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FOUNDATION

# **RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND: NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

**2025 – 2026 GRANT YEAR**

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL**

***<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>***

# TIPS FOR PARTICIPATING

MUTE MICROPHONES  
CAMERAS NOT REQUIRED

**Use the chat for any questions at any time!**

**Recording and slides will be available early  
this afternoon.**

**Browse:**

**<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>**



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**The Volunteer Florida Foundation raises funds to support Volunteer Florida, the state's lead agency for volunteerism and national service.**

**The Foundation assists in the administration of high-impact national service programs and promotion of volunteerism throughout the state, and also manages the Florida Disaster Fund, Florida's private fund established to help communities with disaster recovery.**

**The Foundation is also responsible for the Governor's special initiatives, including Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month celebrations, as well as awards to honor Florida's most outstanding volunteers.**

*Browse the About Us section of [www.volunteerflorida.org/](http://www.volunteerflorida.org/) for more information*



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**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**  
**2025-2026 GRANT YEAR:**

## **RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND (RCAF)**

**Strengthens the power and capacity of community organizations to further their missions by recruiting, equipping and mobilizing volunteers who serve Floridians in rural communities.**

***<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>***





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## GRANT OVERVIEW

- 1) Distribution of a collective total of \$150,000, contingent upon availability of funding;**
- 2) Provides organizational and training support for grantees participating in the 2025-2026 grant year;**
- 3) Requests may be between \$10,000 and \$15,000;**
- 4) Must provide a one hundred percent (100%) cash or in-kind match (or combination), to be verified during the contract period;**



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**GRANT OVERVIEW**

- 5) 50% of approved grant request distributed at the beginning of the grant cycle, 50% at mid-cycle;**
- 6) Supporting documentation will be required and will be verified before the release of further funding; and**
- 7) Grantees will receive- and are expected to participate in- Volunteer Florida Foundation provided or approved comprehensive training and ongoing program and financial coaching calls**



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## **ELIGIBILITY**

**1) The applicant must be a public or private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, including:**

- **faith-based and other community organizations;**
- **institutions of higher education;**
- **government entities (e.g., states, cities, counties, school systems, etc.); or**
- **Indian Tribes.**

**Project fiscal agent: Must be an established IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of a group that does not have IRS exemption.**



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## ELIGIBILITY

- 2) Must be a Florida-based organization**
- 3) Must establish or have a service location in, or volunteers deployed to an eligible rural area.**
- 4) RCAF funds may only be used to support individuals residing in eligible rural areas.**





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## ELIGIBILITY

- 5) Proposed budget line items relevant to volunteer engagement work completed outside of the eligible rural area may be included if they:**
- **Directly contribute to the achievement of grant performance measures in the eligible rural area chosen by the grantee.**
- 6) Geographic locations eligible for RCAF funding must be part of one of the designated “Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO)” as authorized by the Governor and outlined in F.S. 288.0656 (2025/2026 NOFA Section IV Page 3)**



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## **FATAL CRITERIA**

- 1) Application Submission: Blackbaud Grantmaking online portal Thursday, August 14, 2025, by 5:00pm EDT**
- 2) The applicant is a Florida based organization and operates in an eligible rural community as defined.**
- 3) Public or private 501c(3) nonprofit organization defined in Eligibility section**



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## **FATAL CRITERIA**

- 4) IRS tax exemption status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit is currently in good standing.**
- 5) Mobilizes or will mobilize volunteers to meet the mission of the organization**
- 6) Includes the selection of relevant performance measures**
- 7) Allowable grant amount of between \$10,000 - \$15,000**
- 8) 100% match of the requested grant amount established**



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## **YOUR ORGANIZATION'S MISSION -**

**Strengthening the power and capacity of community organizations to further their missions by recruiting, equipping and mobilizing volunteers who serve Floridians in rural communities:**

