To Our Donors

Since COVID-19 began spreading, the world has faced its darkest hour in a century. In the US, and here in the Bay Area, we have had to contend with not just a deadly virus and economic catastrophe, but also deadly forms of institutional racism—and its devastating effects even before the pandemic. The San Francisco Foundation is focused on reimagining and rebuilding our systems so that everyone in the Bay Area, regardless of their skin color or zip code, can thrive. And the Rapid Response Fund is a key part of our strategy.

We launched this fund in November 2016, in the wake of a new political era. That winter, new policies were being introduced that were brazenly designed to attack people of color and communities with low incomes. Grassroots organizations needed immediate funding to protect and empower communities under siege. Since then, the fund has provided $2.4 million in funding to nearly 200 organizations for urgent Know-Your-Rights trainings, direct actions, workshops to educate community members on changing policies, and more.

When COVID hit, we replicated the Rapid Response Fund model—a barebones application and grants issued within days—to launch our COVID Emergency Response Fund two days after the Bay Area issued Shelter-in-Place orders. With residents suddenly unable to pay their rent nor afford groceries, we knew we couldn’t afford to wait. Read about our COVID Emergency Response Fund.

While our COVID fund provided emergency grants to help with basic needs, the Rapid Response Fund continued to support much-needed community organizing during a pandemic and a nationwide call for racial justice. Grants supported work centered on racial solidarity, combating anti-Asian hate, organizing essential workers during the pandemic, and mobilizing voters during a critical election year. We invite you to learn more about this fund’s vital work in 2020 and 2021, and to read about the lives this fund touched during a terrifying time that helped us strengthen our resilience.

Judith Bell
Chief Impact Officer, San Francisco Foundation
Fund Design

The Rapid Response Fund was designed with the smallest, least-resourced organizations in mind, including those that are volunteer run, and those without a grantwriter on staff. As a fund that supports urgent community organizing, we know that applicants don’t have the time nor staffing to fill out a complex grant application, nor wait months before receiving funding.

By supporting brand-new, as well as established movements, the Rapid Response Fund provides a rare and important opportunity for even first-time organizers to cover basic costs such as printing flyers and covering transportation for volunteers.

- 4-question application
- Grants processed in 30 days
- $3,000–$15,000 grants

The Rapid Response Fund grant was the first we got that gave us enough funding. We are volunteer run, so we were super grateful when SFF said it had waived grant reports.

Haleema Bharoocha, South Asians 4 Black Lives (above, right)
In 2020–2021 the Rapid Response Fund supported 82 grassroots organizations with grants totaling $1.2 million.

See full list of grantees on page 9.
Fund Spotlights: Solidarity with Black Lives
Combating Anti-Blackness in the South Asian Community

South Asians 4 Black Lives isn’t saying that their issues don’t matter—they’re saying that all of our lives improve when Black lives improve.

Dr. L.B. Williams, founder, Black Girls Brilliance

South Asians 4 Black Lives is doing critical ally work to center Blackness in the South Asian American community in the Bay Area and beyond. The group, which has attracted more than 50,000 online followers in just over a year, has created a much-needed, timely space for young South Asians grappling with how to talk about anti-blackness with elders, and how to say ‘racism’ in Urdu, Hindi or Marathi.

READ MORE
When crises happen, organizations don’t have time to figure out extensive grant proposals. Rapid Response Fund dollars gave us an immediate cushion to absorb the cost of emergency work without impacting our long-term work.

Alvina Wong, Campaign Organizing Director at Asian Pacific Environmental Network

When the surge in anti-Asian violence intensified in early 2021, Asian Pacific Environmental Network organized community rallies, made sure the AAPI community knew what was happening, and partnered with a multiracial alliance to ensure that this moment helps to unify—rather than divide—communities of color in the Bay Area.
Fund Spotlights: Worker Organizing

How San Francisco Workers Organized During a Pandemic

In the wake of an unprecedented pandemic and economic crisis, the Rapid Response Fund helped Jobs with Justice San Francisco protect the wages and rights of workers of color, workers with low wages, and nontraditional workers such as those in the gig economy.

