GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
The Foundation promotes philanthropy to make Santa Cruz County a better place to live now and in the future. We envision a dynamic region that flourishes with vital and inclusive communities, strong and effective nonprofit organizations and local generosity supporting community needs.

Funding priority will be given to established organizations who promote coordination of services, effective use of resources, and increase organizational capacity to measure their success. The Foundation recognizes the value that small, entrepreneurial organizations bring to the community and will reserve a portion of grant funds to support smaller projects that show the promise of deep and sustainable impact.

CREATING A CULTURE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION
The Foundation seeks to promote equity and inclusion for all Santa Cruz County residents. We believe an organization’s impact is enhanced when people from different backgrounds with unique perspectives are engaged in its activities and decision-making processes, and when boards and staff reflect the communities they serve. In this spirit, we ask applicants to provide demographic information about board and staff as well as the populations they serve. We use this information to gauge how the nonprofit sector addresses the needs of the county’s diverse communities; adjusting our programming to ensure that nonprofits have the tools they need. We know that developing inclusive and responsive programs to serve the needs of an increasingly diverse population takes time. We are committed to working with the sector to improve all of our efforts to do so.

INVESTING IN A STRONG COMMUNITY
We are joining forces with other community funders to assure that safety-net resources are invested in programs that reflect the needs of county residents. We encourage applicants to consider the needs and goals described in the CAP Study and the County’s CORE Investment Goals and Strategies. In preparing your application, please consider how your request aligns with county-wide efforts to build a strong, healthy, and safe community.

COMMUNITY GRANTS
A competitive grant program supported by our endowed funds and individual and regional donors to:
- Enhance opportunity and access to resources for all county residents,
- Strengthen the nonprofit sector’s capacity and effectiveness,
- Foster understanding and cooperation among the county’s varied communities.

In 2018 we anticipate awarding approximately $1,300,000 in Community Grants.

Estimated % of Grant Allocation by Interest Area

While grants typically range from $5,000 to $50,000, the average 2017 grant was $20,000 in the spring cycle. Fall grants range from $2,500 - $10,000.
**Diversity Partnership Fund**
This fund exists to strengthen alliances, promote respect, and enhance services for the county’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community. The goal of this grant program is to increase the LGBTQ community’s access to public services. Requests will be reviewed in fall 2018. Specific guidelines will be available on our website by April 30, 2018.

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**CHANGES IN 2018**

**Spring Grant Cycle**
The Foundation accepted applications in all six interest areas from organizations with budgets over $250,000. See our website for a list of grants awarded.

**Fall Grant Cycle**
The Foundation will accept applications from organizations with budgets of $250,000 and under. We anticipate awarding between 10-12 grants ranging from $2,500 - $10,000.

In the **Art, History & Culture** interest area, **only historic and cultural preservation** focused applications will be considered in the Fall grant cycle. All other art focused applications will be considered in **January 2019** through a joint application process with **Arts Council Santa Cruz County**. We expect this new combined cycle to go live in January 2019, with grants announced in Spring 2019. If you have any questions about the change, please contact Christina Cuevas, program director at ccuevas@cfscc.org or 831.662.2070.

In the **Education/Youth Development** interest area, school-based and math focused applications will be considered by invitation only. Out-of-school time and general youth development programs are welcome to apply.

**Rapid Response Grants**
Independent of our Community grant process, a portion of our grant funds will be reserved to support responses to changing needs in our community. Rapid Response grants are intended to provide fast resources to organizations seeking to respond to unanticipated, urgent social and economic justice issues **in real-time**. For more on these one-time grants in the $500-$10,000 range, contact Christina Cuevas, program director at ccuevas@cfscc.org or 831.662.2070.

**Rydell Visual Arts Fund**
The Foundation is reviewing the Rydell Fund’s organizational grant priorities and procedures. As a result, applications for organizational grants will **not be accepted** in 2018.

See the Timeline section for more details.

Community Grants are awarded in order to achieve broad interest area goals with a special focus on the priorities listed with each goals, see page 3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Art, History &amp; Culture</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stimulate the county’s artistic and cultural expression and preserve its diversity, history, traditions, and historic sites</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increase access to arts education and participation in cultural experiences, including for those with the least access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enhance organizations’ ability to diversify and expand audiences, board and staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preserve historic resources, cultural traditions and practices of diverse populations.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Community Development</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Encourage civic engagement, improve economic health and develop leadership that is diverse and inclusive</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Expand employment and job training opportunities that lead to career advancement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Support planning and organizing efforts that create positive change in communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enhance leadership development opportunities to reflect the profile of the community.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Education &amp; Youth Development</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhance academic achievement and prepare children and youth for college and career</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improve the math proficiency of the lowest performing elementary school students <em>(applications by invitation only)</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Deepen social/emotional support for youth that enhances academic achievement outside of school time.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Environment</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engage all populations in environmental stewardship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Promote a cross-sector approach to environmental health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Promote watershed and wetland preservation/restoration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Increase awareness and encourage action to mitigate or adapt to climate change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Support environmental education that is coordinated and meets state standards.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Health</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promote health equity and increase access to community-oriented care</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Increase awareness and enhance policies that support healthy lifestyles and community well-being.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Increase access to integrated services that address community needs through all stages of life.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Human Services</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Promote self-reliance of individuals and families to obtain basic services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ensure vulnerable populations have access to information and services that enable them to remain safe and independent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Improve access to food, housing and safe neighborhoods.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
To advance the interest area goals and priorities described above, our reviewers will evaluate proposals and select organizations that demonstrate the following:
- A clear mission and related service repertoire.
- The need for the proposed project within a defined population and/or geographic area.
- Alignment between the proposed project and the organization’s mission.
- Clear and measurable objectives likely to produce results.
- Organizational and grant budgets that include diverse funding sources.
- Coordination with others in the field and programing that does not duplicate existing services in the community.
- Staff that has the skills and experience to carry out the proposed activities.

