



OFFICIAL RULES

Five nonprofits. 100 hours. Up to \$100,000 in matching funds.

About Fuel the Change

Fuel the Change is the Palmetto Citizens Foundation's signature 100 Hours of Giving campaign, created to support nonprofit organizations making a difference in the communities we serve.

Five nonprofit organizations will be selected as 2027 Fuel the Change partners.

During Fuel the Change, the Palmetto Citizens Foundation will match eligible donations dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000 per participating nonprofit, for a total of up to \$100,000 in matching funds.

100% of every donation to the Palmetto Citizens Foundation goes back into the communities we serve.

Palmetto Citizens covers 100% of the Foundation's operating expenses allowing every dollar donated to support community impact.

Important Dates

- **Applications Open:** Monday, October 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Applications Close:** Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Partners Announced:** Week of November 16, 2026
- **100 Hours of Giving Begins:** Monday, February 22, 2027 at 8:00 a.m.
- **100 Hours of Giving Ends:** Friday, February 26, 2027 at noon

Eligibility

Organizations applying to become a Fuel the Change partner must:

- Be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) public charity.
- Be in good standing.
- Provide direct services within the geographic area served by Palmetto Citizens.
- Demonstrate a meaningful service presence and community impact within an eligible Palmetto Citizens community.
- Be willing to actively participate in Fuel the Change promotional, storytelling and community engagement efforts.

Organizations do not have to be headquartered within the Palmetto Citizens service area, but must demonstrate that their programs or services directly benefit people within an eligible community (listed below).

- **South Carolina:** Aiken, Calhoun, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, and Sumter counties.
- **Georgia:** Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond counties.

Organizations That Are Not Eligible

- Individuals.

- Schools or governmental entities.
- Organizations that do not independently qualify as a 501(c)(3) public charity.
- Political organizations or organizations primarily engaged in partisan political activity.
- Organizations whose proposed use of Fuel the Change funds is primarily for religious worship, instruction or proselytizing.
- Organizations that do not provide meaningful service within the geographic area served by Palmetto Citizens.

Application and Selection

Organizations interested in becoming a Fuel the Change partner must complete the Fuel the Change 2027 Nonprofit Partner Application during the application period.

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Alignment with the Palmetto Citizens Foundation's mission.
- Demonstrated community need and impact.
- Meaningful service within an eligible community.
- The organization's ability and willingness to actively participate in Fuel the Change.

Final selections will be made by the Palmetto Citizens Foundation.

Organizations selected as partners will be asked to provide documentation verifying their 501(c)(3) status and eligibility before participation is finalized.

An existing relationship with Palmetto Citizens or the Palmetto Citizens Foundation is not required to apply or be selected.

How the Match Works

Each of the five selected nonprofit partners will have the opportunity to unlock up to \$20,000 in matching funds from the Palmetto Citizens Foundation during the 100 Hours of Giving.

There is no minimum fundraising requirement to receive matching funds. Eligible donations will be matched dollar for dollar until a nonprofit has earned its full \$20,000 match.

- \$50 donated becomes \$100 in community impact.
- \$500 donated becomes \$1,000 in community impact.
- \$5,000 donated becomes \$10,000 in community impact.
- \$20,000 donated becomes \$40,000 in community impact.

Once a nonprofit has earned its full \$20,000 match, supporters may continue donating to the organization for the remainder of Fuel the Change. Those additional donations will not be matched, but 100% of the donation will continue to benefit the selected nonprofit.

Unused matching funds will remain with the Palmetto Citizens Foundation for future community giving and will not be transferred among participating nonprofit partners.

Eligible Donations

To qualify for Fuel the Change matching funds, donations must be made through an official Fuel the Change campaign channel during the 100 hour campaign period.

Donations made outside of the designated campaign channels or outside of the official campaign period will not be eligible for matching funds.

Donations from individuals and businesses are eligible for matching funds.

Each donation must be designated to one participating Fuel the Change nonprofit partner. Donors wishing to support multiple partners may make separate donations to each organization.

A participating nonprofit may not use its own organizational funds to generate matching funds through Fuel the Change. Personal donations from the organization's employees, board members, volunteers and supporters are eligible when made through an official Fuel the Change campaign channel during the campaign period.

Distribution of Funds

All Fuel the Change donations will be received by the Palmetto Citizens Foundation and designated to the nonprofit partner selected by the donor.

Following the campaign, each participating nonprofit will receive all donations designated to its organization plus the matching funds it earned from the Palmetto Citizens Foundation.

For example, if a nonprofit raises \$27,000 during Fuel the Change, it will receive the full \$27,000 in donations plus the maximum \$20,000 Foundation match, for a total of \$47,000.

Use of Funds

Funds received through Fuel the Change are unrestricted and may be used to support the nonprofit organization's charitable mission and greatest areas of need.

Partner Participation

Selected nonprofit partners agree to actively participate in Fuel the Change, including helping promote the campaign through their available communication channels, participating in storytelling and promotional opportunities, and providing information that helps the Palmetto Citizens Foundation share the organization's mission and community impact.

Partners may also be invited to participate in volunteer, media, photography, video or other community engagement opportunities associated with Fuel the Change.

The Palmetto Citizens Foundation may follow up with participating organizations after the campaign to learn more about the impact made possible through Fuel the Change and identify opportunities to share those stories.

Additional Information

The Palmetto Citizens Foundation reserves the right to replace a selected nonprofit partner if the organization becomes ineligible or is unable to participate in Fuel the Change.

The Palmetto Citizens Foundation reserves the right to modify campaign details when necessary due to circumstances affecting the administration or operation of Fuel the Change.