



Building Nonprofit Capacity to Combat Poverty in Our Neighborhoods

2020 Request for Proposal

North Texas Community Foundation works to understand local problems and invest in effective solutions that help make our region a better place for us all. Whether we are sharing information, convening nonprofits, connecting key players or making strategic grants, all activities are undertaken to produce greater results for the community we call home.

Our ToolBox Grants Program provides Tarrant County-based nonprofit organizations with capacity building grants to improve their strength and stability. Capacity building projects address the internal workings and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations and are intended to be one-time, transformative investments that will make a significant difference in the way the organization works. ToolBox grants do not fund programs or general operations. By investing in projects such as technology upgrades, strategic planning, professional development and evaluation and feasibility studies, we aim to strengthen the leaders, systems and plans that enable nonprofits to have more effective programming and greater community impact.

Since 2010, the Community Foundation has granted more than \$2 million to support nonprofit capacity building for more than 100 organizations of varying sizes. Nearly \$380,000 was distributed to 38 nonprofits and neighborhood associations in 2019.

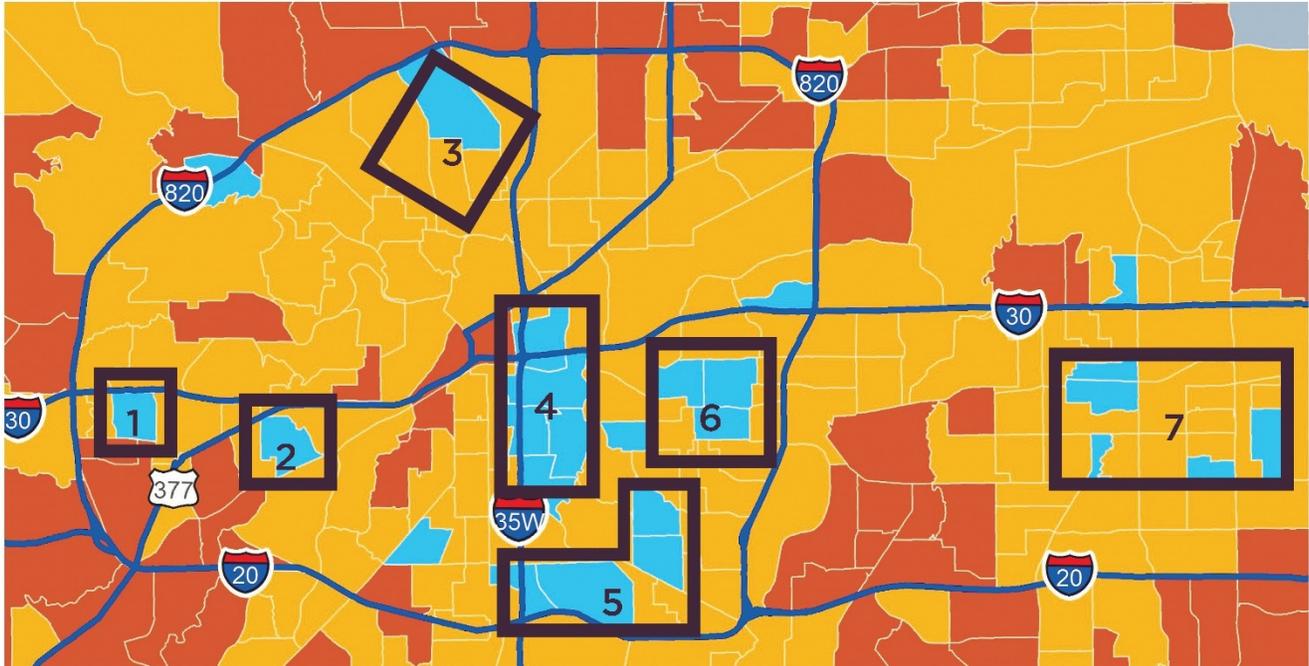
STRATEGIC FOCUS: NEIGHBORHOODS

As a community foundation dedicated to our region's success, we continually evaluate Tarrant County's greatest challenges and opportunities using data, research, on-the-ground knowledge and experience to inform our grantmaking.

Recent City of Fort Worth research, coupled with the Community Foundation's report, *Growing Up in North Texas*, highlights the many ways in which multi-dimensional poverty (e.g. scarcity in education, health, income and employment) impacts local families. Specific neighborhoods in our community are disproportionately affected by the compounding impacts of poverty. Poverty is commonly thought of simply as a lack of income, however, multi-dimensional poverty acknowledges that a lack of education, poor health and few job opportunities impact an individual's ability to thrive. ToolBox grants will help nonprofits build capacity to strengthen the people and places in Tarrant County's most challenged neighborhoods.

2018-2020 ToolBox Grants Cycle

Building Nonprofit Capacity to
Combat Poverty in Our Neighborhoods



1. Western Hills (Las Vegas Trail)
2. Como
3. Diamond Hill-Jarvis/Northside
4. Butler Place/Historic Southside/Hillside/Morningside
5. East Seminary/Wichita St.
6. Stop Six
7. Central-East Arlington

- No Data
- Lower-Poverty
- Moderate-to-High Poverty
- Highest-Poverty

PURPOSE OF 2019 TOOLBOX GRANTS

ToolBox grants will strengthen **leadership development, organizational effectiveness or operational efficiency** to improve nonprofits serving these neighborhoods. The project must be linked to the organization's capacity to make a significant difference in one or more of the target neighborhoods, with the impact lasting beyond the one-year grant period.

