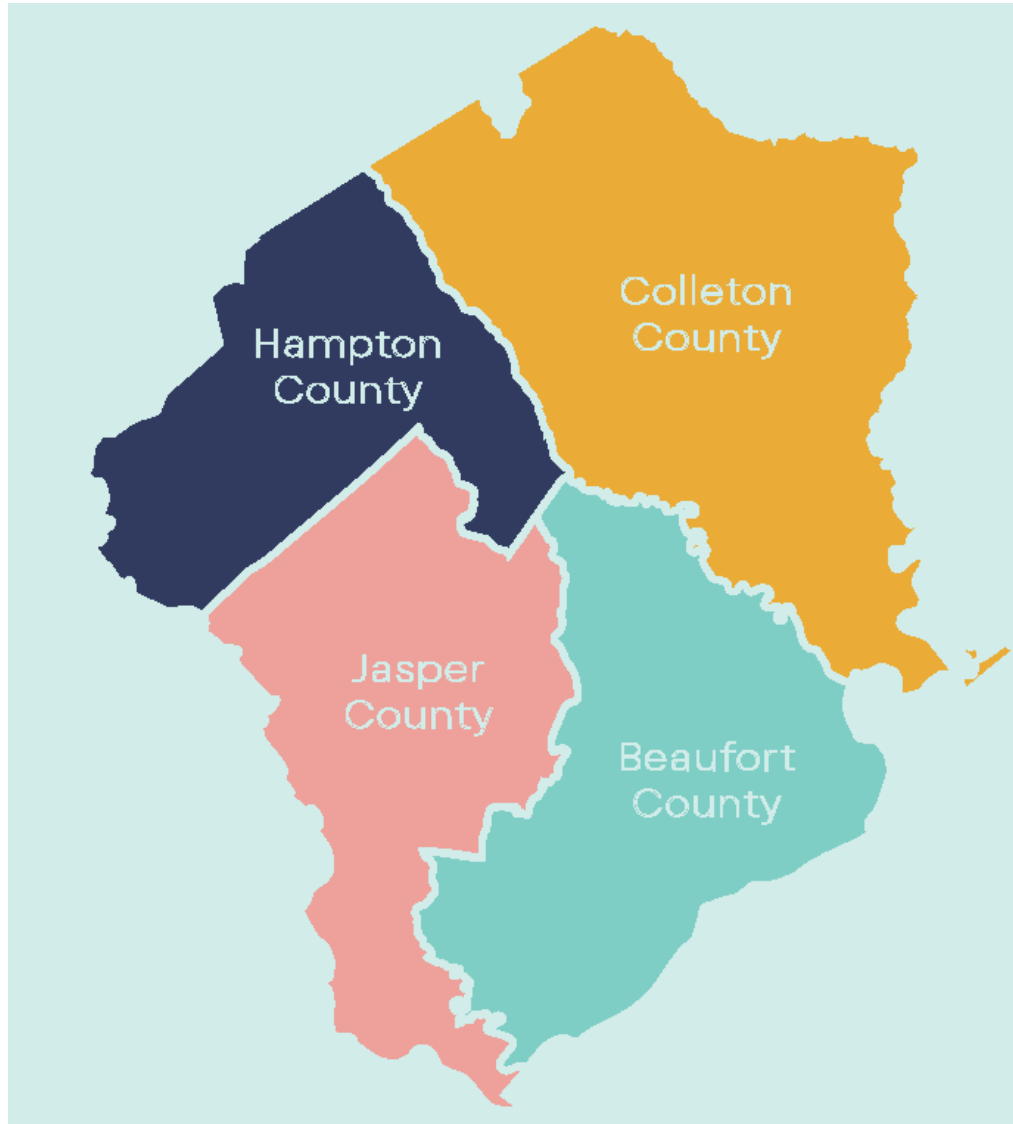


About Us



- *Established in 1994*
- *\$100+ million in assets*
- *560+ Funds*
- *Approximately \$124M in grants and \$13M in scholarships*
- *Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper County Service Area*
- *12-member staff*

Strengthening community by connecting people, resources and needs.



Grantmaking

Through its grantmaking, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry seeks to build lasting community benefit, by making grants that directly support Lowcountry organizations resulting in a positive impact to the community.

