

NAPA VALLEY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESS FIRE RECOVERY GRANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE; DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 18

May 2 – Napa, CA – Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) has started a program to help small businesses that suffered physical losses or economic injury as a result of the October 2017 Napa Fire Complex. Grants are now available to Napa County businesses that applied for a disaster loan from the US Small Business Administration (SBA), but were declined. The program is a collaboration between the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund managed by NVCF; the Napa-Sonoma Small Business Development Center, a nonprofit organization that provides expert no-cost advising in English and Spanish to small businesses in the Northbay; and Working Solutions, a mission-based Community Development Financial Institution with a strong track record of deploying capital to small business owners throughout the Bay Area. Business owners who were ineligible to apply for an SBA disaster loan may also be considered for a grant if they lost property or revenues because of the fires.

“We are excited to be helping small business owners recover in partnership with the Napa-Sonoma SBDC and Working Solutions,” said NVCF President Terence Mulligan, who noted that the same organizations had come together to distribute more than \$500,000 in grants to local businesses after the 2014 South Napa Earthquake. “Because most of the fire damage to our business community has come in the form of economic losses, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans are still available through the SBA until July, we’ve built this program for business owners who can’t access the federal government’s disaster aid dollars,” he added.

Grants of \$2,500 to \$20,000 will be awarded to approved applicants for economic injury or physical losses stemming from the Napa Fire Complex. The grants are intended to help small businesses get back up and running; replace lost inventory, furniture, fixtures and equipment; and meet short-term obligations like payroll or rent. To be eligible, businesses must be located in Napa County, have a decline letter from the SBA (or evidence that they were not permitted to apply for an SBA disaster loan), and meet the following income requirements: Adjusted Gross Income at or below \$250,000 for the business owner(s); business net income at or below \$500,000.

To learn more or apply, contact the Napa-Sonoma SBDC. For assistance in English, please contact: Robert Toering at (707) 529-1234 (rjtoering@gmail.com) or Mike Basayne at (707) 815-7042 (michael.basayne@gmail.com). For assistance in Spanish, please contact: Mariana Almaraz at (707) 293-6088 (marianagalmaraz@gmail.com).

About the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund

The Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund is managed by Napa Valley Community Foundation and was established with a \$10 million lead gift from [Napa Valley Vintners](#) following the 2014 South Napa Earthquake. After all phases of quake-related relief, recovery and rebuilding programs concluded in 2016, the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund had a balance of approximately \$2.5 million, which was the starting point for current relief and recovery efforts for the Napa Fire Complex. Since the Fund was re-activated on October 10, 2017, more than \$15 million has been contributed by 20,000 individual, corporate and foundation donors in California, the US and abroad. Growers and vintners in Napa Valley have contributed significantly to assist those affected by the October wildfires, and their generosity has inspired their many friends, customers and partners to get involved, as well. Thus far, nearly \$6 million has been distributed from the Fund and another \$1.2 million in grants have been approved that will be distributed shortly. These distributions have enabled 15,000 fire survivors to receive relief services like temporary housing, meals and medical care; and 2,000 households who suffered economic hardship as a result of the fires to receive direct cash assistance totaling nearly \$2.3 million to-date.

About Napa Valley Community Foundation

Napa Valley Community Foundation helps donors transform their passion for giving into greater impact. Now celebrating 24 years of service to Napa Valley, NVCF has served as a bridge between philanthropic families and hard-working nonprofit agencies since 1994, bringing people, ideas and resources together to enhance the quality of life in our community. From American Canyon to Calistoga, NVCF has distributed more than \$50 million in grants since it was founded, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to 100 individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley. To learn more, please visit www.napavalleycf.org.

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