

# 2020 EQUITY GRANTS OPEN CYCLE

## Guidelines

We imagine a Bay Area where everyone thrives. Where we can walk down our streets and know that we belong. Where we can all earn a good salary, live in a safe and affordable home, and have a chance to shape the decisions that affect our communities. Where our prospects for success have no relationship to our zip code or the color of our skin.

This Bay Area is possible by working in partnership with grantees, civic leaders, policymakers and donors. Below, please find information about our 2020 Equity Grants Open Cycle. We look forward to working closely with aligned organizations on this shared vision for a Bay Area where everyone belongs.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE EQUITY GRANTS OPEN CYCLE

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As a community foundation, we maintain an open door for nonprofit organizations via an annual open application grant period. Our Equity Grants Open Cycle allows us to learn about innovative work happening in the field and on the ground. The Open Cycle also provides us with an opportunity to build new relationships with emerging organizations making strides in our collective goal to advance equity in the Bay Area.

## WHO'S ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

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- 501(c)(3) organizations, 501(c)(3) equivalents (government institutions, universities, etc.), or fiscally sponsored projects located in and/or serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and/or San Mateo counties.
- Proposals requesting general operating support and project support are eligible, but the following activities are ineligible for funding: lobbying, capital campaigns or improvements (e.g. design, labor, and material expenses), medical research, event sponsorship, political contributions, and individual scholarships.

## WHO DO WE WANT TO IMPACT?

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- Families with low incomes and very low incomes: A household whose income does not exceed 50–80 percent of the median income for the Bay Area. [Find the median income for your county.](#)
- People of color
- Youth and young adults of color ages 11–24 years old
- Immigrants, including people who are undocumented
- People who have been formerly incarcerated



Questions? Contact Maria Healey, Senior Administrative Manager: [programs@sff.org](mailto:programs@sff.org)  
[sff.org/OpenCycle2020](https://sff.org/OpenCycle2020)

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## WHAT KIND OF WORK ARE WE FUNDING IN THIS OPEN CYCLE?

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In the 2020 Equity Grants Open Cycle, SFF will support two strategies that improve financial security: Building Community Wealth and Creating Positive School Climates. For our definition of financial security, please see the Insight Center's [Family Needs Calculator](#).

We are also supporting strategies that improve the availability of affordable housing: Protecting, Preserving, and Producing Affordable Housing, and Changing the Housing Narrative Through Arts and Culture.

For the 2020 Open Cycle, we are including civic engagement as one of many methods of supporting our financial security and affordable housing strategies. As such, civic engagement is embedded in each of the three strategies and sub-approaches summarized below.

### BUILDING COMMUNITY WEALTH

For the purpose of the Equity Grants Open Cycle, the foundation is focusing on cooperative business models and cooperatively-owned land as two ways to build community wealth. We will be awarding approximately 13 one-year grants to support existing work on cooperatively-owned businesses or land. Applicants must demonstrate deep partnerships with other local organizations working towards building community wealth. Funding will also support organizations providing training and consulting to cooperatives and/or working on policy advocacy for cooperatives.

- **Cooperative Business Models:** We seek to support organizations that support local businesses that are cooperatively owned and run by community members. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3), fiscally sponsored, or a Limited Liability Corporation. A worker-owned cooperative puts workers and community benefits at the core of its mission. In contrast to traditional companies, worker members at worker cooperatives share profits, oversight, and management of the enterprise.
- **Cooperatively-Owned Land:** We seek to support organizations that strengthen community wealth through shared ownership of land for affordable housing and cultural preservation. Funding will prioritize community land trusts, limited-equity-housing cooperatives (LEHC), and policy advocacy to promote resident ownership. A community land trust is a nonprofit, community-based organization designed to ensure community stewardship of land. An LEHC is a residential development that is owned and managed by a democratically governed, nonprofit corporation.

### CREATING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

We will be awarding approximately seven grants to organizations conducting youth-led or multi-generational organizing to end the criminalization of youth of color in schools by investing in a culture of belonging rather than punishment and police. We are focused on youth from the ages of 11-24 who attend middle schools, high schools, and community colleges in Oakland, San Francisco, and Contra Costa County. Applicants should use at least two of the approaches below.

- **Cultural and Political Education:** We seek to support organizations that develop young organizers through political education that recognizes, respects and relies on the diverse ethnicities and gender identities of students. Examples of this work include ethnic studies and arts activities that develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills; and leadership development among youth of color.

## CREATING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE, CONTINUED

- **Healing-Centered and Transformative Organizing:** We seek to support organizations that work with young organizers to address and heal from their trauma so they may amplify their advocacy and impact for systems change. Examples of this work include peer support circles; counseling and mediation; self- and community-care workshops; restorative justice, transformative justice, violence prevention activities that help dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline; and creative projects and storytelling to build public support for positive school climate policies.
- **Positive School Climate Policy Change:** We seek to support organizations that conduct youth-led (or co-led) engagement of parents and guardians, teachers and administrators, and other community members to support or implement positive school climate policies. Examples of this work include partnering with families to advocate for district advisory committees that promote positive school climates; convening multi-stakeholder groups that are co-led by youth and address positive school climate; and training teachers and other community members on the benefits of and competencies needed to create positive school climates.

## PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We will be awarding approximately 25 grants for work using one or more of the approaches below.