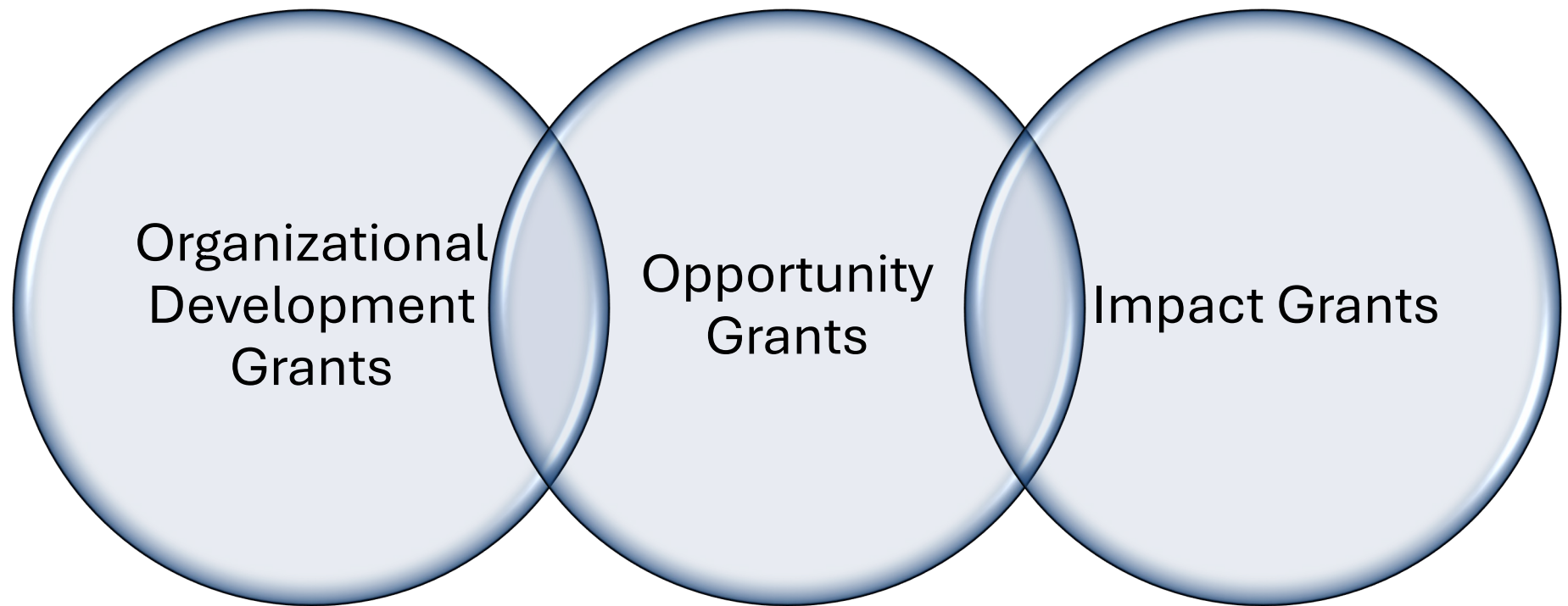
Our focus is on the well-being of the Lowcountry community and the people who call it home. We prioritize supporting organizations that work to create equitable opportunities, ensuring that all members of our community can thrive.

Our committees review applications and consider **community impact, organization capacity, program/project sustainability** and **collaboration** as required criteria for most projects and programs.

Community Investment Grants



THREE GRANT PROCESSES ... ONE MISSION



Engage a consultant to
increase internal capacity

Intermediate Funding for
Projects/Programs

Larger initiatives in southern
Beaufort County

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY'S MISSION IS STRENGTHENING
THE COMMUNITY BY CONNECTING PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND NEEDS.**

GRANT TYPES



Organization Development Grants	Opportunity Grants	Community Impact Grants
<p>Designed to retain a consultant to help existing nonprofits strengthen themselves organizationally, increasing their capacity to govern and achieve long-term sustainability.</p> <p>*70% of Consultant Costs, generally up to \$5,000.00</p>	<p>Program or investment grants with a request amount of \$10,000 or less.</p>	<p>Can be ...</p> <p>Program grants, designed to stimulate and help launch new programs and projects; or</p> <p>to help focus, enhance, and/or expand an organization's existing programs and services.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Investment grants, which are a critical enhancement to the mission of the nonprofit organization and will increase the organization's capacity to fulfill its mission.</p>
<p>Available throughout Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties</p>		<p>Organizations that "serve people living and/or working south of the Broad River" - greater Bluffton; Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands</p>
<p>GENERALLY, ONE GRANT WILL BE AWARDED TO AN ORGANIZATOIN PER FISCAL YEAR.</p>		

