request for proposals

Immigration: Ensuring the Safety and Security of Immigrants
Introduction

Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) was created 10 years ago to focus on the community's most challenging problems, convene regional private and public sector leaders and initiate policy discussion at the regional, state and national level. In December 2015, SVCF announced the start of a comprehensive strategic review of our grantmaking to ensure that our investments continue to be timely, impactful and relevant to the region's residents. New grantmaking strategies will be announced at our regional meeting in October as a result of this review process.

In the meantime, we are acutely aware there are many uncertainties and anxieties in our community about federal immigration policy. We have heard from a wide range of local partners that Silicon Valley immigrants and their children are facing increased, open hostility; in some cases, hostility has led to confrontations and violence. SVCF remains committed to using our resources to help ensure that every resident, regardless of race, ethnicity, country of origin, gender or sexual orientation, has the opportunity to succeed and be free of harassment.

The growing fear, distrust and anxiety among community residents and leaders point to the need to engage in more challenging work to promote understanding and build bridges between constituents that are seemingly at odds with one another.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce this request for proposals, or RFP, focused specifically on ensuring the safety and security of immigrants. By using an RFP approach, SVCF aims to solicit the best and most timely 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 Monday, May 1, 2017.

Grant applications must be submitted through our online application system, apply.siliconvalleycf.org. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis.
Problem Statement

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\(^1\) and more than two thirds of those younger than 18 are children of immigrants\(^2\). Half of our workforce is foreign born\(^3\). 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.

Grant 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.
- Deportation defense and legal representation for immigrants 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.

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.

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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.
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.

Application Process

This is a simplified application process that will accept applications on a rolling basis. To be considered, please respond to the following questions and submit a budget.

Application questions:

1. What is the specific challenge your project will address to help ensure the safety and security of immigrants in our community?
2. How will you address this challenge? How is this work responsive to the challenges immigrants are facing because of current immigration policies?
3. What metrics will you use to assess your progress and achievement?
4. What is the timeline for this project?
5. Who will be served by your project?
6. Tell us why your organization is uniquely positioned to lead this project.
7. Who are your partners and what will they contribute to the project?
8. Please provide us with the projected cost of your project, and indicate whether or not you have any other funding to support it.

Applicants will be required to use our online application system at apply.siliconvalleycf.org to submit a proposal.
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals for grants should include a narrative that responds to the questions listed above. 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, leadership and 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

Grant sizes will vary depending on the project and the grant term. 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 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 (February, June, September, December) after consideration by SVCF's board of directors. Applicants that request less than $50,000 will be notified of decisions shortly after the proposal is reviewed and vetted for impact in our region.

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.

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. 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. Find out more at www.siliconvalleycf.org.

More Information

If you have questions, please contact us at grants@siliconvalleycf.org or call 650.930.9885

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

RFP published April 2017
Proposals accepted on a rolling basis

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