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in Tarrant County
- Neighborhood associations in target neighborhoods

NONPROFIT FOCUS AREAS

- Community Enrichment (arts, culture, beautification, etc.)
- Education
- Employment
- Health (physical or mental)
- Housing

GRANT SIZES

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| • Small organizations (Budget under \$200K) | \$2,500-\$7,500 |
| • Large organizations (Budget over \$200K) | \$7,500-\$15,000 |
| • Neighborhood associations | \$500-\$1,000 |

Note:

- *The ToolBox funding request should represent 50-100% of the total cost of the project.*
- *15% of a ToolBox grant may be applied towards staff time for project implementation.*
- *See FAQ below for further information.*

ELIGIBLE CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

Organizational Effectiveness

- Collaborative projects to enhance systemic support around a community issue
- Consulting services to develop fundraising/marketing/HR/operations/volunteer strategies
- Needs assessments
- Neighborhood outreach strategies
- Organizational assessments
- Outcome evaluation
- Program or market feasibility studies
- Strategic business, merger or restructuring planning
- Trainings, workshops or seminars to enhance organizational effectiveness or understanding of interventions including “train-the-trainer” and multi-organization/multi-neighborhood trainings
- Websites (e.g. development, creating mobile-adapted sites, etc.)

Leadership Development

- Board development
- Leadership/management development
- Team building
- Transition planning (leadership succession)

Operational Efficiency

- Facilities planning
- Software such as data or financial management systems (first year licensing costs will be considered, but not renewal fees)
- Hardware critical for organizational functions

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Capital projects
- Fundraising campaigns
- General operations
- Media or marketing campaigns
- Programming
- Projects in need of ongoing maintenance (including software or database renewal fees)

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The following criteria will be used in the proposal review process:

- Project meets eligibility criteria & focus
- Proposal identifies a clear capacity building project that addresses leadership development, organizational effectiveness, or operational efficiency
- Thoughtful project plan presented in proposal
- Specific, realistic project outcomes are identified
- Project is related to the organization's capacity to make a significant difference in one or more of the target neighborhoods, with the impact lasting beyond the one-year grant period

TIMELINE

February 19	Deadline to submit Letter of Intent (11:59 PM)
March 2	NTxCF invites finalists to submit proposal
April 3	Proposal deadline (11:59 PM)
Early May	Award notification
May 19	ToolBox Celebration (5:30-7:00 PM)

FAQ

My organization serves outside of these neighborhoods; can we apply?

To qualify, organizations do not have to be located in the target neighborhoods, but the grant activities must aim to benefit one or more of the target neighborhoods.

My organization does charitable work, but we are not a 501(c)(3). Can we still apply?

Organizations that do not have a nonprofit status with the IRS may apply for funding using an organization that does have a 501(c)(3) status as their fiscal sponsor. This also applies to neighborhood associations.

How do I apply?

Letters of intent and full proposals will be submitted via the Community Foundation's grants portal linked on the ToolBox Grants Program page of our website and on this RFP below.

What if our project cost exceeds \$15,000?

ToolBox grants are meant to fund 50-100% of project costs, for a maximum project size of \$15,000 for smaller organizations (budget under \$200K) and \$30,000 for larger organizations (budget over \$200K). If your project would not be completely funded through ToolBox, you will be asked to provide a plan for how you will obtain the additional funds.

Can ToolBox funds be used to pay for staff time?

Each grantee may direct up to 15% of the award for staff time to implement their capacity building project. For example, an organization that receives a \$15,000 award may allocate \$12,750 to the project and \$2,250 to staff time.

Will recipients be awarded a multi-year grant?

No.

If two or more organizations wish to collaborate on a joint application, how will the Community Foundation distribute the funding?

Joint applicants should designate one partner to receive the funds.

Who will make the final award decisions?

A grants committee comprised of North Texas Community Foundation board members and local community members make final award decisions.

Does the project have to benefit the whole organization or could it just benefit one department?

Some larger organizations may have smaller departments that have individual capacity building needs. As long as the project meets the eligibility criteria, an organization may apply for a ToolBox grant on behalf of one of its departments.

What zip codes are Toolbox neighborhoods located in?

Western Hills **76116** Como **76107** Diamond Hill-Jarvis/Northside **76106** & **76164** Historic Southside/Hillside/Morningside **76104** Butler Place **76102** East Seminary/Wichita St. **76115** & **76119** Stop Six **76105** Central-East Arlington **76010** & **76011**.

EXAMPLES OF CAPACITY BUILDING & NEIGHBORHOODS

A nonprofit in South Fort Worth has clients from Las Vegas Trail. They want to complete a feasibility study to consider opening an extension office on Las Vegas Trail.

A nonprofit childcare center in Como wants to engage more parents by hiring a consultant to help them develop a neighborhood outreach strategy.

A nonprofit serving East Arlington has experienced an increase in client volume and wants to purchase case management software for the first time.

An organization that is well-versed in trauma-informed care would like to conduct a daylong, multi-agency trauma-informed care training for agencies serving Morningside, East Seminary/Wichita St. and Stop Six.

HOW TO APPLY

Organizations may submit proposals through the Community Foundation's grants portal at <https://northtexascf.org/community-investment/grant-focus-areas/toolbox-grants-program/>.

QUESTIONS?

For questions concerning eligibility:
Garrett March
Associate Director of Community Impact
gmarch@northtexascf.org | 817.877.0702

For questions regarding the grants portal:
Susan Van Meter
Community Impact Associate
svanmeter@northtexascf.org | 817.877.0702