Rapid Response Fund for Movement Building
Guidelines

The Bay Area and the nation are at a crossroads. Despite historic levels of prosperity, there is rising income and wealth inequality, and increasing poverty. Additionally, young people, residents earning low wages, and people of color are underrepresented in the political and policymaking process. In order to advance racial and economic equity, The San Francisco Foundation believes that those who are most impacted should be at the forefront of efforts to change these disparities. They should have the resources they need to devise and lead campaigns and to take action to improve social and economic conditions in their communities, and across the region. Now more than ever, movement leaders need the ability to respond, in a timely manner, to pressing issues that disproportionately impact low-income people and communities of color. Recognizing this urgent need, the Foundation is launching a Rapid Response Fund for Movement Building.

GOAL
To build the political power and voice of low-income and people of color by providing resources to respond in a timely manner to unanticipated, but critical opportunities or challenges to advance racial and economic equity in the Bay Area.

GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

- The Fund will provide one-time small grants in the range of $3,000–$15,000 for a grant period of six to 12 months. If approved, the grant will be processed no more than 30 days after receipt of application.
- Priority will be given to requests from small, emerging or new grassroots efforts, including from faith-based groups or small fiscally sponsored projects working to advance racial and economic equity.

CRITERIA
Grant applications should meet the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- **Timely and Urgent**: the specific event, opportunity or challenge that your organization is responding to must be unanticipated and must require urgent action.
- **Focus on Racial and Economic Equity**: the proposal must be in response to an unexpected moment or opportunity for advocacy or mobilization to advance racial and economic equity at a neighborhood, city, county, or regional level.
- **Opportunity for Intervention**: grant funds must be able to have an immediate - impact related to racial and economic equity.
- **Community Leadership**: the proposal must demonstrate strong leadership by those who are most impacted by racial and economic inequities (e.g. communities of color, immigrants, formerly incarcerated residents, youth, low-wage workers, people with disabilities, low-income residents, or LGBTQ community members).
- **Organizations**: including faith-based groups, must have an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status or be a fiscally sponsored project of another nonprofit entity. The Foundation cannot grant to individuals.

**EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL GRANTS**

The Fund could support projects such as:

- Create safe spaces for community building and healing in the wake of a highly polarizing election.
- Support “Know Your Rights” sessions in immigrant communities facing the threat of mass deportations.
- A convening of grassroots organizers and community leaders to strategize how to address a racially-charged event.
- A non-violence training for community residents in response to incidents of violence.
- Travel funds for community leaders to attend a national day of action on a pressing equity issue. Note that funds will be made available to organizations, not individuals.
- Funds to support an urgent communications or legal response to address a crisis (e.g. a nonprofit voter engagement organization is wrongly accused of partisan activity that could jeopardize their 501(c)(3) status).

The Rapid Response Fund for Movement Building is not intended to be used for “emergencies” such as:

- Internal nonprofit operations emergencies, such as office vandalism, resignation of an executive director, or the sudden loss of funding
- Nonprofit general operating or ongoing program support
- Natural disasters
- Capital improvements
- Budget shortfalls or fundraising events
- Previously planned or long-term campaigns

**TO APPLY**

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. To submit a request, please review these guidelines and submit the following documents to rapidresponsefund@sff.org:

- Completed PDF application form
- 501(c)(3) IRS letter or Letter of Resolution from your fiscal sponsor
- Project budget

**QUESTIONS**

Please contact Angela Quon Chan at achan@sff.org.
RAPID RESPONSE FUND FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING
APPLICATION

Please review the Rapid Response Fund for Movement Building Application Guidelines before filling out the application.

SECTION 1: CONTACT INFORMATION
- Date of Application:
- Organization Name:
- Street Address:
- City/State/Zip:
- Primary Grant Contact First Name/Last Name:
- Title (if applicable):
- Contact Email:
- Contact Phone Number:
- Is this organization a fiscally sponsored project?: (yes) ☐ (no) ☐
  - If using fiscal sponsor, please list fiscal sponsor name, address and contact:

SECTION 2: BUDGET

Amount Requested (grants can be awarded in the range of $3,000 and $15,000):

Organizational Budget:

Total Project budget (required document):

The San Francisco Foundation is happy to support lobbying as we realize it provides a valuable tool to change the political landscape in the Bay Area.

Will these funds be used for lobbying? (yes) ☐ (no) ☐

If your answer above is "yes", please click here.

SECTION 3: NARRATIVE OVERVIEW
1. Short Purpose Statement: Please provide a brief description of your project including community and geographic area served. (400 character limit)

2. Organization Mission Statement (if you are a coalition, please describe the coalition and its members) (300 character limit)
3. What is the urgent need or emerging opportunity you are responding to as it relates to racial and economic equity in the Bay Area? (600 character limit)

4. Provide a brief description of the project or action and include proposed activities and project duration. What do you hope to accomplish? (700 character limit)

5. Describe how the communities who are mostly impacted by the urgent need playing a leadership role in the project. (400 character limit)

TO APPLY:
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. To submit an application please review the guidelines and criteria and submit the following documents to rapidresponsefund@sff.org:
- Completed fillable PDF application form
- Project budget
- Letter of Resolution from your fiscal sponsor (if applicable)
- Supplemental budget worksheet (if applicable)

If approved, you will be notified no more than 30 days after receipt of application. A check will be mailed shortly thereafter. Please note that a brief report will be required upon completion of the grant activities.

If you have questions, please contact Angela Quon-Chan at achan@sff.org.