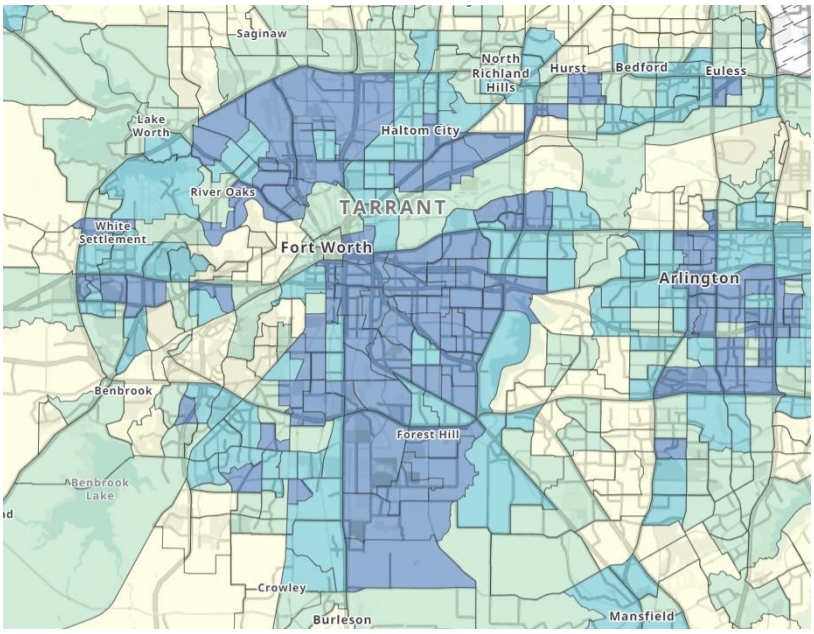
Background

The BEACON (Building Economic Access, Community, Opportunity & Networks) Fund drives community development in historically disinvested neighborhoods. This grant cycle builds on the work accomplished by North Texas Community Foundation's (NTCF) grantees, community leaders, and advisory committee members, whose valuable insights guide our work. The BEACON Fund reflects the priorities identified by those working directly in our communities, ensuring that resources are aligned to meet the most pressing needs. By providing operational support to organizations focused on housing, jobs, education, healthcare, and other essential elements required for a thriving community, BEACON aims to illuminate the path for nonprofits to create equitable, community-driven change.

Certain communities face disproportionate challenges due to systemic inequities. Factors such as wage disparities, rising housing costs, limited access to quality healthcare, and inadequate transportation infrastructure create barriers to economic mobility and overall well-being.

Centers for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) uses indicators such as these to determine community vulnerability (see the SVI map below).



Level of Vulnerability by Census Tract	Low	Low-Medium	Medium-High	High

Funding Opportunity

NTCF has launched a 10-year strategy to support place-based partnerships that elevate community voices and build stronger, more inclusive neighborhoods. The BEACON fund is an integral part of this strategy as we partner with community development champions to create lasting change.

NTCF defines **community development** as neighbors and partners working together to strengthen communities by supporting housing, jobs, education, local businesses, and cultural identity so people can thrive where they live.

As a result, we are launching a multi-year funding opportunity to support sustained impact and organizational stability. Organizations will be eligible to receive two years of grant funding through this BEACON Fund grant cycle.

Nonprofit Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations with an operating budget of $50,000 - $2,500,000
- Nonprofits whose Tarrant County-based services serve at least 75% individuals from priority neighborhoods (please view the RFP for the list of neighborhoods)
- Nonprofits who have been in continuous operation for a minimum of three calendar years
- Nonprofits who have demonstrated commitment and active engagement in one of the funding priority areas described in the section below. (Note: Nonprofits may only submit one application to one priority area)
- Nonprofits seeking two years of funding for mission-building, general operating support; and
- A nonprofit representative must attend one of two virtual orientation meetings. (see page 6 to register)

Ineligible Requests

- Municipal entities
- Political campaigns or lobbying activities
- Religious organizations seeking funds to support evangelism
- Activities or programs for any purpose other than the approved charitable and educational purposes

---

Priority Neighborhoods

- Central Arlington
- Como
- Diamond Hill-Jarvis
- East Arlington
- East Berry
- East Lancaster

- Echo Heights
- Everman
- Forest Hill
- Greenbriar
- Hallmark-Camelot-Highland Terrace
- Haltom City
- Hemphill
- Highland Hills
- Historic Handley
- Historic Southside
- Las Vegas Trail
- Morningside
- North Central Historic Arlington
- Northside
- Polytechnic
- Riverside
- Rosemont
- Southeast Arlington
- Stop Six
- West Central Arlington
- Woodhaven
- Worth Heights

Funding Priority Areas

The BEACON Fund will provide operating support grants to high-performing nonprofit organizations, addressing deep-rooted disparities in priority neighborhoods listed above and in these areas:

- Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
    - Develop and preserve affordable housing to provide stable options for low- and moderate-income families.
    - Support housing stability services, including homelessness prevention and eviction mediation.
    - Invest in mixed-use developments, community infrastructure, and the revitalization of vacant properties to create vibrant neighborhoods in targeted areas.
    - Environmental initiatives aimed at increasing energy efficiency and sustainability.