**\*INDIVIDUALS\***





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## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1) Program Capacity (a):**  
**Increase In One (1) Area:**  
**Number of individuals served,**  
**Types of services offered to individuals, or**  
**Number of services provided per individual**
- 2) Program Capacity (b):**  
**Increase in volunteers recruited and/or retained**
- 3) Strengthen Organizational Volunteer Management Practices:**  
**Select One (1) additional function, along with Strategic Planning to Maximize Volunteer Impact, from remaining seven (7) listed in NOFA (Section VI page 5).**

# ***Volunteering Reinvented: Human Capital Solutions for the Nonprofit Sector***

<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>



**STRATEGIC PLANNING TO MAXIMIZE VOLUNTEER  
IMPACT IS REQUIRED. YOU CANNOT SELECT.**



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## **IMPORTANT:**

***Follow ALL Notice of Funding Availability instructions EXACTLY.***

***To ensure that this funding process is carried out in a fair and equitable manner, all questions concerning the Application must be submitted to [RCAF@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:RCAF@volunteerflorida.org).***

***Find All Grant Information Here:  
<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>***



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## Questions Break





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## BUDGET

**Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Food and Travel are not eligible budget expenses for this grant.**

**Must use the RCAF Budget Template provided.**

**Do not attempt to add additional tabs or information to the RCAF Budget Template.**

**Enter information within the ALLOWABLE budget categories in the template only.**



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## BUDGET

**All budget expenses must support Capacity Building Activities to develop or strengthen volunteer programs.**

**And must directly contribute to the achievement of grant performance measures in eligible rural areas.**

**No miscellaneous costs or fillers will be allowed, all costs must be itemized and included in the budget template in equation format.**



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**ALLOWABLE BUDGET CATEGORIES**

**TRAINING**

**DIGITAL MEDIA RESOURCES**

**VOLUNTEER AND PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES**

**VETTING RESOURCES**

**And include a 100% MATCH**

**GREEN ARROWS**  
=  
**DIRECTION OF  
FORMULA**



**LOCKED**  
**FORMULAS IN RED FOR ALL 4**  
**BUDGET CATEGORIES**  
**ALL OTHERS APPLICANT ENTERS**  
**(WHITE CELLS)**

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND   GRANT YEAR: 2025-2026					
LEGAL APPLICANT (LEAD AGENCY):	Sample Organization				
LEGAL APPLICANT (LEAD AGENCY) IRS FEDERAL EIN [9 DIGITS]:	Sample EIN				
PROGRAM:	Sample Project Name				
1) Round up to the nearest dollar anything .50 and above). 2) Include \$0 for RCAF and grantee shares when relevant. Do not leave blank.	UNIT COST	NUMBER OF UNITS	RCAF SHARE	GRANTEE SHARE	TOTAL
1. TRAINING- INDICATE STAFF OR VOLUNTEER AUDIENCE	UNIT COST	# INDIVIDUALS			
Outside Trainers- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Training- <b>staff</b>	\$500.00	2	\$600.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00
Outside Training- Volunteering with Children and Youth- <b>volunteers</b>	\$50.00	20	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Volunteer Handbook- Working with Children and Youth- <b>volunteers</b>	\$7.50	20	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Continuing Education Volunteer Management Program- <b>staff</b>	\$500.00	5	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
Volunteer Management Professional Practice Workbook- <b>staff</b>	\$120.00	1	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
CCVA Certification- <b>staff</b>	\$400.00	2	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$800.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
1. Subtotal Training	\$1,577.50	50	\$2,800.00	\$2,770.00	\$5,570.00





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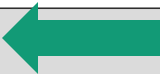
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3. VOLUNTEER AND PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS			
Branded t-shirts for volunteers	\$15.00	20	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Free standing banners- tabling 7' x 3'	\$350.00	2	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
STEM teaching kits for volunteers	\$20.00	20	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
3. Subtotal Volunteer and Promotional Resources	\$385.00	42	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$1,400.00
4. VETTING RESOURCES	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS			
FDLE Level II background checks and Fingerprinting	\$60.00	30	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,800.00
4. Subtotal Vetting Resources	\$60.00	30	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,800.00
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNTS:			\$5,700.00	\$5,735.00	\$11,435.00
RCAF   GRANTEE SHARE:			49.85%	50.15%	100.00%