Our philosophy is that we organize for the whole worker.

Kung Feng, Executive Director, Jobs with Justice San Francisco

(Photo taken prior to COVID.)
Fund Spotlights: 2020 Election Work

Oakland Youth Fight to Vote in School Board Elections

Last year, Oakland youth helped pass Measure QQ, making Oakland the largest jurisdiction in the nation to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for school board members. The victory was a turning point for increasing youth access to voting, and creating a more equitable society.

"Voting paves a path towards institutional change."

Malia Liao, Measure QQ youth leader
### Funded Organizations

#### 2020-2021 Rapid Response Fund Grantees

| AAPI Women Lead                        | Dialogue for Life                                  | Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco       |
| ACCE Institute                         | Disability Justice Culture Club                    | Peacemakers Inc.                                  |
| ACCESS Women’s Health Justice          | Dolores Street Community Services                  | Priority Africa Network                           |
| Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Action | East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy        | Public Rights Project                             |
| Alliance of South Asians Taking Action | East Pointe Peace Academy                          | Rebuilding Together Peninsula                     |
| Anti Police-Terror Project             | EastSide Arts Alliance                              | Richmond District Neighborhood Center, Inc.       |
| APEX Express                          | El/La Para TransLatinas                            | Saint Francis Homelessness Challenge             |
| API Equality - Northern California     | Faith in Action East Bay                            | San Francisco Interfaith Council                  |
| Asian Pacific Environmental Network    | Family and Children’s Law Center                   | San Francisco Progressive Media Center           |
| Asociacion Mayab                      | Family Bridges, Inc.                               | San Francisco Rising                              |
| AYPAL: Building API Community Power   | Family Connections Centers                         | San Francisco Senior and Disability Action        |
| Bay Resistance Institute              | First Presbyterian Church of Hayward               | SF-Shanghai Association                           |
| Bay Rising                            | FLORECIENDO                                        | South Asians 4 Black Lives                       |
| BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth | Fuerza Educational Coalition                     | Spearitwurx Foundation                            |
| Black Students of California United   | Good Good Eatz                                     | Tenants Together                                  |
| California Food Policy Advocates      | Healthy & Active Before 5                          | Tenderloin Walking Tours                          |
| California Poor People’s Campaign     | Healthy Richmond                                   | The Butterfly Effect                              |
| Carroll Ministries International      | I M HOPE CENTER                                    | The Center for Cultural Power                     |
| Causa Justa :: Just Cause             | Impact Bay Area                                    | The Healing WELL                                  |
| Center for Young Women’s Development  | Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity            | The San Francisco Living Wage Coalition           |
| Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco | Jobs with Justice San Francisco Bay Area         | The Spahr Center                                  |
| Chinese Progressive Association       | Malonga Arts Residents Association                | Trybe, Inc.                                       |
| Communities for a Better Environment  | Monument Impact                                   | Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay |
| Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ) | National Lawyers Guild San Francisco Bay Area Chapter | Young Workers United                             |
| Community Overcoming Relationship     | New Breath Foundation                              | Youth Spirit Artworks                             |
| Abuse                                 | New Leaders Council                                | Youth vs Apocalypse                               |
| Community Ready Corps                 | Oakland Kids First                                 |                                                |
| Cooline Team of East Palo Alto        | Oakland Rising                                     |                                                |
|                                       | OUSD Racial Justice, Equity & Healing Taskforce    |                                                |
Our Donors

Thank You

Donors to the Rapid Response Fund have an opportunity to support grassroots organizations that are on the frontline of change in the Bay Area. We extend our deepest thanks to our donors who have contributed $2.4 million since the fund’s 2016 launch, and who are helping to make the Bay Area a place where everyone can thrive.

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