



request for proposals

Immigration: Strengthening the
Legal Services Infrastructure

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Introduction

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to our region's most challenging problems. Two of these challenging problems – the successful integration of immigrants and the inability of receiving communities to understand and recognize immigrants as real and potential assets in the community rather than as liabilities – are addressed through our immigration strategy.

To better understand our goals and objectives for this strategy, we encourage you to read SVCF's research paper on the topic at <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/immigration-integration>

The immigration strategy has a two-pronged approach:

- (1) strengthening the legal services infrastructure, which seeks to address the need for affordable and reliable immigration legal services provided by nonprofit community organizations; and
- (2) adult English language acquisition, which seeks to promote English instruction, coordination and best practices among community colleges, adult education schools and community-based organizations.

This request for proposals, or RFP, focuses specifically on strengthening the legal services infrastructure. By using an RFP approach, SVCF aims to solicit the best thinking of nonprofit service providers, public sector agencies, research institutions and other entities serving San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Grant Application Deadline

The application process will open beginning March 7, 2016.

Grant applications must be submitted through our online application system, [applySVCF](#), by **Friday, April 8, 2016**.

Problem Statement

The immigrant demographic in Silicon Valley mirrors the changing landscape of the United States. In Silicon Valley, one-third of our residents are immigrants, nearly half of our work force is foreign-born and close to two-thirds of those under the age of 18 are the children of immigrants. Given this demographic reality, a social model of immigration into our communities - one that promotes mutual benefits for immigrants and their receiving communities and that allows newcomers enhanced civic participation and improved economic mobility - is critical.



A key challenge to immigrant integration is the inability of the receiving communities to understand and recognize immigrants as real and potential assets in the community rather than as liabilities.



A key challenge to immigrant integration is the inability of the receiving communities to understand and recognize immigrants as real and potential assets in the community rather than as liabilities. Conversely, newcomers may have cultural misunderstandings and misperceptions about their receiving community which may create barriers to integration and community-building.

Program Goal

Access to affordable and reliable immigration legal services provided by nonprofit community organizations will enable large numbers of immigrants to obtain legal status that can lead to citizenship, better jobs, family unification, health care, increased educational opportunities for children and adults, and fuller participation in community life - the building blocks of strong communities and healthy societies.

To address these issues, funding will be provided for *legal service collaboratives* that formalize information sharing, networking and legal relationships across and within San Mateo and Santa Clara counties; of particular interest to SVCF is the use of new technology that helps further resource-sharing and capacity-building among legal service providers. SVCF will award grants to eligible applicants that:

- Develop and sustain partnership efforts through training, technical assistance, case reviews, coordinated communication, screening, information and referrals and fund development activities.
- Maintain culturally competent baseline immigration legal services in the immigrant communities where the need is greatest.
- Help preserve the welfare of low-income immigrant children through legal representation.

SVCF will gauge success of legal service collaboratives according to one or more of these indicators: increase in the number of Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA)-accredited staff at each organization and/or partnership; increase in the number of immigrants receiving one-on-one legal services; number and type of successful legal outcomes for immigrant applicants (especially naturalization/citizenship);

KEY DATES

March 7, 2016

Release of RFP

March 16, 2016

RFP Information session
(register through our *online calendar*)

April 8, 2016 - 5 p.m.

Proposal submission
deadline

June 2016

Announcement of grant
awards

organizational capacity to use new legal services technology to streamline legal services provision; built relationships and coordination across nonprofit, public and/or private legal services providers.

Proposal Eligibility Criteria

- San Mateo and/or Santa Clara county-serving organizations. Organizations headquartered outside the two-county region must demonstrate significant service to the area.
- Organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation, those that have a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)(3) designation, public agencies, collaborations of nonprofit and public agencies, or other entities that have a designated charitable purpose.
- Organizations that do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, religious affiliation, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status or any other protected status under applicable law. If an organization only serves a specific population, e.g., women or specific ethnic populations, SVCF will consider the proposal on a case-by-case basis.
- Organizations with religious affiliations will be considered for funding only if the project for which they seek support attempts to address the needs of the wider community without regard to religious beliefs.

Project Proposal Characteristics

We are receptive to concrete, practical and impactful project proposals that:

- Include both well-tested models that can be scaled up or expanded regionally while maintaining local relevance, and new pilots that, if successful, can be grown and replicated.
- Benefit from collaborative work and bring public and private partners together with nonprofit organizations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the sector and its trends.
- Identify the target population and provide justification for that focus.
- Provide clear benchmarks for measuring progress.

Application Process

- 1) Review reference materials. These may be found at <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/immigration-integration>
 - Research paper on Immigration strategy
 - RFP for Immigration: Strengthening the Legal Services Infrastructure
- 2) Participate in the information session. This is recommended for new applicants interested in responding to this RFP. Because all grant applications must be submitted online, this session provides an overview of SVCF's online application system, [applySVCF](#). Additionally, information sessions provide an opportunity for applicants to review in more depth the RFP's content and ask questions. To register for this session, please visit our website's calendar.
- 3) More specific questions about program concepts, content, eligibility and evaluation can be addressed through phone calls and in-person meetings with the program

officer, as time permits. Submit grant application, including required attachments, through our online application system, [applySVCF](#). Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2016.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals for grants should include a narrative that responds to the questions found at [applySVCF](#). Grant proposals will be evaluated, on a competitive basis, using the following criteria:

- Innovative and effective strategy with potential for systems change.
- Clarity of project description and project activities regarding steps to be taken to achieve desired outcomes.
- Achievable timeline that corresponds to the key activities.
- Meaningful benchmarks and indicators of success.
- Organizational capacity to implement project – including staffing, leadership, operational and fiscal management.
- Established track record in specific program content area or potential to achieve needed content expertise.
- Ability to leverage financial, human and technical resources leading to greater impact.
- Ability to contribute content area knowledge to the field.

Total Awards

Successful applicants will receive grants for a minimum of one year. The average grant amount awarded in the 2015 grantmaking cycles was \$50,000. Budget requests will be closely analyzed, and applicants should include a budget narrative that makes clear the necessity of the project's specific line-items.

Please note that project proposal narratives may be posted publicly on our website to reflect our value of transparency and encourage learning among grantees, future applicants and the community at large.

Review and Selection Process

An advisory committee with issue expertise for this strategy will help staff review all proposals recommended for funding to SVCF's board of directors. Applicants may receive a site visit, telephone call and/or other type of communication from SVCF staff as part of the proposal review process.

[Applicants will be informed of grant decisions in June 2016.](#)

Evaluation, Monitoring and Grantee Learning Activities

- Grantees will be expected to meet SVCF's requirements for a final financial and narrative report, as well as a presentation to SVCF staff and donors if requested.
- In an effort to further the overall program goals of this RFP, inform future RFPs related to this topic and contribute to larger field-building objectives, grantees will be asked to participate in periodic meetings to share information on project activities and best practices as well as participate in evaluations.

Thank you very much for your interest in responding to this RFP and in making our region a better place. We look forward to reviewing your proposal.



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About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems. As the largest community foundation in the world, we engage donors and corporations from Silicon Valley, across the country and around the globe to make our region and world better for all. Our passion for helping people and organizations achieve their philanthropic dreams has created a global philanthropic enterprise committed to the belief that possibilities start here. Learn more at siliconvalleycf.org.

More Information

If you have questions, please contact us at grants@siliconvalleycf.org or call 650.450.5557

To get all the latest grantmaking information, follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our community e-newsletter at www.siliconvalleycf.org/diVjWhjcbg.