**LOCKED**  
**FORMULAS IN RED**

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND | GRANT YEAR: 2023-2024  
ENTER INFORMATION WITHIN THE BUDGET TEMPLATE ONLY

LEGAL APPLICANT (LEAD AGENCY):	<div>Sample Organization</div>					
LEGAL APPLICANT (LEAD AGENCY) IRS FEDERAL EIN [9 DIGITS]:	<div>Sample EIN</div>					
PROGRAM:	<div>Sample Project Name</div>					
1) Round up to the nearest dollar anything .50 and above. 2) Include \$0 for RCAF and grantee shares when relevant. Do not leave blank.		NUMBER OF UNITS	RCAF SHARE	GRANTEE SHARE	TOTAL	NOTES [OPTIONAL]
1. TRAINING- INDICATE STAFF OR VOLUNTEER AUDIENCE	UNIT COST	# INDIVIDUALS				
					\$0.00	<div></div>
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
1. Subtotal Training	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2. DIGITAL MEDIA RESOURCES	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS				
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
2. Subtotal Digital Media Resources	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3. VOLUNTEER AND PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS				
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
3. Subtotal Volunteer and Promotional Resources	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
4. VETTING RESOURCES	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS				
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
4. Subtotal Vetting Resources	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNTS:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
RCAF   GRANTEE SHARE:			#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	



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## Questions Break



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## **ANTICIPATED TIMELINE**

### **APPLICATIONS DUE TO THE VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION THURSDAY, August 14, 2025, 5:00 EDT**

- **Application review and scoring – Friday, August 15, 2025 – Friday, August 29, 2025**
- **Clarification provided to applicants –Tuesday, September 2, 2025**
- **Final applications/budgets with clarification changes due to Volunteer Florida Foundation – Friday, September 12, 2025**
- **Contracts provided to successful applicants – Monday, Sept 22, 2025**
- **Letters to applicants not receiving funding – Monday, Sept 22, 2025**





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## **ANTICIPATED TIMELINE**

- **Training for RCAF 2025/2026 Grantees – Monday, September 29, 2025**
- **First Round of Distribution (Contingent on VF receiving all required contract documents) – Wednesday, October 1, 2025**



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## **REPORTING**

- 1) Performance measures**
  - 2) Number of hours volunteers served and**
  - 3) Other volunteer/project demographics and information.**
  - 4) All requisite documentation for grant dollar use**
  - 5) Volunteer management practices**
- 

## **BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION**

- 1) Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (no cost)**
- 2) Criminal background checks required by the grantee or any partner organization(s)**



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

or combination), the amount, as well as the intended purpose of the match.

- c) The application is detailed and provides a full explanation of associated costs including their purpose, justification, basis for the calculations. All costs must be itemized and all calculations must be presented in equation format, identifying cost per unit, and other key details, etc. This is in addition to the required, completed budget template to be uploaded to the Blackbaud Grantmaking online portal application. All costs should be listed separately or individually. The budget should be completed using the exact, approved Volunteer Florida Foundation Budget Template found on the NOFA webpage: <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>.
- d) The application thoroughly explains how the proposed program budget reflects the program's goals and design as described in the Application Narrative.
- e) The application states the organization's current budget, the percentage of the organization's budget this grant would represent, and how the organization will comply with fiscal compliance oversight.

#### XIV. **BLACKBAUD- APPLICATION NAVIGATION AND SUBMISSION**

**Read all application and completion information before beginning the process.** Complete the steps outlined in this section to submit the Rural Community Assets Fund application via the Blackbaud Grantmaking online portal.

**Application Link:** <https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/06bae864-f43a-4231-ba0f-37cb93eca10c>. Do not use links from previous grant cycles.

- A. Log into the Blackbaud Grantmaking online portal by either using an existing  
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#### RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND

##### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY | GRANT YEAR 2025-2026

username and password (from previous Volunteer Florida or Volunteer Florida Foundation grant cycles) or by creating a new username and password.