NEW

GRANTMAKING Goals



Through its grantmaking, Community Foundation of the Lowcountry seeks to:

- **BUILD** lasting **COMMUNITY** benefit by making grants that **support Lowcountry organizations** resulting in a positive impact to the community we serve.
- **BUILD** strong nonprofit organizations to serve our local **COMMUNITY**

Basic Criteria Used in Grantmaking

- Community Impact
- Project Sustainability
- Organizational Capacity
- Collaboration

GRANTMAKING



We look to fund projects that **empower** individuals and do not create dependency, have **long lasting benefit** and can be **sustained** by the organization once the grant period is over. We are looking for projects based on **best practices** and **supported by Board and Executive levels** in the organization. If the project is being done by others, we ask you to **work collaboratively** with them. We generally do not fund a duplication in services. **Successful applications often demonstrate significant impact on disadvantaged members of the community or the environment.**

Limitations



GRANTS ARE GENERALLY NOT AWARDED FOR A PROJECT THAT

- Is already started, already in place, or already funded by CFL
- Is an operating expense, or a pre-assumed commitment
- Lacks strong sustainability plans
- Is a fundraising event/tool or part campaign
- Supports religious or political activities
- Provides subgrants, subawards, stipends or scholarships
- Supports travel for class trip, sports teams, performing groups, etc.

NEW

Support private schools (unless the greater community benefits)



TIMELINE

- **Organizational Development Grant**
- **Application Deadline Dates:**

August 31,
2025

December 8,
2025

March 3,
2026

Contact Lisa Hodge for more information

TIMELINE



– Opportunity Grant Cycles

-LOI and Application Deadline Dates

LOI – 09/3/2025

Application 9/15/2025



LOI – 3/3/2026

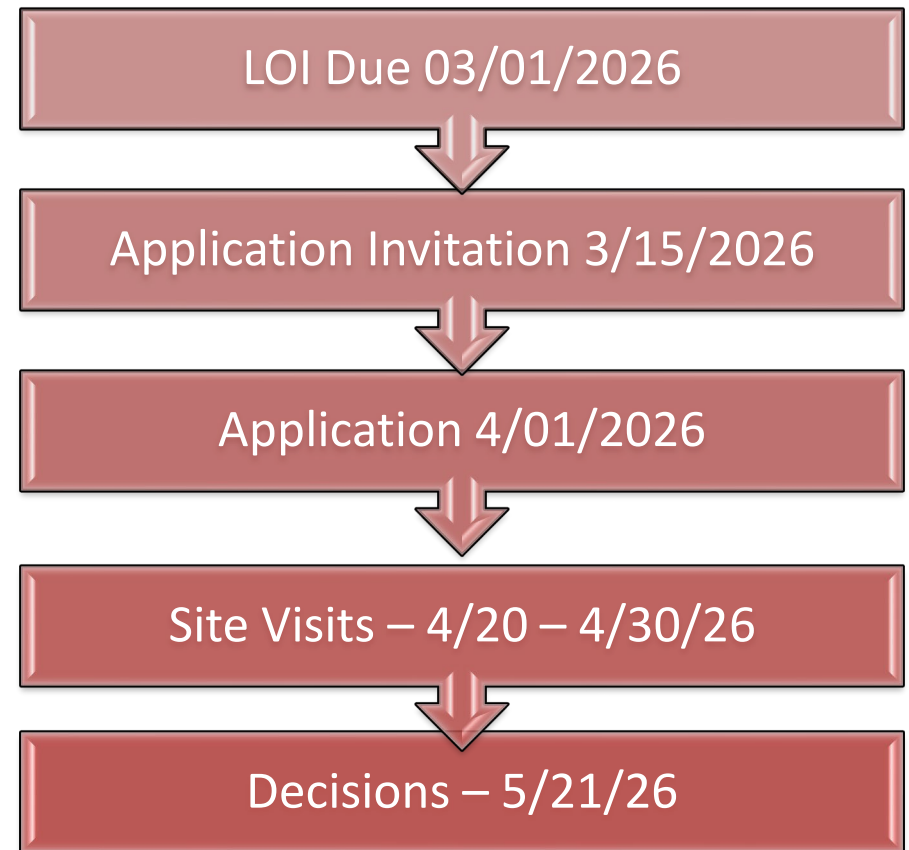
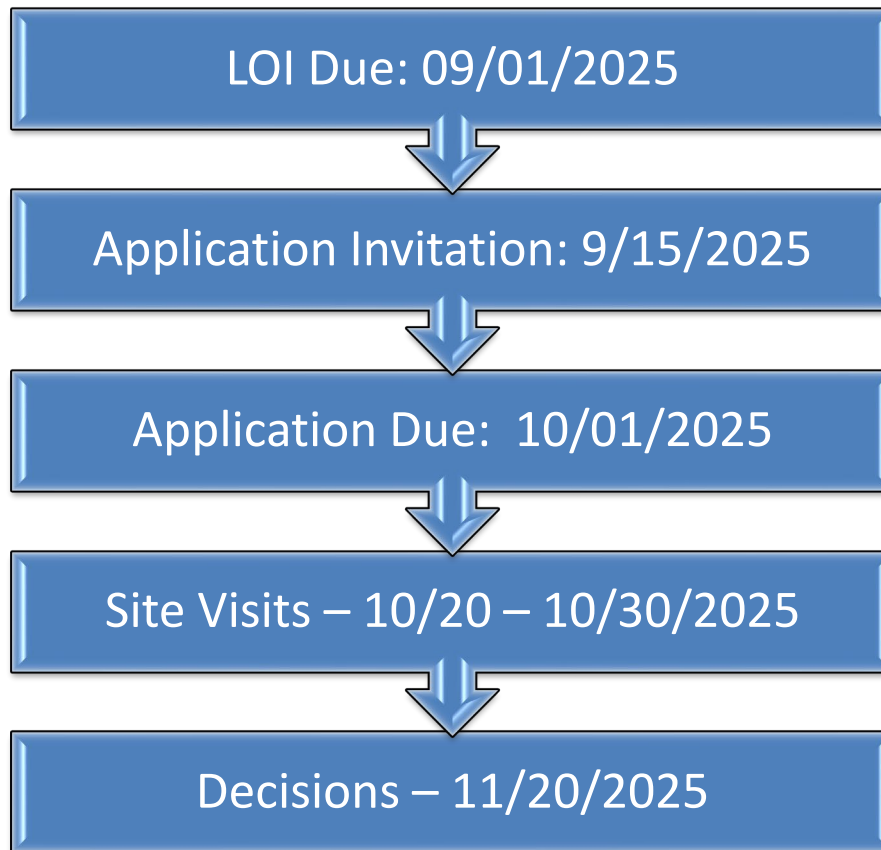
Application 3/16/2026

