



Community Health Impact Grant Funding

Applicant Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in applying for Community Health Impact Grant funding from Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF). This document covers:

- An overview of 3VCF and our 2024 application process
- Eligibility and selection criteria;
- Our grant process and timeline.

ABOUT THREE VALLEYS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Established in 2020, Three Valleys Community Foundation serves as a regional philanthropic anchor, seeking to strengthen our vibrant region through inclusive leadership, thoughtful funding, informed giving, and collaborative action. We partner with donors who care about our community and connect them with impactful local organizations to make a real difference to the communities we serve. We envision a community where everyone has the opportunity to live a full and rewarding life.

2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPACT GRANT ROUND

For this grant making round, our focus is community health which we are defining as the three following focus areas:

- **Mental Health & Wellness** – Building on the overwhelming response to our inaugural Community Impact Grant in 2023, which prioritized mental health and wellness, we are committed to further investing in this critical area. Mental health has consistently emerged as a top priority in recent community health needs assessments conducted by local health care systems, the [2024 Eastern Alameda Community Needs Assessment](#), and our regional school districts. Mental health support remains an urgent need, particularly for youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations in our community. Addressing these needs will require expanding access to mental health services and programs, reducing stigma, and fostering more community-based support systems.

Mental health encompasses much more than the absence of illness—it's about thriving in all aspects of life. Positive mental health enables us to engage fully at work and in our personal lives, express our potential, and navigate life's changes and challenges. It's helpful to view mental health as a continuum, ranging from optimal wellness to severe illness, and everyone exists somewhere along that spectrum. Where we fall on this continuum can shift throughout

our lives. Unfortunately, for too many, a shift toward illness can lead to a downward spiral. But this is preventable. We can work together to promote mental wellness for everyone.

3VCF is dedicated to investing in initiatives that support early intervention, build social emotional skills and resilience, expand awareness and equitable access, and address stigma.

- **Health Equity & Access** – Limited access to healthcare negatively affects health outcomes and quality of life. Barriers to access are particularly profound for persons of color, non-English speaking communities, seniors, people with disabilities, low-income households, unhoused, and immigrant populations. Our region, while relatively affluent, still experiences disparities in healthcare access, healthy lifestyle choices, education, affordability, and quality.

To address these health equity challenges requires expanded healthcare services and programs, education and preventive care options, improved transportation options, expanded bilingual and translation services, and targeted support for underserved populations, so that all residents have equitable access to quality, affordable care.

3VCF is dedicated to investing in initiatives that meaningfully improve access and equity for community members who face the greatest obstacles. Whether through funding programs that deliver healthcare directly to vulnerable populations or supporting efforts to improve language access, we aim to ensure that all community members have equitable access to the care they need.

- **Environmental Health & Sustainability** – The health of our environment is closely linked to our overall health and wellbeing– rising temperatures curtail physical activity and pose a serious health threat to vulnerable populations; poor air quality impacts allergies, asthma and respiratory health, as just two examples. Environmental factors not only reduce quality of life but also place added strain on healthcare systems.

3VCF is dedicated to investing in projects that promote environmental responsibility in the climate and energy space; provide public outreach and education focused on resource stewardship and sustainability practices; as well as cultivate workforce development opportunities in the green industry and environmental space. We strive to create a cleaner, healthier environment that will benefit both current and future generations.

We recognize that work may be focused in one of the above focus areas, or may be cross cutting across several given the overlapping nature of these issue areas.

We are taking a broad approach and welcome applications that address these issues from a diversity of perspectives and approaches. We are particularly interested in supporting collaborative approaches between two or more organizations.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 3VCF will consider applications from:
 - 501c3 nonprofit entities, including fiscally sponsored projects of a 501c3
 - Collaborative initiatives/applications of two or more organizations led by a 501c3. Collaborations are strongly encouraged, but not required.
 - Public entities (e.g. school districts) are not eligible to apply under this grant round as a lead applicant, but may be partners to a 501c3 lead applicant and could be beneficiaries of programs proposed by applicants.
 - All applications must directly benefit the regions covered by 3VCF which includes: Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville and the Greater San Ramon Valley.
 - If you are a previous grantee you are eligible to apply for this grant round in any focus area.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In selecting grantees, the review team will look to build a slate of diverse organizations, approaches, and objectives. Some may work across two or all three focus areas, while others will go deep in one area. There will be a mix of budget and staff sizes. What ties them together is:

- **Alignment with our focus areas**

We are open to considering a broad array of approaches as long as the outcomes and impact address one or more of our focus areas in our Tri-Valley region.
- **A feasible plan to achieve progress over the next year**