Use the navigation bar above the fields to shift between pages of the application, rather than clicking the back button.

To return to an 'In Progress Application' or view a previously 'Submitted Application', use the following link: <https://bbgmapply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/auth/signin>. Using the initial application link results in the creation of a new application. You may select any portion of the application to view/edit, unless it has been submitted.

- B. Log in to Blackbaud. The user will be prompted to complete the eligibility quiz:
  - 1) Are you a Florida based organization?
  - 2) Is your organization one of the following: A public or private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, including faith-based and other community organizations; institution of higher education; government entity (e.g., states, cities, counties); or Indian Tribe?
  - 3) Is your organization's IRS tax exemption status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit currently in good standing (Ex. No adverse rulings, revocations, no penalties, suspensions, pending applications, etc.)?
  - 4) Does your organization mobilize or will it mobilize volunteers to meet the mission of the organization?
  - 5) Does your organization serve a RAO (Rural Areas of Opportunity) County?

C. The user must enter all required application information. All required information is not

## Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) Grant Opportunities

Rural  
Community  
Assets  
Fund



### RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND (RCAF) FY 2025-2026 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Volunteer Florida Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of FY 2025-2026 Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) grant funding. **Applications are due Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00pm EDT.**

The Volunteer Florida Foundation's Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) strengthens the power and capacity of community organizations to further their missions by recruiting, equipping and mobilizing volunteers who serve Floridians in rural communities.

RCAF is open to public or private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities (e.g., states, cities, counties, school systems, etc.); or Indian Tribes.

#### Application Submission

Download the NOFA [here](#).

Download the budget template [here](#).

Download the sample budget template [here](#).

For more information about the volunteer management cycle click [here](#).

The Volunteer Florida Foundation requires that proposals be submitted through the Blackbaud Grantmaking on-line system, which can be found [here](#).


Additional information about submission is detailed in the NOFA.

**Applications must be submitted through the Blackbaud system no later than Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00pm EDT. Applications submitted after this deadline or by any other means will not be considered for funding.**

#### Technical Assistance

The Volunteer Florida Foundation will host a recorded technical assistance webinar for the Rural Community Assets Fund FY 2025-2026 funding opportunity on Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 10:00AM. To register for the webinar, please [click here](#).

To ensure that this funding process is carried out in a fair and equitable manner, all questions should be submitted to [RCAF@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:RCAF@volunteerflorida.org).



### Applicant Portal

ENTER YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS BELOW

Email address\*

☐ Remember me

[Sign in](#)

[Need help signing in?](#) | [Create account](#)





Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) 2025-2026  
[View Guidelines](#)

Accepting applications until Aug 14, 2025 05:01 PM

The Volunteer Florida Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of funding through the Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The RCAF Grant supports Florida-based organizations working to engage volunteers in serving rural communities designated as Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs).

The RCAF Grant aims to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit and public organizations by equipping them with resources to recruit, train, and mobilize volunteers in high-need rural areas. Projects may focus on a wide range of community-serving activities and do not require applicants to have a pre-existing volunteer program. Both in-person and virtual volunteer engagement are eligible.

A total of up to \$150,000 in funding is available for FY 2025-2026. Individual applicants may request between \$10,000 and \$15,000, with a required 100% cash or in-kind match. Funds may be used for organizational and training support, and the first 50% of the award will be distributed at the beginning of the grant period (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026), with the remainder issued mid-cycle. All expenditures must be documented with appropriate proof of use.

Grantees will also benefit from comprehensive training, technical assistance, and coaching provided or approved by the Volunteer Florida Foundation to ensure successful grant implementation and long-term sustainability.

Please contact us at [info@volunteerflorida.org](#) for more information.

[View all my applications](#)

[Start new application](#)

Applications

[View Guidelines](#)

Applicant Information

John Palmer  
john@volunteerflorida.org

FORM QUESTIONS

Accepting applications until Aug 14, 2025 05:01 PM

### Select Your Organization

The Registration ID is the nonprofit's official ID

All countries

Explore the nonprofit organizations registered with NPOconnect by searching for its name or Registration ID. For search tips, see our [Help Center](#).