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) is available in the grant portal.

Late submissions are not accepted!

Contact Rose Gomez-Benitez for more information.

Impact Grant Deadline Dates:



Fine Print:

- LOI is an online pre-application form, available by access code, in the portal
- **Late submissions are not accepted!**
- **Site visit day/time will be assigned. The default location is CFL's office. NO SITE VISITS WEEK of HERITAGE**

Trick Questions



Important Info Covered in this material!

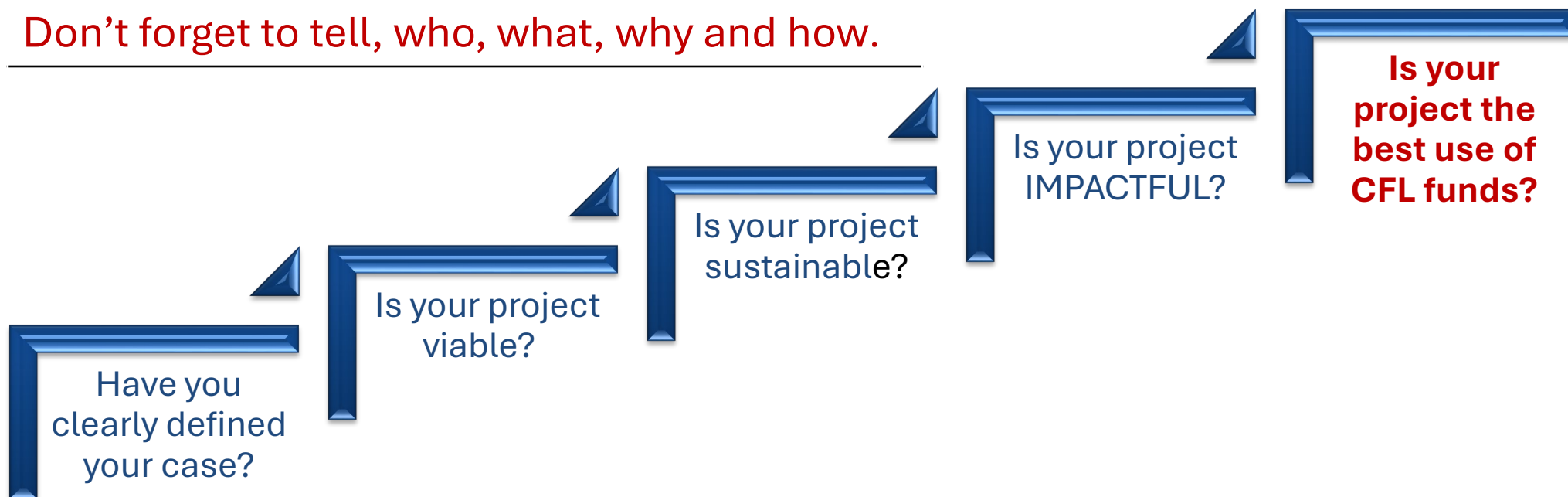
- **Where do I send my LOI? You don't.** When you enter the access code for an Opportunity Grant or an Impact Grant the LOI will open. You will complete that "Preapplication form" online in the portal and submit it on OR before the due date. The committee will review the LOI and staff will open the Application form IF the LOI is approved.
- **Can I apply for operating expenses?** Unfortunately, we cannot fund operating expenses.
- **Will you fund a new or existing position?** Our committee will consider a NEW position that is essential for a NEW project or program. **They will currently not fund general and administrative positions (including E.D.'s, Development Officers, etc.)**
- **Will you fund an existing program?** We prefer to fund new programs or existing programs that have been expanded. Our goal is to build and not merely maintain. We will consider existing programs that are VERY impactful, as evidenced by years of measurable outcomes, but all things being equal, our preference is to fund "new" or "expanded" projects or programs.
- **My organization is not located in your service area, can I still apply?** With approximately 1,200 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in our service area, we have a lot of community partners to support. You can apply, but we encourage you to find a local partner to collaborate with.
- **What if I need to reschedule my site visit?** Given the number of applications we receive and the activity level of ALL our nonprofit partners, committee members and staff, it is impossible to work around everyone's schedule. We ask you to hold the date range allocated for site visits, knowing it may not be ideal for everyone. If your scheduled time does not work for you, we ask you to have someone else from your organization participate in the site visit on your behalf!

Application Tips



Clearly Make Your Case ...

Don't forget to tell, who, what, why and how.



As you complete your application. Remember to cover all the bases necessary to make your case. What are you doing, who is benefiting, how will you implement and what do you hope to achieve. Explain your timeline, be realistic in your expectations! We receive many applications and cannot fund them all.

Keep in mind the following question: Why is this project (investment in the community) the best use of CFL's grantmaking dollars?

Major Changes



Impact Applications by Invitation

After Committee Review of LOI

One grant type per fiscal year

Per Agency

OD and Opportuntiy Grants

New Cycles

Additional Information



What Should I Know Before I Get Started?

- **Do I need to attend an Impact Information Session?** We are hosting two Impact Information Sessions prior to each Impact Grant Cycle. These sessions are required for first time grant seekers and encouraged for organizations that have received a Community Investment Grant in the past.
- **I've reviewed the Grantseekers Toolkit, How do I access the application?** After reading through the information in the Grantseeker Toolkit, you are required to complete a short survey. This survey will help us determine which access code you need!
- **How do I access the survey?** The survey is listed on "How Do I Apply For a Grant" document in the Grantseeker Toolkit.
- **What if I have questions?** The Community Investment Staff is here to help! Please contact:
 - Debbie for help with Impact Grants or general information
 - Rose for help with Opportunity Grants or general information
 - Lisa for help with Organizational Development Grants or general information

Which Grant is Right For Me?

Grant Type	Organizational Development	Opportunity	Impact
Min Amount	None	None	\$10,001
Max Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$150,000
Geographic Area	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	Southern Beaufort (Hilton Head, Daufuskie, Greater Bluffton)
Requires LOI	No	Yes	Yes
Cycles	3	2	2
Deadlines	Aug. 3, 2025 Dec. 8, 2025 Mar. 3, 2026	Sept 3, 2025 (LOI) Mar. 3, 2026 (LOI)	Sep. 1, 2025 (LOI) Mar. 1, 2026 (LOI)
Common Request	Consultant Led Plans	Pilot or New Projects, Programs, Capital Expenditures	Larger-Scale Projects, Capital Expenditures, Programs
Contact	Lisa Hodge	Rose Gomez-Benitez	Debbie Cahoon

Community Investment

We look forward to working with you!

843.681.9100

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Rose, rgomezbenitez@cf-lowcountry.org

