



GMA Community Support Application

The Gulfport Merchant's Association (GMA) believes in giving back to the local community. Through the Community Support program, the GMA helps fund the needs of our community by providing grants to local non-profit organizations throughout the year.

Before applying, please note:

- The application deadline to apply for the 2017 cycle is **November 7, 2016**.
- Organizations must be described as one of the following:
 - An organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), (4), (6) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - A recognized local government entity: including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes;
 - A local public or private school, charter school, community/junior college, state/private college or university;
- Applications must be completed in full and submitted in writing to be considered.
- Submitting an application does not guarantee funding.
- The GMA Board reserves the right to adjust the amount awarded to each organization without prior notice.

Eligibility Checklist

1. Potential grantees should be nonprofit organizations with programs that benefit the Gulfport area.
2. Organizations that can provide volunteers and media promotion for Geckofest events will be considered first.

Selection Process

- The Gulfport Merchant's Association will review and make initial funding decisions on all submitted requests.
- Applications are typically reviewed within 60 days of the submission date, and organizations are notified of decisions via e-mail by December 15, 2016. All funding decisions are final. Grants are awarded AFTER the conclusion of 2017 Gecko events, approximately fall 2017.
- If an organization is approved, grant checks will be awarded directly to the recipient organization.
- In the event of being awarded a grant, organizations should contact the GMA to schedule a formal recognition event. Grant recipients agree to participate in photo and award recognition event.

Funding Exclusions

- Association/chamber memberships
- Individuals (requests made solely for the benefit of one person or family)

- Nationally-sponsored organizations
- Organizations that deny service to a potential client or beneficiary on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran or disability status
- Organizations whose services do not benefit the community at large
- Political causes, candidates, organizations or campaigns
- Projects that send products or people for relief efforts to a foreign country
- Religious Organizations

Community Support Request Form

(PLEASE PRINT)

Organization Name:	Contact Name:
Address :	City, State, Zip:
Phone:	Email Address:
Today’s Date:	Organization Website:
Date Needed:	# of Volunteers available to GMA:
501c3 Number: (Please attach a copy of your designation letter)	# of Contacts on support and/or media lists?
Grant Amount Requested:	
<p>Please provide a mission statement for your organization and brief explanation of how your organization would use a grant to benefit the community. (Include additional sheet if necessary)</p> 	
<p>Please complete and return to GMA, 3101 Beach Blvd. S., Suite 1, Gulfport, FL 33707</p>	
<p>DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE, OFFICE USE ONLY</p>	