The broad mission of Community Foundation Grant making is to promote and enhance organizations whose services benefit the residents of San Benito County. The Covid-19 pandemic has devastated the economic security of millions of Americans and set off a catastrophic economic event for our county. This crisis has offered both an opportunity to plan for economic recovery and to reimagine internal workings and effectiveness of organizations.

The 2021 Community Impact Grants will focus on Capacity Building and/or Leadership Development. Successful grant proposals will demonstrate the greatest likelihood of achieving measurable results in building organizational capacity and may include general operating expenses, if a compelling need is presented. We will also accept grant proposals for leadership development that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion with projects that address organizational racism and systemic structural inequities through leadership development and organized efforts to evolve organization policies and practices to include recruiting and retaining talented staff of color.

Period Opens: Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Decisions Announced: Friday, May 28, 2021
Funding Deadline: Thursday, September 30, 2021

Capacity building refers to activities that strengthen the ability of a nonprofit to achieve greater performance and impact. Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Organizational Assessment
- Evaluation of Overall Effectiveness
- Strategic Planning
- Board Development
- Staff Training
- Fund Development Training
- Succession Planning
- External Communications Strategies
- Membership Development
- Technology Improvements

The Community Foundation is committed to fairly evaluating all grant requests submitted. To achieve this, the Grants Committee, supported by Foundation staff, reviews and recommends allocation of grant funds. The Grants Committee consists of a diverse and knowledgeable group of volunteer community members representing a broad spectrum of San Benito County.
In addition to Capacity Building Grants the Grants Committee will also fund projects which include the following values and criteria:

- Creates a positive impact in areas of demonstrated need within San Benito County
- Supports diversity of the community with fairness and respect
- Addresses significant community issues
- Strengthens organizational capacity and accountability
- Encourages collaboration and coordination of service delivery
- Leverages financial opportunities from other funders and individuals
- Boosts management capacity to execute the project to conclusion with effectiveness
- Provides a concise plan for project evaluation and documented sustainability
- Demonstrates significant financial need and avoids duplication of service

In general, CFFSBC will **NOT** fund the following:

- Organizations that discriminate by age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation
- Programs that benefit a specific individual
- Fraternal or service organizations, unless in support of specific programs open to or benefiting the entire community
- Salaries or operating expenses of schools, government departments and agencies or related organizations
- Nonprofit organizations that spend more than 25% of their revenue on management, overhead, or fundraising costs
- Fundraising events such as annual campaigns, walk-a-thons, tournaments, fashion shows, dinners, and auctions
- Private foundations or fundraising organizations
- Organizations and programs designed to support political activities
- Organizations located outside San Benito County unless for a specific program benefiting residents within San Benito County
- Pay off existing obligations or enable funding of reserve accounts
- Endowment funds
- Scholarships, fellowships, travel grants, and academic, technical or specialized research
- Programs that are completed or nearly completed
- Applications for grant requests that far exceed a reasonable proportion to the applicant’s financial scale
- Organizations that are not run or governed by a responsible group of at least four persons
- Routine funding that others can or will do
- Failure to provide follow-up reports or comply with requirements of prior grants
- **Requests greater than 50% of the proposed project/program budget**

**How to Apply for Grant**

All applicants are requested to submit a completed *Community Impact Grant Application*. To submit a grant proposal, organizations are invited to register as grant-seekers through our online application platform. Apply CFFSBC. This online platform allows your organization to view and open grant opportunities, review application requirements prior to applying, and complete and submit application. The application platform, Apply CFFSBC, can be located on our website: givesanbenito.org
Grant Application Review Process

The Grants Committee shall exercise due diligence by revisiting historical needs and performance to determine the effectiveness of the project/program and the overall impact on the community or individuals served. Vetting committees will be assigned and meetings scheduled with the organization to review the content of the Grant Application. During these meetings, nonprofit representatives may not include Community Foundation board members or Grants Committee members. After thorough examination and evaluation, Vetting Committees will present their findings to the Grants Committee with recommendations. A majority vote by the Grants Committee shall determine each matching grant award, and the committee will establish and approve funding levels and any appropriate terms and conditions. The Committee will provide an award or regret letter; typically, this communication will be an e-mail from the Director of Operations and Grants.

Funding
Our policy is to fund projects only when they are ready to proceed. Applicants who are awarded a Community Impact Grant must apply for their funding by September 30, 2021. Grantees must submit an original signed Grant Agreement and Funding Request that will be sent to awardees by the Director of Operations and Grants after the award have been distributed. Community Impact grant awards will expire if not funded by the deadline specified.

Follow-Up Requirements
All grantees are required to provide a Community Impact Grant Report which includes a summary of the project, and the outcomes realized, as well as an assessment of the impact of the project on the organization and the community. This report is due within 30 days of completion of the program and should include a final financial report for the project, as well as photographs. In some cases, when the project length runs more than six months or from one calendar year into another, a Matching Grant Interim Progress Report may be required. Templates for both of these reports will available on the online application platform.

The Grants Committee may schedule a follow-up review with the grantee to properly understand the use, impact, and effectiveness of the grant.

Marketing
Grantees are required to acknowledge the Community Foundation as a matching grant funder and use our logo in materials you prepare for public distribution such as official stationery, newsletters, websites, program brochures, fundraising and marketing materials, and annual reports. The Community Foundation will provide a high-resolution file of our logo.

NOTE: Please do not list the Community Foundation as a Sponsor. Use words similar to “Funded in part by a Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation for San Benito County”.

Grantees are required to prepare a Press Release and distribute it to the Mission Village Voice, BenitoLink, and Free Lance. Phrases such as “Funded in part by a Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation for San Benito County” are encouraged. Please forward copies and examples of such materials to the Community Foundation.

Fulfillment of all the conditions of any prior Community Foundation grant awards, including Community Grant Impact Reports, is required to be eligible for future grant consideration. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in non-acceptance of future applications.

Contact the Community Foundation staff with any questions at 831-630-1924.