

Local Grantmaking – Frequently Asked Questions

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GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Local Grantmaking Program’s annual grants budget?

Local Grantmaking will provide up to \$14 million in grants annually.

What are Local Grantmaking Program’s focus areas for funding?

Arts, children and youth, conservation and science, food and shelter, and population and reproductive health.

In what geographic areas does Local Grantmaking Program provide funding?

Grants are made to organizations located in and serving at least one of five counties in Northern California: San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito.

What is the Nonprofit Breakthrough Fund referenced on the Local Grantmaking introductory web page?

Through Local Grantmaking’s Nonprofit Breakthrough Fund, opportunities for current Foundation grantees to participate in Foundation-sponsored training or access to professional consultants are provided. The fund is designed to help support an organization beyond core operating support. Many of the offerings are targeted to help Foundation grant recipients enhance their operations and organizational effectiveness. Past Nonprofit Breakthrough Fund offerings have included support for Stanford’s Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders, the Communications Leadership Institute, and 1:1 coaching in social media.

How do I receive support from the Nonprofit Breakthrough Fund?

Support for and participation in the Nonprofit Breakthrough Fund initiatives is only open to current Foundation grant recipients. When opportunities arise, the Local Grantmaking Program staff will send an email to the primary contact for an organization.

What is your relationship with the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health (LPFCH)?

LPFCH is a separate entity from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. For further information about their grantmaking, please visit www.lpfch.org.

How can I contact the Local program?

You can reach the Local Grantmaking Program staff by sending an email to local@packard.org.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

How do I determine whether my organization fits within the Local Grantmaking Program's guidelines? In which focus area should I apply?

To ensure every applicant is given the same access and consideration, we ask that you do not contact staff with questions about your organization's or project's fit within the guidelines or focus areas, but instead carefully review these FAQ and the relevant subprogram page. It's up to each organization to decide whether its request fits within our guidelines.

Is there any possibility of funding if my project does not fit within any of the subprogram areas?

Not likely, although annually, the Local Grantmaking Program does consider a limited number of community initiatives that fall outside current subprogram areas. However, funding for these initiatives is initiated by staff and consideration for funding is by invitation only.

My organization is located outside the five-county area of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito, but it does a great deal of work within those five counties. Are we eligible for funding?

Not likely. The Local Grantmaking Program typically supports organizations that meet both of the following criteria: they are located within the five-county region and they serve the people and communities of that region.

How do I decide whether to apply for project support or general support? Do you prefer to fund one over the other?

If the mission or core programs of your organization fit within our guidelines, you're welcome to apply for general support. If your organization's mission or core programs do not fit within our guidelines but you have a specific program or project that does, you should apply for project support. The Local Grantmaking Program has no preference for one over the other.

Are there particular projects or requests that you do not fund?

The Local Grantmaking Program does not fund the following: public policy work, capital campaigns, specific performances or productions, one-time events, event sponsorships, religious or business organizations, and individuals. For specific information on what we do not fund in each subprogram area, please read the subprogram description.

Am I more likely to get funding if my organization or project fits within more than one subprogram area?

No. We are looking for leaders in each one of the subprogram areas. We prefer to fund applicants or projects that fit strongly in one area.

What is your typical grant size? How much should my organization request?

Our grants range in size from \$15,000 to \$150,000. The size of the grant is dependent on a variety of factors, including the size of the nonprofit's operating budget, number of people served by the grant, project scope, project outcomes, financial need and sustainability, historical relationship with the Foundation, and other determining factors. In general, the grant amount you request should not exceed 25 percent of your operating budget.

APPLICATION PROCESS

What are the deadlines for submission of a letter of inquiry or proposal?

There are no deadlines. While the Foundation operates on a calendar-year budget, Local Grantmaking accepts LOIs and proposals on an ongoing basis.

How do I apply for a grant?

Follow the steps outlined in the "How to Get Support" section of the relevant Local Grantmaking subprogram.

How do I schedule a meeting or site visit with the Local Grantmaking Program staff? How will staff learn about my organization?

Unfortunately, our staff is unable to meet or conduct a site visit with every applicant. Organizations that fit within the guidelines and priorities of the Local Grantmaking program will be contacted by program staff to schedule a meeting or site visit.

If my request for funding has been denied, is there a waiting period before submitting another request?

Although we do not have a waiting requirement, it is unlikely that we would consider a request from an organization that was recently declined. We recommend waiting a year and reviewing our guidelines when you are ready to submit a request for funding to be sure our guidelines have not change since the last time you applied.

Are applications for funding referred to other programs in the Foundation if they are not a fit within Local Grantmaking guidelines?

Typically, no. Occasionally we forward inquiries to other programs, but it is not a standard practice.

Can my organization submit more than one application at the same time?

No. Organizations should select one subprogram before applying.

How can I apply for funds from the Organizational Effectiveness and Philanthropy program?

Only current Foundation grantees are eligible to apply for funds from the Organizational Effectiveness and Philanthropy program. Please refer to the Organizational Effectiveness program for information about submitting a letter of inquiry.

What is your evaluation or reporting process?

We require reports on a yearly basis so that we can keep track of our grantees' finances, better understand their organizations, and increase our knowledge of effective local grantmaking. For one-year grants we require a final report at the end of the grant period. For two- or three-year grants we require an interim report at the end of each year and a final report at the end of the grant period.