Pinellas County nonprofits are getting a $19 million boost for their capital needs from the Pinellas County government as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The ARPA Nonprofit Capital Project Fund, administered by Pinellas Community Foundation (PCF) in collaboration with the county, offers relief for nonprofits recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“COVID held our community back for two years,” said Duggan Cooley, CEO of PCF. “This program will push us forward five years,” he said, noting that, within five years, this effort “will propel our nonprofits to the next level of resiliency and widen the safety net for our residents while providing for our community’s future needs.”

Charlie Justice, chairman of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, underscored the importance of nonprofits in the recovery from COVID-19. “Now is the time to invest in their capital needs, so they can further strengthen our community, especially our most vulnerable residents,” said Justice.

According to Duggan, the funds will support critical assets, from small capital purchases to large capital projects, that will serve the community for five years and beyond.

In January, Pinellas County conducted a needs assessment survey with local agencies. The survey revealed the COVID-19 pandemic’s severe impact on Pinellas County’s nonprofits. Feeding organizations that serve residents countywide said their services more than doubled since 2020. Yet, a third had to cut services to balance budgets.

Among the 124 survey responses, the majority reported needing new facilities or facility upgrades, vehicles, and information technology services and equipment, especially to support continuums of care.

Grant applications are already underway, and approval is expected by mid-November, with funds made available around mid-December. A second round of funding is expected in 2023.

**READ MORE** [PinellasCF.org/ARPAFiveYears](#)
Pinellas Community Foundation understands the impact and significance of making education accessible for all communities. By working with PCF and the school of your choice, you can create a scholarship and help future students pursue their dreams. The PCF staff handles the more complicated parts of establishing a scholarship, such as designing applications and getting the word out to students, making the process easier for you.

PCF has built a relationship with Stetson University College of Law through two scholarships that enhance opportunities for Stetson Law students. The Warren J. Bowman Memorial Scholarship and the Don Smith Family Scholarship have offered over $400,000 in combined funding since their founding.

When PCF works with a university to create a scholarship, we get to know each other and develop trust. The power to make philanthropic giving a reality grows through continued collaboration on ideas, strategies, and solutions.

As part of that collaboration and in response to the environmental protection focus of the Needed Now Fund, Stetson University College of Law reached out to PCF about the Dick and Joan Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment. The clinic, created in November 2021, gives students hands-on opportunities to learn about the inextricable connection between democracy, policy, and the environment.

The success of the scholarship programs created at Stetson University College of Law shows that no charitable gift is too complicated. Partnering with PCF, you can create a fund supporting a cause close to you.

Pinellas Community Foundation

Supported by Stetson University College of Law

Project Prosper
Empowering Immigrants and Refugees

Founded in 2007 by Robin Warren and Ann Haendel, Project Prosper offers programs to immigrants and refugees in the Tampa Bay area. These programs help immigrants navigate the U.S. financial system to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

When an immigrant moves to the United States, the financial transition can be challenging. They are often unfamiliar with U.S. systems and policies, which can be very different from the financial systems in their home country. Many are also dealing with language barriers.

Project Prosper offers three programs to help immigrants make the transition: a loan program with financial mentoring, financial literacy courses, and a microenterprise business course.

The programs can genuinely transform the lives of immigrants. Executive Director Faye Steinhauser says one thing she’s learned since joining Project Prosper is what a resourceful person can do with a small amount of money. She’s seen clients start and grow businesses. She explains that one tiny loan can have a snowball effect that makes a big difference to people.

Faye has also watched Project Prosper’s immense progress since she joined in 2018. The organization has gone from being almost entirely volunteer-led to being managed by a full-time staff. As it continues to expand, the organization is constantly updating its programs and adding technology to increase its reach.

Project Prosper’s loan program participants receive a no-interest loan with credit reporting to the three main credit bureaus.
When you think of Tarpon Springs, the area’s vibrant Greek heritage easily comes to mind. Yet, the city is one of the richest arts and culture communities in Pinellas County.

Mere miles from the Sponge Docks are the Performing Arts Center, Heritage Museum, 1883 Safford House Museum & Gardens, and the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art.

For over 20 years, Pinellas Community Foundation has been dedicated to arts and culture funding. The Theodore and Marion Tonne Grant for Cultural Outreach and the Janet A. Huntley Arts Enrichment for Youth Grant both support arts education programs in under-resourced populations.

PCF also helps manage donor-advised funds based in this community. One such fund is the March to Macy’s Fund 2022, which supports talented musicians from the Tarpon Springs High School Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. These students are following their dreams to New York, where they’ll perform in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these teens to represent their hometown in a beloved holiday tradition.

Earlier this year, the Kathleen Monahan Foundation Fund Scholarship awarded $1,000 scholarships to two high school seniors who plan to continue their performing arts education. As Tarpon Springs’ founding director of cultural and civic services, Kathleen was singularly responsible for making the city a regional center for the arts.

PCF makes it easier for donors to administer funds and scholarships and is proud to strengthen arts and culture initiatives in Tarpon Springs for generations to come.

LEARN MORE PinellasCF.org/TarponSpringsArt

---

Tampa Bay Watch
Healthy Bay, Healthy Community

Tampa Bay Watch staff and volunteers are often spotted installing oyster reef balls and planting native grasses to create living shorelines. Their work provides a habitat for various wildlife and improves the quality of the waters in which we live, work, and play.

Pinellas Community Foundation, like Tampa Bay Watch, supports solutions to challenging issues. Safeguarding the environment is one of them. When our bays, shorelines, marine life, and watersheds thrive, we thrive, too.

Tampa Bay Watch provides the science and research for projects and invites the community to participate in hands-on construction. The nonprofit has coordinated more than 250,000 volunteers, installed 15,000 oyster reef balls, and planted more than 1 million salt marsh grass plants to restore 250 acres of coastal tidal ponds.

Education has always been a part of the nonprofit’s mission by empowering students to act as stewards. More than 42,000 students and teachers from over 150 schools have participated in the program’s field trips.

Its goal is to advance environmental stewardship by engaging, informing, and inspiring visitors through success stories about Tampa Bay’s recovery while empowering our ecosystem’s future.

Peter Clark, president and founder of Tampa Bay Watch, states, “The core of our organizational development is to energize the community, young, and young at heart, to take a leading role in the recovery of the bay. Throughout our 30 years of existence, we have found that people really, truly want to make a difference in the health of the bay and are looking for a way to contribute.”

READ MORE PinellasCF.org/TBWatch
Giving to Humanity

PCF Membership Program Is Philanthropy Without Barriers

As a Giving to Humanity member, your gift will combine with other members’ gifts to help Pinellas County charities better care for those they serve. PCF memberships fund the annual Capital Improvement and Equipment grants made to qualified nonprofit organizations. PCF also matches your donations dollar for dollar, and 100% of member gifts go to grant recipients in the donation year. It’s easy, and gifts of any size make a difference. To become a PCF Giving to Humanity member and support life-changing nonprofit missions, please visit the PCF website or call 727-531-0058.

JOIN PCF
PinellasCF.org/Membership

PINELLAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS A 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR PINELLAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CH3648) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) OR VISITING WWW.FDACS.GOV. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. YOUR GIFT MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE; PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL TO EXPLORE YOUR BENEFITS.