



## 2019-20 Grant Eligibility Guidelines

### Mission

We are women who collectively impact the lives of individuals and our community through transformational giving.

### Impact Grants Awarded

Indian River Impact 100's funding cycle runs from May 1 of one year to April 30 of the next year. In each cycle, we award grants in the amount of \$100,000 to nonprofit organizations whose grants meet our criteria and then receive the highest number of votes from the Impact 100 membership. The number of grants awarded depends on the number of qualified grants and the number of Impact 100 members for each year. After the grant awards, the winners each meet with Community Partners to fashion a payment schedule which meets the needs of their unique organization and their project. Payment terms are intended to meet the specific needs of each organization, the requirements of the project and meet the fiduciary duties to our membership to be good stewards of their donations.

### Focus Areas

Indian River Impact 100 awards grants in four different focus area. Our goal is to fund projects in all focus areas, though not necessarily on an annual basis.

1. **Education:** Projects and initiatives essential to improving the educational process or improving access to education for children and/or adults in Indian River County.
2. **Enrichment and Environment:** Programs and initiatives essential to protecting, promoting and educating our community in arts and culture, the environment, recreation and preservation. These programs promote positive changes that encompass, conserve, and celebrate all realms of life in Indian River County.
3. **Family:** Projects and initiatives which strengthen and enhance the lives of children and families residing in Indian River County.
4. **Health and wellness:** Projects and initiatives essential to strengthening and enhancing segments of the Indian River County community with significant economic, educational, social and physical needs.

## **Organization Eligibility**

To be eligible for an Impact 100 grant, an organization must:

1. Be recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code as attested by a letter from the IRS.
2. Serve and meet the needs of the community of Indian River County.
3. Be based in Indian River County or be a chapter of a multi-county, state or national non-profit organization serving the residents of Indian River County. If the organization serves multiple counties, its Board must include Indian River County residents.
4. Be an operationally and financially established organization demonstrated through two years financial statements and tax returns. Detailed submission requirements are based on whether the financials are audited or unaudited and are more fully described in Section IV of the Grant Application.
5. The lead organization have not received an Impact 100 grant within the past three (3) years.

## **Organization Collaborations and Partnerships**

### **Collaboration**

A collaborative relationship is when two or more qualifying nonprofit organizations join to lower costs, increase the impact, and/or deliver programs more efficiently/effectively to those served by the grant. A collaboration may also change the way participating nonprofits do business long-term in a meaningful way and may also Board involvement in a high level and strategic manner.

When submitting a collaborative grant proposal, one of the collaborating organizations will be designated the “lead organization” and submit on behalf of the collaborators. This lead organization is the fiscal agent through which all Impact 100 business is conducted, and this organization must be willing to assume the potential rights, responsibilities, restrictions and liabilities of the grant. Other organizations who are not the lead but are collaborators may be asked to submit organizational and/or financial information after initial application review. Each nonprofit may apply for only one grant, either as part of one collaborative effort or as an individual organization.

### **Partnership**

A partnership is when two applicants, or more, agree to allow access to the other partner’s site, resources and/or clients. For example, the applicant who plans to provide food to seniors may ask another organization to let the applicant distribute food to the partner’s clients at the partner’s site. Or, an applicant who plans to provide services at a school must get appropriate approval and support from school personnel and the school district. Being a partner does not exclude a partnering non-profit from submitting an individual grant application.

## Grant Eligibility Requirements

1. The project must be implemented in and serve the residents of Indian River County.
2. Grant project requests must be in the amount of at least \$100,000. Grant projects over \$100,000 must show the ability to fund the total project and the source of funding.
3. Recipients of grants must expend funds within two years of the grant award.
4. The funded project must be operational within two years of the grant award.
5. Grant recipients shall agree to provide interim progress reports, periodic reports and a final report to Indian River Impact 100.
6. If the grant project is going to last longer than two years, a plan for sustainability beyond the original grant funded is outlined.

