

Racial Equity Fund of The County of Santa Barbara

A collaboration of



and



The Racial Equity Fund of The County of Santa Barbara County (REFCSB) is an initiative that came directly from grassroots organizing by Black femme leaders in Santa Barbara County who demanded that the County of Santa Barbara invest in the Black community in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the ongoing racial justice movement. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (“the County”) passed a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, made a commitment to racial justice, and pledged \$500,000 to begin to address equity issues in the county. Roughly half of the funds were allocated to internal/institutional County equity development with the remaining funds to be distributed through the Fund for Santa Barbara’s (“The FUND”) participatory grantmaking process in collaboration with The County of Santa Barbara. The FUND has a long history through its grant making program of supporting historically marginalized communities to be full participants in our community’s social, civic, and economic life. This funding program aims to build capacity, expand, and/or stabilize historically marginalized organizations in Santa Barbara County. In 2022, the County Board of Supervisors allocated an additional \$275,000 to fund a second cycle of the program.

MISSION

To invest in and strengthen organizations that address anti-racism through systems change strategies in Santa Barbara County. This fund aims to effect the culture, policy, and systems change necessary to advance racial equity and justice, and reverse the legacy of slavery and effects of racism in Santa Barbara County.

GUIDELINES

- Actively support anti-discrimination based on race, sex/gender, age, religion, language spoken, or immigration status;
- Actively support communities marginalized by power structures to engage in dialogue and actions that seek to counter social injustice;
- Actively work to improve the rights of workers and their families whose living conditions have been marginalized;
- Promote the cultural life of underserved communities and support the activities of cultural workers;
- Promote self-determination and leadership development in low income and disenfranchised communities;
- Promote Global peace and organize locally for just policies;

- Work on building coalitions to enhance improving environmental justice and address climate change, especially organizing a constituency usually without access to decision-makers
- Engage in collaborative action and coalition-building to strengthen movement ecosystems; Work against community violence and actively support recovery and restorative justice activities and initiatives;
- Operate in a democratic manner, responsive to and directed by the constituency being served.

PRIORITIES

- Guidelines: Does this project have the potential to create or advance social, economic, political, and/or environmental change? Please refer to FUND Guidelines
- Priorities: Are there elements of Community Organizing, Advocacy, Direct Action, Base-building, Coalition-Building, or Legal Strategy?*
- Access to Funding: Does this project lack access to funding? Would the project go forward without support from the Fund?
- Critical Timing/Need: Does the organization have the capacity to reach their social change goals? Are the key players familiar with other organizations in the same field to further the goal of movement building?
- Impact of Funds: How clear is the budget outline? How well does the budget support the project's social change goals? Will funding help start-up the organization, stabilize the organization, and/or leverage other funding sources?
- Regional Equity: Will this project help the GMC and The County achieve its objective of providing equity in funding throughout Santa Barbara County?

WE DO NOT FUND

- Political campaigns that support a candidate or a political party;
- Private (vs. public) interests;
- Direct labor organizing;
- Direct support to individuals;
- Building improvements;
- Capital ventures, i.e. machines, vehicles, etc.;
- Equipment, i.e. office equipment, tools, etc.;
- Projects located outside of Santa Barbara County.
- **REFCSB funding cannot be used for lobbying, legal strategy or 501(c)4 work

FUNDING STRATEGY

This fund aims to effect the culture and policy for systemic change necessary to advance racial equity and justice and reverse the legacy of slavery and the effects of racism in Santa Barbara County. The purpose of the REF is to provide organizational capacity assistance to:

1. Strengthen the ecosystem of diverse, anti-racism organizations in our community that share a common goal to address the cultural and systemic effects of racism.

2. Increase active participation of historically marginalized communities to influence civic matters that impact our community at large.
3. Develop the pipeline to uplift historically marginalized leaders to positions of decision-making and influence.
4. Increase and sustain investment to strengthen organizations led by historically marginalized leaders who have lacked access to capital.
5. Address and work to change systemic negative narratives about the legacy of slavery in the community.
6. Establish and advance organizational capacity in organizations led by historically marginalized leaders in the following areas:
 - a. Leadership development
 - b. Advocacy, policy change, legal analysis, and research
 - c. Strategic communications
 - d. Alliance and coalition building
 - e. Organizational development
 - f. Community engagement and organizing
 - g. Innovation and continuous learning
 - h. Develop organizational and programmatic objectives, conduct evaluation, and assess outcomes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be a historically marginalized organization in Santa Barbara County
- i.e. Serving communities directly harmed by racist policies and marginalized by systemic racism
- Must include as a core mission of the organization the goal of addressing systemic racism
- Projects must take place in Santa Barbara County
- Must have a Tax ID Number, Employer Identification Number (EIN), or a fiscal sponsor
- Must have an organizational bank account (or a fiscal sponsor)

PROCESS

- Funding availability and grant cycle RFP dependent on County Board of Supervisors fiscal budget approval.
 - Maximum request: up to \$100,000
 - Length of funding: 12 months
 - *In 2024, The County made an amendment to the funding terms effectively making the grant term length 12 months.*

**Funding for this grant program is provided by
The County of Santa Barbara**

Questions? contact grants@fundforsantabarbara.org