[Go to my applications](#)

John Palmer

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View Guidelines

# RCAF Eligibility Quiz

Applicant Information



 John Palmer  
john@volunteerflorida.org

ELIGIBILITY FORM QUESTIONS

Complete the required fields below.  
Accepting applications until Aug 14, 2025 05:01 PM

Please complete this brief eligibility quiz

Are you a Florida based organization?\*

Is your organization one of the following: a public or private nonprofit organization, including faith-based or other community organization; institution of higher education; government entity within a state or territory (i.e., city, county); or Indian Tribe?\*

Do you use volunteers to meet the mission of your organization, or plan on doing so during the contract period?\*

Is your organization's IRS tax exemption status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit currently in good standing? Ex. No adverse rulings, revocations, penalties, suspensions, pending applications, etc.\*

Does your organization serve a RAO (Rural Areas of Opportunity) County?\*

Submit

  
View Guidelines

**Eligibility Passed**

Congratulations! You have passed eligibility and can now proceed with your application.

[Cancel](#) [Continue to application](#)

Applicant Information



JP John Palmer  
john@volunteerflorida.org

ELIGIBILITY FORM QUESTIONS

Complete the required fields below.  
Accepting applications until Aug 14, 2025 05:01 PM

Please complete this brief eligibility quiz

Are you a Florida based organization?\*

Yes

Is your organization one of the following: a public or private nonprofit organization, including faith-based or other community organization; institution of higher education; government entity within a state or territory (i.e., city, county); or Indian Tribe?\*

Yes

Do you use volunteers to meet the mission of your organization, or plan on doing so during the contract period?\*

Yes

Is your organization's IRS tax exemption status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit currently in good standing? Ex. No adverse rulings, revocations, penalties, suspensions, pending applications, etc.\*

Yes

Does your organization serve a RAO (Rural Areas of Opportunity) County?\*

Yes

[Submit](#)

 Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) Application

 Draft on Jul 29, 2025

( ) \_ \_ \_



  
View Guidelines


Application Forms

- RCAF Eligibility Quiz
  - Submitted on Jul 29, 2025
- Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) Application
  - Draft on Jul 29, 2025


Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) Application

The Volunteer Florida Foundation's Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) strengthens the power and capacity of community organizations to further their missions by recruiting, equipping and mobilizing volunteers who serve Floridians in rural communities. Applications must be submitted to the Volunteer Florida Foundation via the Blackbaud Grantmaking online portal no later than Thursday, August 14th, 2025, by 5:00pm EDT. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered for funding. The Volunteer Florida Foundation does not require organizations to submit a notice of intent to respond. Grant award distribution as described herein is contingent upon funding availability. For the 2025-2026 contract year, 100% match is required. The Notice of Funding Availability and all other relevant information are available on the NOFA webpage: <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>.

Applicant Information Manage applicants (1)



Update organization



John Palmer

john@volunteerflorida.org

FORM QUESTIONS Download

Complete the required fields below.  
Accepting applications until Aug 14, 2025 05:01 PM

Cover Sheet

Project Demographics

Application Narrative

Performance Measures

Budget

Submission

I understand that RCAF grantees must complete background checks for all volunteers through the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website and submit proof with mid-cycle and end of contract reports. RCAF grantees must also verify the completion for volunteers of criminal background checks required by the grantee or any partner organization(s), if relevant to the funded project.\*

I agree that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all data in this application is true and correct. The governing body of this organization has duly authorized this application and we will comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.\*

Electronic Signature\*

Application Submission Date\*

MM/DD/YYYY

Previous

Submit

Saved



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## REMEMBER:

***Follow ALL Notice of Funding Availability instructions EXACTLY.***

***To ensure that this funding process is carried out in a fair and equitable manner, all questions concerning the Application must be submitted to [RCAF@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:RCAF@volunteerflorida.org).***

**Find All Grant Information Here:**

***<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/rcaf-grant-opportunities/>***

**THANK YOU!**