- **Protecting Tenants:** We seek to support organizations that advance local, regional, and state policies and practices that protect communities of color with low incomes from being displaced from their homes. Examples of this work include advocating for just-cause eviction and anti-rent gouging policies; providing direct legal services, education and organizing to protect tenant rights; and advocating for policies that keep communities of color with low incomes in affordable homes in their neighborhoods.
- **Preserving Affordable Housing:** We seek to support organizations that practice innovative strategies to ensure that people of color with low incomes acquire or stay in their affordable homes. Examples of this work include technical assistance to preserve existing affordable housing; innovative home-sharing models; and multi-partnership acquisition models (e.g. land trusts that use limited equity to help build community wealth).
- **Producing Affordable Housing:** We seek to support organizations promoting local, regional, and state policies and practices that increase housing financing options such as bond measures, transfer and sales taxes, legislative initiatives and other capital funds needed to increase the housing stock affordable to people with low and extremely low incomes ([find the median income for your county](#)). Examples of this work include engaging with organized tenants, community members and stakeholders; direct advocacy for specific policies needed to secure systemic change to public and institutional affordable housing finance policies; and policies which support housing availability for persons at all income levels.
- **Changing the Housing Narrative Through Arts and Culture:** We seek to support organizations engaged in storytelling and other creative means of expression (visual, musical, theatrical, performance arts, etc.) that change the narratives and strengthen public will for anti-displacement policies and efforts to build housing that is affordable for communities of color with low incomes. Examples of this work include artistic/cultural pieces that create or enhance a sense of belonging for communities of color with low incomes in the Bay Area, and creative projects that help amplify community voices.

# WHICH PLACES ARE WE TARGETING?

Please see the table below to find the priority geographies that we are targeting for each strategy.

FUNDING PRIORITIES		FUNDING STRATEGY		
		Building Community Wealth	Creating a Positive School Climate	Protecting, Preserving, and Producing Affordable Housing; and Narrative Change
FUNDED AREAS	Alameda County	Organizations serving any part of Alameda County, with an emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Berkeley</li> <li>• Oakland—Central E. Oakland, San Antonio, Elmhurst, Coliseum, Chinatown, West Oakland, Sobrante Park, Brookfield</li> <li>• Hayward, Ashland neighborhood, Cherryland neighborhood</li> </ul>	Organizations serving Oakland Unified School District only	Organizations serving any part of Alameda County, with an emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Berkeley</li> <li>• Oakland—Central E. Oakland, San Antonio, Elmhurst, Coliseum, Chinatown, West Oakland, Sobrante Park, Brookfield</li> <li>• Hayward, Ashland neighborhood, Cherryland neighborhood</li> </ul>
	Contra Costa County	Organizations serving any part of Contra Costa County, with emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioch, Pittsburg, South Richmond, North Richmond, Monument Corridor</li> </ul>	Organizations serving any part of Contra Costa County, with an emphasis on West Contra Costa Unified School District	Organizations serving any part of Contra Costa County, with emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioch, Pittsburg, South Richmond, North Richmond, Monument Corridor</li> </ul>
	Marin County	Not applicable	Not applicable	Organizations serving any part of Marin County, with an emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Rafael—Canal neighborhood, Marin City, West Marin</li> </ul>
	San Francisco County	Not applicable	Organizations serving San Francisco Unified School District only	Organizations serving San Francisco County, with an emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bayview, Chinatown, Mission, Western Addition, Potrero Hill, Tenderloin, South of Market, Visitacion Valley</li> </ul>
	San Mateo County	Not applicable	Not applicable	Organizations serving any part of San Mateo County, with emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Palo Alto, Pescadero, Redwood City, San Gregorio</li> </ul>

## WHAT ELSE DO WE CONSIDER WHEN MAKING FUNDING DECISIONS?

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- Commitment to racial equity and economic inclusion
- Focus on systemic and policy change as well as measurable impact
- Organization or project is led by a person of color
- Executive leadership, board, and staff are representative of communities the organization serves

## WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

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- **January 13, 2020:** Application period opens
- **January 27, 2020:** Organizations new to SFF must create [Fluxx Grantee Portal](#) accounts by 5:00 p.m. PST (there will be no technical assistance after 5:00 p.m. PST)
- **February 3, 2020:** Applications due at 5:00 p.m. PST (there will be no technical assistance after 5:00 p.m. PST)
- **May 2020:** Grant announcements made
- **June 2020:** Grants awarded/grants starting date

## HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

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- **Total amount of funding available:** \$4 million across all strategies
- **Total number of grants available:** approximately 45 grants
- **Minimum grant amount:** \$50,000; or, for applicants with organizational budgets of \$250,000 or less, the minimum grant amount that could be awarded will be 20% of the annual organizational budget
- **Grant duration:** minimum of one year; maximum of two years
- **Maximum grant amounts:** \$100,000 for one year or \$150,000 over two years (\$75,000 per year)

## HOW DO I APPLY?

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- Tune into our webinar on December 12, 2019 [[Register here](#)] or watch the recording on our website after December 12
- Read our [FAQs](#)
- Read our [Application Guide](#)
- Create and/or sign into your organization's Fluxx account at [sff.fluxx.io](http://sff.fluxx.io)
- Contact Maria Healey at [programs@sff.org](mailto:programs@sff.org) if you have questions