- Civic Engagement and Leadership Development
    - Empower residents with the skills and knowledge to advocate for local policy changes.
    - Increase voter awareness and participation.
    - Build leadership capacity within communities and elevate marginalized voices in decision-making roles.

- Cultural Expression & Historic Preservation
    - Celebrate cultural identity through public art, festivals, community events and engagement.
    - Promote arts education programs that foster creative expression and provide communities with growth opportunities, particularly in underserved areas.
    - Preserve and honor local heritage to strengthen community ties.

- Economic Development

    - Support small and micro-businesses, particularly those owned by underrepresented groups, to strengthen local economies.
    - Foster strategies that attract businesses and investments in targeted areas.
    - Promote community-led projects that encourage long-term economic growth and sustainability.

- Education and Workforce Training
    - Nonprofits that provide access to high-quality early childhood education to help build a strong foundation for children from low-income households.
    - Address K-12 achievement gaps through tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs. Align job training with local market needs.
    - Provide workforce programming that results in better-paying jobs that lead to family-sustaining wages.
    - Workforce re-entry programs for individuals overcoming barriers to employment.

- Health and Wellness
    - Improve health outcomes by connecting people to quality health resources and education.
    - Reduce health disparities through expanded access to primary care, mental health services, and preventative health programs.
    - Address contributing social determinants of health to enhance community well-being.

- Justice
    - Advance restorative justice practices and criminal justice reform to address systemic inequities.
    - Provide legal aid services and support for individuals and families impacted by incarceration.
    - Focus on community-based justice programs that emphasize rehabilitation and reintegration, addressing the root causes of crime.

Funding

All awards will be for general operating support for organizations serving individuals in one or more priority neighborhoods listed above in the BEACON funding priority areas:

- Funding is available to nonprofits with an operating budget of $50,000 - $2,500,000.
- Amount requested should be based on the organization's operating budget as outlined below.
- It is advisable that organizations apply for no more than 10% of their operating budget.

- Total awards will be distributed over a two-year cycle as outlined below. Funds must be spent by the end of each individual funding year and may not be carried over.

Funding Levels by Operating Budget

- Nonprofit operating budget of $50,000 - $250,000
  - May apply for a grant up to $20,000 per year for $40,000 total
- Nonprofit operating budget of $251,000 - $750,000
  - May apply for a grant up to $30,000 per year for $60,000 total
- Nonprofit operating budget of $751,000 - $2,500,000
  - May apply for a grant up to $40,000 per year for $80,000 total

---

Nonprofit Cohort

After grants have been awarded, the grantee's executive director/senior leadership (2 people maximum) will be invited to join a participant-driven learning and networking cohort. All grantees—both new and returning—are required to participate in the learning and networking cohort each grant cycle year.

Cohort meetings could include:

- Professional development workshops on topics such as grant writing, leadership, or communications.
- Sharing best practices, resources, project updates, etc.
- Networking opportunities with other BEACON grantees, BEACON Advisory Council members, Community Foundation fundholders, and community leaders

---

Timeline

March 10	Virtual orientation #1 (6pm-7pm)
March 11	Virtual orientation #2 (12pm-1pm)
April 23	Proposal deadline (**5:00 PM**)
Mid-June	Award Notification
Late-June	Grants Distributed

Applicants must have a representative from their organization attend **one** of the nonprofit orientations.

Priority Will Be Given to Applicants That Clearly Define:

- How the grant will address needs of the priority neighborhood based on BEACON's funding priority areas (30%)

- How operating dollars will strengthen the organization's capacity and impact in support of advancing its mission (25%)
- How success will be measured (15%)
- Potential challenges with outlined solutions that may be faced while implementing the grant (10%)
- How the organization engages with priority neighborhood stakeholders (10%)
- Executive leadership reflects the demographics of the community served (5%)
- Board of Directors reflects the demographics of the community served (5%)

How to Apply

- An organization representative must attend one of the orientations (March 10 or March 11; links to register in timeline above).
- Organizations are required to submit a proposal (one per agency) through the Community Foundation's grants portal. We will not accept late submissions.
- Organizations must submit a letter of support from a community-based champion or organization in the priority neighborhood.
- Organizations may submit an optional short video (no more than two minutes in length) with their proposal. Videos recorded via phone camera are acceptable. More details are in the application.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **My organization does charitable work, but we are not a 501(c)(3). Can we still apply?**
  No, applicants must have nonprofit status to be eligible for funding.

- **Do funds have to be expended after each funding year or can funds be carried over into the next funding year?**
  Yes, funds have to be expended after each funding year and final report completed before the second year funding can be distributed.

- **If we serve individuals in multiple counties, does the 75% residency requirement only apply to our organization's Tarrant County-based services?**
  Yes, your Tarrant County-based services must serve at least 75% of individuals from the priority neighborhoods outlined in the RFP.

- **If our organization has multiple locations or sites, should we provide our full organizational operating budget or the operating budget for the specific site applying for this grant?**
  We would need the operating budget for the entire organization. The operating budget for the organization must be between $50,000 and $2,500,000.

Questions

Please reserve your questions for the virtual nonprofit orientation. If your question is still not answered, please contact: grants@northtexascf.org.

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."
-Amanda Gorman