



Mission of the Capacity Grants Fund

The Fund aims to help strengthen the organizational capacity of nonprofit organizations working in Napa County. This year, the Fund has the following Focus Areas:

- Support nonprofits to increase fundraising capacity. **What we see:** In Napa County, the ten largest nonprofits accounted for nearly 90 percent of the charitable sector's total revenue in 2004. The 200 smallest organizations accounted for just one percent. We find that the smallest nonprofits, even the mid-size groups, are challenged each year to: raise funds to maintain existing programs and services; tell their story effectively; and conduct outreach to new donors. Just a small percentage of nonprofits have a diverse revenue picture—most rely heavily on one or two types of funding, and few have endowments.
- Provide professional development to nonprofit leadership. **What we see:** As a generation of long-serving nonprofit CEO's approaches retirement, our charitable organizations need to prepare for leadership transitions. In a County with only 125,000 people, the labor pool for this leadership talent is shallow compared to larger communities, and there are few local professional development opportunities for nonprofit executives. Other leadership challenges we see: Finding passionate board members and supporting them to match their talents to their board service, and identifying and involving a younger generation of local community leaders on boards and committees.
- Help nonprofits conduct business more efficiently and effectively. **What we see:** Like for-profit businesses, nonprofits need equipment and tools so staff can be more productive and improve their delivery of services. Yet, unrestricted donations or grants—revenue that pays for these kinds of operating expenses—is the most difficult for our nonprofits to raise. We often find staff are using outdated computer or phone equipment, which hampers progress, or they lack technology that allows them to track their clients.

Examples of Projects

\$2,000 to Loving Animals Providing Smiles, an all-volunteer nonprofit that provides animal-assisted therapy to people of all ages, to develop a website.

\$7,000 to Legal Aid of Napa Valley, which offers free legal services to working-poor adults and seniors, to upgrade computer equipment and their fundraising database.

\$5,500 to CyberMill, Inc., an afterschool program that teaches technology skills to middle school children, for board development and strategic planning.

How to Apply

The Fund is open for applications once during the calendar year. Go to http://www.napavalleycf.org/index.php?page_id=184&available_grant_id=40 for more information.