Our reviewers give priority to organizations that:
- Involve community members in identifying local needs and crafting responses to them.
- Employ proven strategies to address recognized needs.
- Use sound governance and management practices.
- Leverage other resources and support.

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must meet the following requirements:
- Operate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, a project under the fiscal sponsorship of a nonprofit, or a public agency. If you have operated for less than three years, approach staff for further direction.
- Benefit residents in Santa Cruz County, the Summit, or the Pajaro Valley.
- Include Santa Cruz County residents on their board of directors.
- Adhere to a board-approved nondiscrimination policy regarding employment, governance, and service.

NOTE: Joint projects are encouraged. One organization must serve as the official applicant and grantee to be responsible for funds and reports.

RESTRICTIONS
- Grants may not exceed 25% of the total organizational budget.
- Organizations may apply for competitive grants only one time annually.
  - Community, Diversity Partnership, and Rydell Visual Arts Grants are all considered part of our annual competitive grants.
  - Special initiatives beyond these opportunities and donor-advised grants based on our donors’ recommendations are not counted.
- We do not accept multiple requests from one agency. Multi-service agencies, please contact the Foundation for assistance with crafting your request.
- Organizations with a current grant may apply if reports are up to date and the proposed start date for the new grant is after the end of the current program.
- Five Year Limit Policy: Applicants are eligible to receive up to five consecutive years of competitive grant awards if they are meeting their prior grant objectives. This policy, established in 2007, seeks to allocate our resources to a broad group of organizations.
  - After five consecutive years, grantees are required to wait 12 months before re-applying.
  - Donor-advised or special initiative grants do not count toward the time limit.

TYPES OF SUPPORT
Funding is available to support a specific project, to sustain general operations, or to boost organizational effectiveness. A list of prior grants is available at www.cfscc.org/grants.
• **Project Support** is planning, implementing and evaluating a program or activity that provides direct benefits to the organization’s constituency while achieving measurable results over a specified period of time.

• **Organizational Effectiveness or Capacity Building** is for activities that strengthen an organization (or a coalition of organizations). Activities may include organizational assessment, planning, board/staff development, cultural competence training or resource/communication development. In making these kinds of grants, we consider:
  - Track record of service.
  - Demonstrated interest in building organizational capacity (e.g., participated in workshops, engaged in board assessment, etc.).
  - Clear idea of capacity building needs based on board and/or staff assessment.
  - Potential for making a measurable difference in how the organization is governed, managed, financed, or operated in the future.
  - Ability to cover at least the first 25% of the project budget.

• **General Operating Support** may be requested to advance the organization’s mission. Check with program staff to ensure your eligibility. In considering requests to apply for general operating support, we consider if the organization:
  - Has been operating for at least seven years.
  - Has a budget large enough to support administrative and program staffing needs.
  - Has a track record of effectively meeting the mission and goals in proportion to the organization’s size.
  - Is in good standing among peers and funders in providing quality programming.
  - Uses a plan to guide programs and process that is regularly reviewed and updated.
  - Demonstrates sound financial management for at least three years (no deficits greater than 10% of the operating budget for one year out of three years).
  - Has a board approved objective regarding cultural competency and can demonstrate progress toward implementation.

**WE DO NOT FUND**

• Endowments, building campaigns, annual fund appeals, fundraising events, or one-time festivals or celebrations.
• Individuals, except in the case of scholarships and Rydell Visual Arts Fund Fellowships.
• Religious organizations, except for nonsectarian purposes.
• Existing obligations, debt retirement, deficits, or retroactive funding.
• Individual (public or private) schools, as distinct from a school district.
• Partisan political activities.
• Hiring grant proposal writers.

**TIMELINE**

**Spring 2018**

Community Grants requests for organizations with budgets over $250,000, all interest areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>LOI form open</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>LOI due online by noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Selected applicants are invited to submit an Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Application due online by noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early July</td>
<td>Notification of awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fall 2018

Diversity Partnership Fund requests, and Community Grants requests for organizations with budgets $250,000 and under, all interest areas:

- April 30: Diversity Partnership guidelines available
- August 1: Diversity Partnership application open
- August 1: Community Grants guidelines available and application open
- September 14: Applications due online by noon
- October 31: Notification of awards

Rapid Response grants requests accepted on a rolling basis. Decisions within 30 days of submission. Review guidelines and criteria, contact Christina Cuevas to learn more (831.662.2070)

HOW TO APPLY


2. Attend the Grant Information Session. Potential applicants are encouraged to attend to learn about the online application, timing, and review process. As our priorities have changed, we encourage all interested applicants to attend or speak with the program director prior to submitting a Letter of Intent or Application.

   Check our website in June for Fall Grant Information Session dates.

3. Speak with Foundation staff about how your proposal fits with the Foundation’s guidelines:
   - Christina Cuevas at ccuevas@cfscc.org or call 831.662.2070
   - Ana Espinoza at aespinoza@cfscc.org or call 831.662.2073

4. Review the online grants portal tutorial to get more familiar with our online application portal. Contact us with questions.

5. Submit the application, through the online grants portal, by noon on the listed due date. More information can be found at www.cfscc.org/grants. We do not accept paper, emailed, or faxed applications. If you need access to electronic resources, you are welcome to visit the Community Foundation’s resource library from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.