## Grant Evaluation Criteria

Indian River Impact 100 funds programs, organizations and outcomes that leverage our investment to make incremental, measurable and sustainable impacts that lead to transformation over time. We define transformation as an aspirational goal leading to long lasting positive change for an organization, the clients they serve and/or the greater community and its residents. Transformation is the ultimate goal, and your project should demonstrate a means to that end.

The members of Indian River Impact 100 evaluate grant applications according to the criteria listed below.

### **1. Does the project have high impact and move your organization incrementally towards your aspirational goal?**

High impact projects significantly influence our community, are outcome oriented and can be achieved by:

- Defining the organization's aspirational goal and moving the dial towards that goal with the proposed project.
- Defining a problem and formulating solutions which have a long-term positive impact.
- Articulating the high impact element of the program, i.e. visionary, daring, risky, change the way your organization or the community operates or addresses a problem.
- Enabling an organization to affect many people.
- Directly affecting a small number of people resulting in significant change which has wider implications for the community.
- Assessing the risk associated with the need and then planning and implementing

strategies which turn this risk into a benefit.

- Creating new collaborations with other organizations to address a broader spectrum of the community.
- Documenting concrete, measurable outcomes for the projects which support the premise upon which the project was based.

**2. Does the organization have the strength, capacity and capability to successfully administer a \$100,000 grant?**

- The project supports the organizations mission and strategic plan.
- The organization's Board of Directors and administrators provide effective operational and fiscal leadership, as an example, having segregated duties between executive and financial/accounting functions.
- The members of the Board of Directors reflect a range of abilities and talents commensurate with the needs of the organization.
- The members of the Board of Directors support the work of the organization both behaviorally and financially.
- The organization is financially stable, conducting effective annual fundraising.
- The staffing for the program is relevant and realistic.

**3. Is the project sustainable?** Indian River Impact 100 grant funds must be expended within two years. The applicant must be able to articulate and support how the program will continue and be funded after that time.

**Indian River Impact 100 DOES FUND:**

Other than those items listed on the "DO NOT FUND" list, Indian River Impact 100 funds many different facets of projects, including the following:

- New programs which meet the grant evaluation criteria.
- Capital purchases directly related and necessary to the implementation of a project which meet the grant evaluation criteria.
- Salaries directly related and necessary to the implementation of a project which meet the grant evaluation criteria.
- Expansion of existing grant programs to new, larger or different constituency. A project previously funded by an Impact 100 grant (\$100,000) is eligible in three (3) years after their grant award.
- General operating expenses and overhead specific to the project being funded.

## **Indian River Impact 100 DOES NOT FUND:**

Grant funds may not be used for:

- General overhead expensed or overhead which is not allocable to the proposed project.
- Debt reduction or operational deficits.
- Grants to specific individuals.
- Endowment or memorial funding.
- Interim or bridge funding.
- Partisan, legislative or political activities.
- Fraternal, sectarian and religious organizations where the grant is intended for the principal benefit of the organization's own members or adherents, or where the grant is intended for inherently religious activities.
- Private foundations.
- Legal expenses incurred in any action by or against the organization.
- General construction or renovation unrelated to a specific proposed project.
- Projects which unlawfully discriminate based on age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political orientation or religious belief.
- Fund drives or annual appeals.
- General capital campaigns or projects with a capital campaign. However, new projects or service, linked to, but not contingent upon, the capital campaign can be considered.
- Advertising unrelated to specific proposed project.

### **Important**

Impact 100 of Indian River County, Inc.'s grant Eligibility Guidelines continue to evolve. Impact 100 of Indian River County, Inc. reserves the right to change grant award criteria without prior notice at any time. We also reserve the right to reject any grant application that does not meet these guidelines.

The direct solicitation of Impact 100 of Indian River County, Inc. members for support or any grant application is strictly prohibited.