

Community Resilience Grants

Community Resilience Grants at Foothills United Way will support the development of projects that build the **resources** and **relationships** necessary to address the needs of residents' vulnerable to community stressors.

What Is Community Resilience?

Poverty, disease and isolation are manifestations of the vicious cycle of vulnerability and adversity in communities. These conditions create added burdens that contribute to crises large and small—such as natural and manmade disasters, economic hardship and sudden changes in a community's makeup. Such crises in turn deepen the challenges for individuals and communities. Building resilience—the ability to anticipate risk, limit impact, adapt and learn—are key to mitigating vulnerability, stress and crises. For example, the impact of the 2013 Flood was greatly exacerbated for low income residents who lost their mobile homes in flood prone areas. The overall housing shortage in Boulder County created a double impact of the disaster when these residents were left with few affordable housing alternatives. This disaster has more clearly exposed a deepening crisis in our region, but it also has given community leaders an opportunity to create new, stabilizing approaches to our housing needs.

Recent literature draws the connection between **community resilience** and social infrastructure of **resources** and **relationships**. The connections between various organizations and people in the community and the assets they possess define the ability of that community to weather a storm, literally or figuratively. Non-profits, government agencies, school districts, local businesses and faith communities all have the ability to provide tools people need to move out of poverty, become and stay healthy, and be connected to a caring community. Any one of these entities (or a partnership formed between them) can continue to grow the community's capacity to reach these goals. One way capacity-building process progresses is through strategic investments in new durable **resources** to meet needs in innovative ways. Such resources might include (among others):

- Technology platforms that more effectively connect residents to services
- Facilities utilized to convene partners and community members
- Equipment used to mobilize necessary goods and services such as food or medical care

Additionally, this work moves forward when these entities form or strengthen **relationships** between one another and the populations they serve through:

- Volunteer-driven programs that meet community needs without additional public or private investment
- Operating procedures between service providers for handling the complex needs of our most vulnerable neighbors
- Educational programs that empower people to become healthier and more self-reliant

When communities work to create resilient systems, they improve the lives of vulnerable residents and break dependencies on ongoing public and private subsidies. This is the only way to create a caring, responsive social service system that is politically and financially sustainable.

Standards For Investing In Community Resilience

Foothills United Way is targeting the development of community resilience by awarding grants to partners able to address the needs of residents vulnerable to or living in crisis because of a deficiency in both **resources** and **relationships**.

In considering **resources**, Foothills United Way is concerned with the community's ability to meet the needs of all residents. These needs include any of the assets, skills, knowledge or experience necessary for an individual or household to remain stable in the face of community stressors. These needs may include things such as shelter, health and well-being, financial stability, mobility or safety.

In order to address the essential component of **relationships** in building community resilience, Foothills United Way is focused on the cultivation of social capital. Social capital is the value that is formed from the relationships within networks such as families, neighborhoods, organizations and communities. The main indicators of this value are measured through the perception of trust, reciprocity, shared values and shared understanding within those networks. These qualities directly translate into an improved ability for networks and the individuals composing those networks to access employment, manage resources and stay healthy. There are three main forms of social capital that scholars have identified as important in improving the networks:

- *Bonding capital*: This term expresses the value of relationships between people inside of a network, such as an organization, family or neighborhood. When these relationships are strong, people have a stable, trusting environment in which they can work creatively to solve problems and improve their lives with the network's available resources.
- *Bridging capital*: This term describes the value that is created when individuals are able to effectively connect to people outside of their "native" networks. One common way in which *bridging capital* is discussed is in connections made across racial/ethnic boundaries. Often times these boundaries can determine an individual's ability to access employment and navigate public services. By making "horizontal" connections between different social groups, individuals acquire information they need in order to be successful.
- *Linking capital*: This term describes the value in being able to connect "vertically." When individuals can connect with elected officials and other community leaders, they and the networks they are a part of can access new resources, including money, the support of public institutions and influence on public policy. This capital also benefits those leaders by being able to more effectively reach public stakeholders and include them in planning and implementation of services. This improves the efficiency of public spending by making the value of services greater.

