to that separate Scholarship Application process.
  - For School Crashers grants, please refer to that separate School Crashers Application process.
- Questions about Foundation programming may be directed to [foundation@gucu.org](mailto:foundation@gucu.org) or to (770) 476.6409.
- All requests and budgeted program expenses will be vetted by the Foundation Advisory Committee for consideration of available funds for disbursement.

#### **How we evaluate NEW Potential Foundation Grant Requests and determine funding**

- Who – Name of Organization and their mission? Beneficiary? Who else is sponsoring?
- What – Event/Sponsorship Purpose & Cost? What's included with sponsorship?
- When – Date & Agenda (Timing: Do we have enough time to plan?)
- Where – Location including address, city and market area
- Why – Do values align with Foundation mission?
- How – Staffing/Volunteer Plans/Time Commitment Required
- Review supporting documents/additional sponsorship request narrative
- All grant requests are reviewed by the Foundation Advisory Committee to ensure the request meets our submission requirements and for additional feedback, review and input
- Recommendations are then prioritized for available funding and reported to the Foundation's Board of Directors.
  - If approved, group will be contacted via email, and funds disbursed.
  - If declined, group will receive decline email notification.

### **How often does the Georgia United Foundation make grants?**

- Grant requests are reviewed at quarterly meetings of the Foundation's Advisory Committee for presentation to the Board of Directors. However, there is no guarantee that a grant will be approved at every meeting.
- The Foundation Grant Application process is open from January 1 – July 1.

### **I submitted a request but haven't heard anything yet. How long does it take?**

- Grant requests are initially reviewed by the Advisory Committee and then recommended requests are presented to the Foundation's Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. Please provide at least 90 days for consideration.
- Applicants should receive an Auto Response when applying online: “Georgia United Credit Union Foundation thanks you for your grant request. All requests will be reviewed at the Foundation’s quarterly Board of Directors meeting and we will respond to you after that time.”
- Multiple requests do not increase the probability for grant funding.

### **Example of Foundation Online Grant Request Form:**