

Rapid Response Fund for Movement Building Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you define “movement building?”

We use [Building Movement Project's](#) five stages to define what we mean:

- 1) ***Making Visible the Invisible:*** During this stage, organizers raise general awareness about the problem.
- 2) ***Relationship Building:*** During this stage, different groups that are working on the same issue begin to work together. Oftentimes, social movements fall apart at this stage because groups fail to reach enough consensus on ideology or action in order to come together under a unified front that is often crucial for success.
- 3) ***Infrastructure:*** During this stage, groups begin to create networks that engage their communities. They strengthen their communication in order to get the word out and coordinate messages.
- 4) ***Catalyst:*** During this stage, there is usually at least one defining moment, the “catalyst,” that serves as a flash point to mobilize the masses around the issue. Sometimes the catalyst is planned by the group itself, but other times mobilization occurs in response to an action inflicted against members of the movement.
- 5) ***Sustained Action:*** This final stage depends on whether steps 1-4 have already been established. Social movements can truly make change 1) when there is true public awareness about the issue 2) when groups have united under a common front and built a stable infrastructure for communication, and 3) when there has been an event that has led to mass mobilization.

2. How do you define urgent and emergent?

We define “**urgent**” as 1) unanticipated and 2) significantly impacting the well-being of Bay Area residents. We define “**emergent**” as new and timely opportunities for impactful intervention (“timely” means the proposed intervention or project will be accomplished over the six-month grant duration). The Rapid Response Fund’s (RRF) review committee looks for a **catalyst or catalyzing event** to help us determine if an applicant’s intervention is either urgent and/or emergent. A strong application would incorporate both elements.

Example of Approved RRF Grant: To support the education of Asian immigrants in San Francisco’s Chinatown, Sunset, and Richmond neighborhoods regarding the impacts of the

proposed “Public Charge” rule change and organize residents to submit public comments against this rule change to the Federal Register before the December 10, 2018 deadline.

Example of Declined RRF Application: Supporting the transformational mindsets of up to 50 incarcerated young people in San Francisco and Alameda counties, this intervention seeks to utilize cognitive behavior modalities to help participants rebuild their belief systems and create new personal goals with successful results, building an empowered movement of young people making life-saving choices.

3. Can my organization apply multiple times for this grant program?

Because the Rapid Response Fund **does not fund ongoing programming**, your project will not be considered for additional funding if it hasn’t changed significantly in scope, design and/or participant population.

If your organization is applying for another unique intervention to respond to an urgent and/or emergent need/opportunity in the community, your proposal will be considered, given strong alignment with the fund’s goals and grantmaking criteria.

4. I am a current Rapid Response Fund grantee. Am I ineligible for other grants from the San Francisco Foundation in the same fiscal year?

No. If you receive a Rapid Response Fund grant, you are still eligible to apply for and receive funds from other grantmaking opportunities at the San Francisco Foundation.

5. I am a current San Francisco Foundation grantee. Can I apply for a Rapid Response Fund grant?

Yes, current grantees of the San Francisco Foundation are eligible to apply for a Rapid Response Fund grant to complement their work, given a proposal’s strong alignment with the grant program’s goals and criteria.

6. My proposed intervention involves some work outside of the Bay Area. Does the Rapid Response Fund support activities (e.g. travel for Bay Area participants) that happen outside of the five-county region that the San Francisco Foundation serves?

The Rapid Response Fund will support activities for events happening outside of the Bay Area if there are clear impacts and/or follow-up events that specifically relate to Bay Area-based participants and any campaigns, actions and/or power-building activities. The fund will also support travel costs for Bay Area participants to attend events outside of the Bay Area if the aforementioned criteria is met and is clearly demonstrated in the proposal.

7. I have a very urgent request. What if my proposed action, activity, or intervention is within a week's time?

Proposals to the Rapid Response Fund must be submitted **by 12pm on Monday** in order to be reviewed and considered within the same week. Due to the time frame for processing payments, applicants that are successfully approved for funding would not receive funds until at least two weeks after the application submission. We ask that applicants plan their budgets accordingly.

Example: It's Monday at 8:00am, and you are submitting a proposal for an intervention or activity happening on Saturday afternoon. Since you've made the 12:00pm cut-off, your proposal will be considered by the Rapid Response Fund review committee that week. The committee meets that week and determines your proposal is a strong fit and notifies you of grant approval before the end of the week. The committee also lets you know that due to payment processing, the check for your grant will be sent out the following Friday, at the earliest. Since your event is on Saturday, you will need to plan ahead and cover expenses. You can expect to reimburse any expenses incurred that are covered by your approved Rapid Response Fund grant once you receive your check in the mail.

8. Can my organization request funding for equipment?

Yes, if the equipment is needed to support the immediate intervention. For example, if an applicant is requesting funds to rent a sound system for a community rally, this would fall within the fund's application guidelines. Requests for new capital items (e.g. electronics such as laptops, tablets, sound systems) are considered capital improvements and not eligible for funding unless there is a clear connection and link to how these items will make or break the proposed intervention/activity.

9. What if my organization is based outside of the five-county region that the foundation serves, but our project focuses on and has participants that live in either Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, or San Mateo counties?

If the proposed project or intervention involves and centers the leadership of residents who live in the five-county Bay Area, applications are eligible. Keep in mind that the review committee prioritizes leadership from highly impacted Bay Area communities. Organizations outside of the five-county Bay Area must demonstrate strong relationships and degrees of trust with Bay Area communities.

10. When will I hear about the status of my application?

We strive to review and respond to applicants within 30 days after receiving an application.