The **Social Determinants of Health** is an evidence-based model, embraced by many, that represents the broad range of social and physical factors that impact people's health and quality of life. Boulder County Health and Human Services is using the Social Determinants of Health to create their guiding framework known as Community of Hope. Foothills United Way also recognizes the Social Determinants of Health's underlying value to our work. We believe they are an important guide for the effectiveness of a proposed action or project. We therefore encourage projects to align with at least one of the Social Determinants of Health which are:

- Housing Stability
- Employment & Income Stability
- Food & Nutrition
- Environmental Health
- Health & Well-Being
- Safety
- Education & Skill Building

Grant Application Process

The Community Resilience Advisory Council will oversee the Community Resilience Grant with staff support from the Community Resilience Director. This process will move through the following steps:

1. **Community Resilience Grant Orientations** were offered on May 23rd and June 2nd as an option to learn about this opportunity. The slides from the orientations are available on our website. The orientation included:
 - a. Introduction to Community Resilience at Foothills United Way.
 - b. **Resources** defined with an emphasis on meeting the needs of vulnerable residents through capacity building
 - c. **Relationships** defined with an emphasis on social capital indicators and the different types of social capital
 - d. Examples of Community Resilience Projects and how they build social/human capital.
 - e. Grant application process and requirements.
2. **Pre-Application**: Applicants who wish to receive assistance on their intended project may submit a project summary through our google form pre-application. (This is not required in order to submit the formal grant application.) Staff will review to ensure alignment with the Community Resilience Resource/Relationship definitions and offer technical assistance if requested. **The Grant Pre-Application will be open from June 13-July 15, 2016.**
3. **Grant Application**: Applicants are asked to complete the online Grant Application.
 - a. The Grant Application will be available online beginning Tuesday, June 14.
 - b. **The Grant Application will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, August 10, 2016.**
4. **Grant Awards Announcement**: Grant notification letters will go out by early November.

Grant Opportunity Details

- Qualifying Expenses: Community Resilience Grants will be available for one-time, time limited projects that:
 - Address the needs of vulnerable residents in Boulder and Broomfield Counties; and
 - Build the social capital of the applicant and/or the benefitting population.
- Grant Amount: Foothills United Way will make 6-12 Community Resilience Grant awards from \$500-\$50,000.
- Grant Period: These awards are available to fund projects over a 1 year time span.
- Reporting: A post-project report and budget will be required and grantees will be asked to remain in contact with the Community Resilience Director during the year.
- Technical Assistance: Foothills United Way volunteers/staff help ensure success of project goals. As appropriate, Foothills United Way will:
 - Provide tools to measure projects' process and outcomes
 - Act as a community broker
 - Provide subject matter expertise

Grant Application Assessment Criteria

Community Resilience Grants will be awarded to projects that:

1. Address an improvement in social capital in one or more area (bonding, linking bridging capital) for either the applicant or a benefitting population in order to qualify for a Community Resilience Grant.
2. Both assist residents vulnerable to or living in crisis by building social capital and provide assets or tools to meet these residents' needs.
3. Align with at least one of the 7 categories identified in the Social Determinants of Health.
4. Can be completed in a one-year time frame and can success with no further funding after that one year.

Grants will be assessed based on:

- **Integration**: How well does the project integrate vulnerable populations into a network of resources or the process attaining goals between organizations?
- **Inclusivity**: Does the project meet the needs of vulnerable populations? Are cultural brokers being used to make sure the project directly reflects the needs of the community served?
- **Integrity**: Does the project build social capital (using trust, reciprocity, shared understanding or shared values as key indicators)?
- **Innovation**: Is the project a new idea or more effective process to improve available resources and build relationships either within the community or applying organization? Is the project potentially scalable or replicable if successful?

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I apply?: Applications will be available on our website: www.UnitedWayFoothills.org

Do I have to be a 501c(3)? No

If my group is not a 501c(3), do we need a fiscal agent? Yes

Can applicants be individuals or do they need to be part of an organization or partnership? Applicants must be an organization or collaborative partnership that serves a charitable purpose.

How many grants will be awarded? 6-12 grants will be awarded. Awards range from \$500-\$50,000.

Can one organization apply for more than one resilience grant? Yes, though your projects would be in competition with each other.

Can one organization apply for more than one Foothills United Way grant? Yes

Where can I get more information about the other grants available through Foothills United Way? <http://unitedwayfoothills.org/grant-opportunities>

Does my project have to build all three types of Social Capital? No. Different communities may prioritize a certain type of networking and the resources gained based on such connections.

Does my project have to address BOTH resources AND relationships? Yes.

How often will I have to report on the success of our project? You will need to produce a post project report budget and stay in contact with the Community Resilience Director at Foothills United Way throughout the year.

When will the grant recipients be announced? November 2016

When will the funds be available for the grant recipients? Beginning in December 2016

Will you be accepting applications for Community Resilience Grants again in 2017? Yes, it is our intention that we will award funds for community resilience projects each year.

If you have questions about the Community Resilience Grant please contact:

Julie Phillips

Community Resilience Director

Julie.Phillips@UnitedWayFoothills.org

(303) 895-3420