



Frequently Asked Questions

What is A Community Thrives?

A Community Thrives is a grant-making and crowdfunding program from the USA TODAY NETWORK, which includes USA TODAY and Gannett's hundreds of local media brands. The initiative is part of the Gannett Foundation and supports nonprofit organizations with projects focused on community building.

How does it work?

On June 1, 2022 submissions to participate in A Community Thrives will open; the application will close on June 30, 2022 at 9 p.m. ET. All nonprofits who want to participate must submit an application online during this time period.

Starting July 18, 2022, A Community Thrives will host a month-long giving event encouraging charitable donations through our online giving platform. NOTE: TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM, APPLICANTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE CROWDFUNDING PORTION OF THE PROGRAM RAISING EITHER A MINIMUM OF \$3,000 OR \$6,000 DEPENDING ON THE ORGANIZATION'S OPERATING BUDGET. TIERS WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON THE OPERATING BUDGETS OF THE APPLICANT POOL TO CREATE AS EQUITABLE A SPLIT AS POSSIBLE. IN 2021, TIER 1 INCLUDES ORGANIZATIONS WITH A BUDGET BELOW \$500K, AND TIER 2 INCLUDES ORGANIZATIONS WITH A BUDGET OF \$500K AND ABOVE.

A Community Thrives will provide toolkits, training sessions, outreach support, mass media and social media coverage to make it easy for all nonprofits to participate. Each participating organization will have an individualized web page to promote their cause. While A Community Thrives will encourage consumers to donate, organizations should plan to leverage their networks to garner donations. This web page can also be used for year-round online fundraising.

Individuals will be able to donate money to the nonprofit organizations of their choice on July 18, 2022. All donations are tax deductible and irrevocable. (Donations will not be refunded). Donors will receive a receipt for their gift. The nonprofit will receive contact information for each donor, unless the donor elects to remain anonymous.

Who is behind it?

USA TODAY NETWORK, which includes USA TODAY and Gannett's hundreds of local media brands across the country.

The program is funded by the Gannett Foundation. We are a part of your community, and we want to see it improve, too, which is why we created A Community Thrives. The program supports ideas for local

community improvement by getting your neighbors, coworkers, peers, and others who are passionate about your idea involved in making change.

How much of the donation will go to the nonprofit?

A Mightycause platform fee of 2% plus a credit card fee of 2.9% + \$.30 will be charged on each donation. By default, donors are opted in to cover the transaction costs for your nonprofit using the donation booster within the checkout flow when they make a donation. They can opt out of covering the fee within the checkout flow as well. When donors cover the fee the nonprofit gets 100% of the intended donation. All donations are final and cannot be refunded. All donations on acomunitythrives.mightycause.com are made to the Mightycause Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that permits donors to advise a regranting of their donations to qualified charitable organizations.

Is there a minimum or maximum donation?

The minimum donation is \$5. There is no maximum donation limit.

Do I need a user account to donate?

No, you do not need to create an account to make a donation. However, if you plan to give multiple times during A Community Thrives, creating an account means you only have to enter your credit card information once. Your account also collects your tax receipts in one location and enables you to track your donation, review the charities your support and schedule future giving.

Can I donate to an organization participating in A Community Thrives on my smart phone?

Yes – this site is mobile friendly! Simply visit acomunitythrives.mightycause.com on your smartphone to browse all the amazing nonprofits participating.

Can I fundraise for my favorite nonprofit?

Yes! You can be an ambassador for the cause(s) you care about. To get started, visit the Organization Page of any nonprofit listed on the A Community Thrives home page and click “Fundraise” to start the page creation process. Please note that in order to create a Fundraising Page you will be prompted to sign into your user account, or create one if you don’t already have an account.

When individuals donate to an organization participating in A Community Thrives, who will receive their information?

The nonprofit organization receiving the donation will receive the contact information for the donor in order to conduct follow up communications, unless the donor chooses to make an anonymous donation. As the hosts, USA TODAY NETWORK will also receive the information in order to send news and updates about A Community Thrives related activities. We will not share your information.

Who is able to participate?

All nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are eligible to participate in the A Community Thrives Challenge. In addition, schools and municipal programs may apply. 501(c)(3) 509a3s are not eligible for

the program. If you are an individual with a great idea you will need to partner up with a nonprofit organization in order to apply.

Why should my organization participate?

- Raise funds for your organization
- Educate the public about your cause
- Find and cultivate new donors through the national conversation surrounding the day: media, advertisements, social media
- Activate your supporters to advocate and leverage their networks on your behalf
- Reinvigorate lapsed donors
- Convert check-writing donors to online donors
- Kick off your end of year fundraising campaign early

What does my nonprofit or municipal program need to do?

- Apply for the A Community Thrives Program with information about your community building idea!
- Create a landing page for your organization at acomunitythives.mightycause.com.
- Access the nonprofit toolkit and attend training sessions for additional support.
- Broadcast your campaign's message using existing communication networks.
- Secure matching grants and prizes to entice donors to your group.
- Recruit individuals to be Peer-to-Peer Fundraisers for your organization.
- Think outside the box, be engaged and have fun!!

Does my nonprofit have to fundraise to be eligible for grants?

Yes. Nonprofits who would like to be considered for \$2M in merit grants must fundraise through the crowdfunding campaign, A Community Thrives Challenge, and raise a minimum of either \$3,000 or \$6,000 depending on the organization's operating budget. In 2021, applicants will be split into two tiers; > and < \$500K operating budget. Organizations must fundraise to be eligible for the "bonus" incentive grants.

How can an organization receive donations?

If you are already listed on acomunitythives.mightycause.com, you don't need to do anything except make sure your nonprofit's profile and page is updated and motivating. If your nonprofit is not listed on acomunitythives.mightycause.com when you do a search, please make sure you register for A Community Thrives to be included.

How will an organization know who has donated to them?

Organizations that have registered on acomunitythives@mightycause.com can track donations in real time by logging into their account. Organizations will also receive an email notification for every donation. Nonprofits can download a detailed donation report at any time through their account to thank and follow-up with individual donors and tabulate donation value and number of donors. This .csv file can be used in Excel and is widely compatible with other spreadsheet applications.

Do I need to issue a tax receipt to my donors?

No, donations made through communitythrives.mightycause.com will automatically receive a receipt from the Mightycause Charitable Foundation. Your organization can include a custom message that will be included in the tax receipt email sent to donors. However, we do encourage designated charities to send a thank you note to their donors letting them know how awesome they are!

When will my organization receive the funds contributed?

Normally, The Mightycause Foundation will disburse monies on the 10th and 25th of the month following receipt of the advised donation. Please sign up for EFT disbursement right through your organization page.

How can I find out more about A Community Thrives?

Stay tuned to this website for more information and detail as the event draws close. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay updated. We will also be hosting training sessions for nonprofits to share tools, highlight matching grants and strategize together to make this day another one for the history books!