Civic Engagement

WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN OUR DEMOCRACY IS EQUITABLE AND RESPONSIVE, REAL, LASTING CHANGE HAPPENS. WE HELP INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES INFLUENCE THE POLICY DECISIONS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT IMPACT THEIR LIVES. WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN INCREASING CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND BUILDING COALITIONS WITHIN OUR MOST VULNERABLE AND OFTEN UNDERRERSENTED COMMUNITIES.

To achieve positive systemic change, we must support the commitment of diverse grantees and partners to agree to a common agenda to address a specific social problem. We believe systemic change is a comprehensive way to address the root causes of the challenges affecting L.A. County’s most vulnerable residents.

Civic engagement holds the key to creating systems change that is driven by communities. It empowers individuals and communities to make their voices heard, gain a role in policy decisions and affect institutions that influence their futures and those of their families.

THE WAY FORWARD

Our approach to civic engagement is focused on building and increasing the capacity of underrepresented communities to affect lasting change. In civic deserts such as South, East and Southeast LA, as well as the San Fernando, San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys, problems of underinvestment and a lack of civic participation compound the challenges faced in addressing severe inequities and systemic problems.

These communities require stronger organizing, research, communications, public policy and coalition building capacity. Over the years, we have invested in initiatives and projects that nurture and empower communities, from convening to community organizing to building collaboration among community members, nonprofits and institutions.
Currently, we are focused on

- Investing in training and building the capacity of nonprofits to deepen civic engagement within the communities they serve.
- Partnering, leading and supporting collaborations and convenings in civic deserts, bringing community, policymakers, and key stakeholders together to address complex problems, assess opportunities and develop and implement systems level remedies.
- Building a regional advocacy and community organizing effort in the Southeast Cities to
  - Strengthen their nonprofit sector
  - Support the development of a strong regional identity
  - Encourage multisector collaboration around critical issues
  - Generate greater public and private investment in the region

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

To learn how you can join with the California Community Foundation to increase civic engagement and power community-driven change, please contact Program Officer Jacque Robinson-Baisley at jrobinsonbaisley@calfund.org, Director of Donor Relations Tammy Johnson at tjohnson@calfund.org or visit calfund.org/civicengagement.