



Regional Advisory Councils

The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys is committed to building a strong presence throughout Monroe County.

In conjunction with its 25th Anniversary in 2021, the Board of Governors appointed **Regional Advisory Councils** to expand the Community Foundation's mission, donor base, grantmaking and public awareness outside of Key West.

These new networks of citizen leaders help connect the Community Foundation with their regions' most pressing needs and with the people, projects and organizations addressing those needs. **Regional Advisors** build and strengthen relationships with donors, professional advisors, opinion leaders and nonprofit partners who share our mission and vision for the Florida Keys. Your Community Foundation recognizes that local knowledge and experience is a cornerstone of successful philanthropic and strategic initiatives. Because **Regional Advisors** share their passion for their neighborhood communities, our network is strengthened, our brand is amplified, and our grants have more impact.

How it works

Regional Advisors are organized in three separate Regional Advisory Councils, one each representing the Upper, Middle and Lower Keys. The councils meet quarterly to reconnect, learn about Foundation initiatives, and plan activities that take place between meetings. These are non-governing groups, so they do not carry the same fiduciary responsibilities as a traditional nonprofit board. **Regional Advisors** will have specific grantmaking authority delegated by the Community Foundation Board of Governors.

Role of a Regional Advisor

The reach and resources of the Community Foundation offer a unique experience for Florida Keys residents looking to take service to their community to the next level. In lieu of giving time to one nonprofit, **Regional Advisors** support *dozens of nonprofits* making a difference for a variety of causes in their specific geographic area of the Florida Keys.

Regional Advisors are Connectors.

They help make connections by:

Expanding the network...

- Introducing Community Foundation staff to potential donors and opinion leaders,
- Sharing information with local attorneys, financial planners, and other advisors,
- Inviting Foundation staff to join them at important local events,
- Asking friends, colleagues, or potential donors to join them at Foundation events,
- Hosting gatherings at their homes or businesses.
- and helping identify future **Regional Advisors**.

Spreading the word...

Regional Advisors are Foundation Ambassadors in their communities, sharing Foundation news and initiatives through grassroots efforts and social networks. They help make people aware of the Community Foundation and its impact in their regions.

This may include:

- Talking with their friends, neighbors, and colleagues about the Foundation.
- Forwarding Foundation communications within their networks.

- Using social media to share Community Foundation information.
- Writing blog posts, articles for local media, or contributing content for the Community Foundation web site.
- Arranging for local speaking opportunities for Foundation staff.
- Speaking out personally in front of small or large groups in support of Foundation initiatives.

Sharing community knowledge and experience...

Each **Regional Advisor's** community knowledge and experience contributes to more informed grantmaking and strategic decisions. This includes:

- Serving on a regional grantmaking committee to review applications and recommend funding decisions to the Community Foundation's Grants Committee.
- Making grant decisions for the Future Fund in their region.
- Participating in a site visit to a local nonprofit or past grantee and providing a report on findings.
- Connecting local nonprofits to Community Foundation opportunities for grants, networking, education, and volunteer recognition.
- Advising the Community Foundation and its Board of Governors from time to time on new initiatives or matters of strategic significance.



Responsibilities of Regional Advisors

In addition to the activities described, **Regional Advisors** are expected to:

- Believe in the mission, vision, values, and priorities of the Community Foundation, and represent our organization in a positive, professional, and respectful manner.
- Participate in quarterly Regional Advisory Council meetings, one annual meeting with the Community Foundation staff and Board of Governors, and regional events.
- Consider the Community Foundation one of your top three local priorities for advocacy and/or philanthropy.
- Join the Community Foundation Board of Governors in their 100% commitment to making a financial contribution to the Foundation in the interest of "practicing what we preach." **Regional Advisors** give at whatever amounts they choose and may direct their gifts to the **Lower Keys Future Fund, Middle Keys Future Fund** or **Upper Keys Future Fund** for local grantmaking.
- Abide by relevant Foundation policies, including ethics, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest.

Contact

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