request for proposals

Immigration: Ensuring the Safety and Security of Immigrants
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Introduction
Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) addresses our community’s most challenging problems. Despite the area’s great wealth, residents are challenged by so much – lack of affordable housing, financial instability, the precarious safety and insecurity of immigrants and persistent gaps in student achievement. Through its discretionary grantmaking, the community foundation addresses these issues and others, including support for immigrants who have been integral to the strength and diversity of our communities.

SVCF recognizes that to achieve meaningful progress on these issues, collaboration is critical. By issuing requests for proposals (RFP), we hope to solicit the best ideas from nonprofits, public agencies, research institutions and community organizations serving San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and to partner on solutions. The focus of this RFP is ensuring the safety and security of immigrants. We invite you to apply.

Grant Application Deadline

The application process will open beginning Monday, February 24, 2020.

Grant applications must be submitted through our online application system, Apply SVCF. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis through September 30, 2020, or until all funds are distributed, whichever comes first. If all funds have been distributed before September 30, the application will be closed for submissions and our website will reflect this.

The Problem
Silicon Valley is a diverse region. More than one third of the 2.5 million residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are immigrants and more than two thirds of those younger than 18 are children of immigrants. Half of our workforce is foreign born. SVCF has made supporting immigrants one of our highest institutional priorities since our founding. We have helped thousands of immigrants in our region gain access to citizenship and legal services, and better economic opportunities through language acquisition.

Now more than ever, immigrants in our local communities need our support. They need to understand their rights, have access to reliable legal services, develop emergency family and financial plans, be protected from hate crimes and discriminatory practices and be empowered to appropriately safeguard their personal information.

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1 2016 Index of Silicon Valley. Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.
2 “What’s at Stake for the State”, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, May 2013
3 2016 Index of Silicon Valley. Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.
The Opportunity

The intent of this grant opportunity is to support responsive projects that help ensure the safety and security of immigrants in our communities. Examples of such projects include but are not limited to:

- “Know Your Rights” campaigns that seek to partner with trusted community entities (schools, community centers, libraries, etc.) and aim to inform and empower vulnerable immigrant communities.
- Development and implementation of activities, protocols and procedures to keep all communities safe and secure as they face threats stemming from changes in immigration policies and practices.
- Addressing harassment and hate speech/crimes targeting immigrant and faith communities.
- Legal representation for immigrants and deportation defense for those facing removal proceedings.
- Preparedness plans for families, including childcare plans and financial contingency plans.
- Creating systems and literacy around digital security to safeguard information and data that could make immigrants vulnerable if the data were compromised or stolen.

Program Goal

SVCF seeks to fund nonprofit organizations that will provide support, safety and security to immigrants during these challenging times. In particular, SVCF will prioritize projects that demonstrate support and coordination with networks and entities across and within the region. This may include partnerships with schools, local law enforcement, health clinics, places of worship and other organizations working with and supporting immigrants and their families.

*Note* that SVCF will accept proposals for specific projects or for general operating support. Proposals for general operating grants will be considered provided the organization’s overall mission meets the goals of the grant strategy. General operating grants are unrestricted funds that enable an organization to carry out its mission. These grants are intended to support an organization’s administrative and infrastructure costs, assist with strategic financial and organizational capacity and/or help maintain core programs and essential staff.

Application Process

This is a simplified application process that will accept applications on a rolling basis. Applicants should also include a budget narrative that clearly outlines the necessity of the project’s specific line items.
Proposal Eligibility Criteria

- San Mateo and/or Santa Clara county-serving organizations will be considered. Organizations headquartered outside the two-county region must demonstrate significant service to these areas to be considered, or be partnered with another organization based within the two core counties.

- Organizations must fall into one of the following categories: those 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 must 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 proposal for which they seek support attempts to address the needs of the wider community without regard to religious beliefs.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Grant proposals will be evaluated, on a competitive basis, using the following criteria:

- 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 and 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.

Awards

Grant sizes will vary depending on the project and the grant term. Please note that project proposal narratives may be posted publicly on our website to reflect our value of transparency and encourage learning among grantees and future applicants as well as members of the community at large.
**Review and Selection Process**

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 requesting funding of $50,000 or more* will be notified of decisions on a quarterly basis after consideration by SVCF’s board of directors. *Applicants that request less than $50,000* will be notified of decisions within two months after the proposal is reviewed and vetted for impact in our region.

**Evaluation, Monitoring and Grantee Learning Activities**

Grantees may 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.

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.
About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems. 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 650.930.9885

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Proposals accepted on a rolling basis

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