



Building Nonprofit Capacity to Combat Poverty in Our Neighborhoods

The 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're sharing information, convening nonprofits, connecting key players, or making strategic grants, all activities are undertaken with the aim of producing 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.

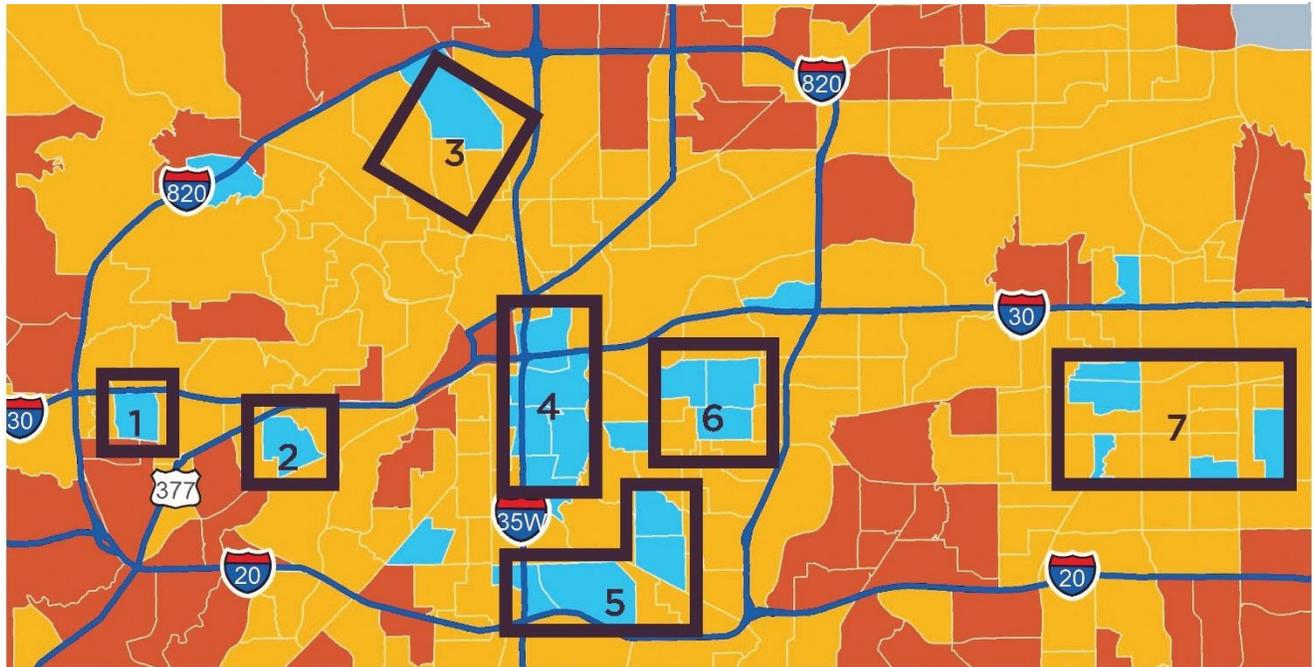
Since 2010, the Community Foundation has granted more than \$2 million to support nonprofit capacity building for more than 100 organizations of varying sizes. Nearly \$316,000 was distributed to 33 nonprofits in 2018.

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 lack of income, however, multi-dimensional poverty acknowledges that 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 Neighborhoods



Tarrant County Total Poverty Rate

Source: American Community Survey 2014



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

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

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

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

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

Leadership Development

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

Operational Efficiency

- Technology hardware critical for organizational functions (first year technology costs that will be ongoing, such as software licensing costs, may be considered)
- Software such as data or financial management systems
- Facilities planning

Ineligible Projects

- Programming
- Media or marketing campaigns
- Fundraising/capital projects
- General operations
- Projects in need of ongoing maintenance

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 8** Deadline to submit Letter of Intent
- February 26** NTxCF invites finalists to submit full proposal
- March 22** Proposal deadline
- April 15** Award notification
- April 25** ToolBox Celebration

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 website linked on the ToolBox Grants Program page of our website.

- **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. (e.g. For a \$15,000 award an organization 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 serve as the fiscal agent for awarded 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 their departments.

- **What zip codes are Toolbox neighborhoods located in?**

Western Hills **76116** Como **76107** Diamond Hill-Jarvis/Northside **76106** & **76164** Historic Southside & 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.***

Yes, this is an eligible project.

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

Yes, this is an eligible project.

- ***A nonprofit is trying to raise its visibility in Stop Six and wants to hire a full-time marketing director. They are raising funds for the position.***

No, this would not be eligible because ToolBox does not fund staff positions. However, up to 15% of a ToolBox grant can be applied to staff time for implementation of an eligible capacity building project.

- ***A nonprofit serving East Arlington has experienced an increase in their volume of clients and wants to purchase client tracking software.***

Yes, this is an eligible project.

- ***An after-school program is raising funds to extend its services to another ISD. The cost to start the additional programming is \$40,000.***

No, this would not be eligible because ToolBox does not fund programming, and a ToolBox grant must also cover 50-100% of the project cost.

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

Yes, this is an eligible project.

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

For additional questions, contact Garrett March at gmarch@northtexascf.org or call 817.877.0702.