request for proposals

Immigration: Creating Opportunities for Immigrants in Our Region
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Introduction

Silicon Valley Community Foundation 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. Since 2008, SVCF has made a total of $90 million in grants to over 500 organizations as part of our strategic grantmaking and community impact work in four key strategy areas: economic security, education, immigration and building strong communities.

As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, we are proud to announce a special $1 million dollar grantmaking initiative. Through this initiative, 10 grants of up to $100,000 each will be awarded to deserving organizations that are doing the most innovative and effective work to make our region a better place.

Two grants will be awarded to projects within each of our existing four strategy areas: economic security, education, immigration and building strong communities. Two additional grants will be awarded to projects aimed at increasing civic engagement and participation through creative and innovative uses of technology.

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 educators, 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 April 3, 2017.

Grant applications must be submitted through our online application system, apply.siliconvalleycf.org, by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2017.
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, and almost two thirds of those younger than 18 are children of immigrants. Immigrant entrepreneurs have contributed considerably to innovation and job creation in Silicon Valley, and nearly half of our workforce is foreign born. Our region’s continued prosperity and quality of life depend on our ability to create communities that recognize immigrants as assets and that honor shared values of family, hard work and opportunity for all.

Grant Opportunity

The goal of SVCF’s work in immigration has been to make strategic investments in programs that strengthen the legal services infrastructure in our region to ensure the provision of affordable and reliable legal services for immigrants. We have also made investments in programs that provide Vocational English and English as a Second Language (V/ESL) courses to ensure greater economic advancement by immigrants and that encourage coordination among community colleges, adult schools and community-based organizations. The intent of this special grantmaking initiative is to support new and innovative ideas aligned with our current approaches – legal services and V/ESL courses. The initiative will also support new ideas for different approaches to creating opportunities for immigrants in our communities.

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1. 2015 Index of Silicon Valley. Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.
3. 2016 Index of Silicon Valley. Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.
We are not defining this grant opportunity narrowly because we don't want to limit applicants' creativity. We encourage applicants to imagine what might be possible, share one of their new and innovative ideas with us, and explain how SVCF funds could help them apply that idea. It is important to note that this is a special one-time-only grant opportunity associated with our 10-year anniversary. This particular opportunity will not be continued in future years.

For more information about this grant opportunity, we invite you to participate in our upcoming informational webinar (see “key dates”).

**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 serves only 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**

**Step One:** Please respond to the short set of questions below by the proposal submission deadline.

**Application questions:**

1. **What is the specific challenge your project will address to help create opportunities for immigrants in our communities?** (1,000 characters maximum)
2. **Tell us about your idea to address this challenge. What do you hope to achieve?** (1,000 characters maximum)
3. **Who will be served by your project?** (1,000 characters maximum)
4. **Why is your organization uniquely positioned to lead this project?** (1,500 characters maximum)
5. **Who are your partners and what will they contribute to the project?** (1,000 characters maximum)
6. **What is the projected cost of your project, and do you have any other funding to support it?** (1,500 characters maximum)

**Step Two:** If selected to move forward in the process, applicants will be required to provide additional information about their organization’s history, infrastructure, financial background and proposal budget.

**Participate in the informational webinar.** This is highly encouraged for those interested in responding to this RFP. This session provides an opportunity for applicants to review the RFP’s content in depth and ask questions. To register for this session, please visit the calendar on SVCF’s homepage.

More specific questions about program concepts, content, eligibility and evaluation can be asked 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, [apply.siliconvalleycf.org](http://apply.siliconvalleycf.org). Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. (PST) **April 28, 2017**.
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
Successful applicants are expected to receive grants of $100,000 for a maximum one-year period. Budget requests will be closely analyzed, and applicants should include a brief 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
An advisory committee with issue expertise 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 2017.

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 650.450.5557

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 April 3, 2017, through April 28, 2017

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