We understand that many of you work in arenas where progress is incremental and flexibility is critical. We look for organizations that have a plan for reaching self-defined milestones within a one (1) year timeframe, a clear-eyed approach to the challenges involved, and the ability to pivot to meet new circumstances.
- **Demonstrates impact**

We do not have a single definition of impact. A project can be impactful for many reasons. For example, your work may be impactful because of the scale you are reaching or innovation you bring to looking at old problems in new ways with breakthrough ideas. We look to applications that define the impact they are aiming for and how they will measure progress along the way.
- **Confidence-inspiring leadership**

We want to support passionate, expert leaders. The trust of communities you work with, effective and accountable partnerships, a strong reputation among peers, and an inclusive working environment are some of the ways we think confidence-inspiring leadership manifests.

- **Reflective representation in leadership**
People from the communities you serve or represent play a key role in programmatic or organizational decision-making.
- **An effective organization**
Your organization has a track record of success or, if the organization is new, there is reason to believe that the strategies you're pursuing will succeed. You seek to define the impacts of your work. We recognize that not everything important can be empirically measured and that organizations have different capacities for evaluation.
- **An award of up to \$20,000 (single organization) or \$25,000 (collaborative applications) will make a difference to your success**
We are interested in grants where a timely injection of funds will help you achieve an important milestone or result, leverage public or private funding, unlock a new opportunity, enable a beneficial collaboration, or take your work to a new level.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

AMOUNT AND TERM

3VCF will make multiple grants to applicants. Grants will be for one year with an estimated start date of March 2025. Payments will be made in two installments – the first upon signature of a grant agreement with the selected applicants and the second midway through the grant term and upon completion of a midyear check in. Grants will range in size from \$5,000 - \$25,000. Single organization applicants may submit for up to \$20,000 and collaborative applications of two or more organizations may submit for up to \$25,000.

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

We invite organizations who meet the eligibility criteria to submit an application through our online portal [HERE](#). The deadline for submission of an application is midnight Pacific Time (PT) on December 17, 2024. 3VCF will hold a virtual information session for interested applicants on November 4, 2024 at 10:00am PT. To sign up for this session, please do so [HERE](#). The information session will be recorded and shared along with FAQs for those unable to join.

Submitted applications will initially be reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria. Those who meet the eligibility criteria will advance to review by an Evaluation Committee of individuals who represent a cross section of our Tri-Valley region and who have diverse backgrounds and expertise. The Committee members will evaluate the applications against the selection criteria noted above. A financial review of each applicant will also be conducted, including review of tax returns and the project budget. The Committee may reach out with follow up questions or requests for supplemental materials from applicants if needed to complete its evaluation. These requests will be kept to a minimum as we respect the time of our non-profit partners.

The Committee will recommend a portfolio of applicants to receive funding, and the 3VCF Board of Directors will vote to approve these recommendations. At that time, all applicants will be notified of their status (see timeframe below).

TIMEFRAME

- **October 23, 2024:** *Application process opens; RFP released*
- **November 4 at 10:00am PT:** *Virtual information session for prospective applicants*
- **October 24, 2024 - December 16, 2024:** *Technical Support / Applicant HelpDesk, info@3vcf.org*
- **December 17, 2024 by midnight PT:** *Grant applications due*
- **December 2024 - January 2025:** *Potential requests for supplemental information*
- **End of January 2025:** *Applicants notified of status*
- **February 2025:** *3VCF Meets with Grantees and Grant Agreements Signed*
Grants will be awarded publicly at 3VCF State of Giving Gathering. Grant recipients are expected to have a representative attend this event on the evening of February 26, 2025. All applicants are also invited.
- **March 2025:** *First payment on approved grants*
- **March 2025 - April 2026:** *Grant implementation*
- **August 2025:** *Mid-term informal, verbal progress check-in with grant recipients; final payment on approved grants*
- **April 2026:** *Final grantee check-in, reporting, and data collection*

ONCE GRANTS ARE MADE

Organizations selected for a grant will enter into a grant agreement with 3VCF. We will celebrate these organizations publicly at our *State of Giving Gathering* on February 26, 2025, via our website, social media, e-newsletter and a press release. Reporting will consist of an informal, verbal report (30 minute conversation with 3VCF) at the 6-month mark and a written narrative report and financial report at the 12-month mark.

QUESTIONS?

For questions on the process or the application, please contact our 3VCF Grant Administration Team at info@3vcf.org