



## **NCEF Frequently Asked Questions 2026-2027 Grant Cycle**

**1. What is the funding cycle for a traditional grant?**

July 1<sup>st</sup> -June 30<sup>th</sup>

**2. How do I apply for an NCEF grant?**

Applications open June 3, 2025, and are due August 15, 2025. The link for the 2026-2027 Grant Application can be found on the [Grant Recipients](https://www.napleswinefestival.com/grant-recipients/) page of the NCEF website: <https://www.napleswinefestival.com/grant-recipients/>

**3. How do I know if my organization is eligible for an NCEF grant?**

The [Grant Guidelines](#) (found on the Grant Recipients Page) explain the eligibility requirements.

**4. When will I be notified if my application was accepted for funding?**

Award notifications are made in mid-February, following the annual Naples Winter Wine Festival. Notifications are sent via the online grants management system.

**5. How much should I apply for?**

NCEF's philosophy is to invest in a smaller number of organizations in order to make a greater impact. Funding typically does not exceed:

- 50% of a program's operational budget or
- 25% of an organization's annual operating budget

**6. Does NCEF fund start-ups?**

No. NCEF looks to invest in organizations with a proven track record of successful outcomes. An organization must be in operation, serving children in Collier County, for at least one year prior to applying.

**7. I just applied to the IRS to become a 501 (c) 3, can I apply?**

You must be officially awarded 501 (c) 3 status by the time your application is submitted.

**8. What are the reporting requirements if we are awarded a grant from NCEF?**

All grantees are required to submit quarterly impact reports. The report questions primarily focus on outcomes and quarterly expenditures and are submitted via an online grants management system.

**9. If our service area is outside of Collier County, can we apply?**

NCEF only awards grants to organizations that serve children in Collier County. If your organization serves children in Collier County, and beyond, NCEF funds are restricted to serving Collier County children only.

**10. Can I apply as an individual/family for direct grant support of my child?**

No. NCEF funding is only awarded to registered 501 (c) 3 organizations that serve at-risk and underprivileged children.

**11. Will I have an opportunity to present my request to the Grant Committee?**

Unfortunately, with the large amount of grant applications that NCEF receives each year, there is not enough time to allow for presentations of your request. If clarifying questions are needed, a staff member from the Grants Dept. will reach out to the grant contact.

**12. Can I apply to be an NCEF Strategic Initiative Partner?**

No. Only current NCEF beneficiaries are eligible to be invited as Strategic Initiative Partners. This process is led by the Grants Department—not initiated by the beneficiary. Strategic Initiative Partners, also referred to as Blueprint Partners, are established beneficiaries who have undergone a thorough vetting process. The Grant Committee determines whether an organization aligns with a Strategic Initiative and makes all decisions regarding inclusion.

If you have further questions, after reviewing the Grant Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions, please contact Dani Henderson, Grants Manager, at [d.henderson@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:d.henderson@napleswinefestival.com).