

The grant application period is from Monday, January 4, 2016 to Friday, February 12, 2016. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 12, 2016 at 5:00 pm PST.

Overview

In August 2011, the California Community Foundation (CCF) launched a five-year initiative, Preparing Achievers for Tomorrow (PAT), to increase the participation of high school-aged youth in organized music, sports and recreation. The PAT program was made possible through a generous legacy gift from an anonymous donor who believed young individuals can learn the value of academic, social and life skills, make better life choices, and increase one's self-esteem through enriching, organized programs. The PAT initiative is now in its final year and is drawing to a close.

Research has shown that high school-aged youth who lack access to quality extracurricular activities, and thus, access to structured (team-oriented) activities and opportunities to express their emotions, are at increasingly high risk of dropping out of school and becoming isolated from mainstream society. Studies have revealed that youth who participate in organized music, sports and recreational perform better in school, have better interpersonal skills, are more team-oriented, and are generally healthier.

To address these challenges, CCF is partnering with Los Angeles County-based nonprofit organizations in Service Planning Areas 6 (South Los Angeles) and 8 (South Bay) to improve the academic achievement, decision-making skills and self-esteem of youth ages 14-18 by increasing exposure and participation in music, sports and recreation. ***Nonprofit organizations serving a client population with the majority of youth living in underserved areas within SPAs 6 and 8 will be given priority in the grant decision-making process.***

Equally important to PAT's anonymous donor is the sustainability of nonprofit organizations. In addition to funding, PAT grantees receive hands-on coaching, training and the Core Capacity Assessment Tool survey to develop their organizational capacity and evaluation skills. These added resources will strengthen nonprofit organizations to better serve today's youth and their community. PAT grant recipients participate in technical assistance meetings to learn how to complete CCF's reporting requirements, as well as administer pre- and post-program youth surveys and track grades and attendance. Please refer to the **PAT Grantee Work Plan** for a partial list of workshops and activities in which PAT grantees are expected to participate.

What We Fund and Grant Amounts

The Foundation invites non-profit organizations to apply for a **one-year grant** in the last year of PAT funding. The grant can be structured in one of the following ways:

- (1) project-based music, sports and recreation grants, and
 - (2) capacity building grants.
- Total request can be up to \$100,000, however the overall request should not exceed more than 25% of an organization's overall one year project budget.
 - Up to 25% of a total requested amount may be allocated for capacity building needs of the organization to improve and strengthen evaluation capacity, financial management, board governance development, individual donor development, succession/transition planning, update strategic plans, and/or marketing and communication development.

- Capacity building support will be included in each project-related grant and peer learning groups will also be formed to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, networking and group learning.

Eligibility Criteria for participation include the following:

- Existing project has a track record of **at least two years** of proven success in providing existing music, sports or recreation¹ programs for low-income underserved youth ages 14-18 in the targeted geographic areas of South Los Angeles and underserved South Bay communities
- **Demonstrated ability** and commitment to track quantitative client outcomes (e.g., grades, school attendance, etc.)
- Demonstrated ability to **maintain youth participation** and to **secure additional** matching funds
- A **sustainable** plan for the project beyond funding period
- **Established partnerships** with South Los Angeles and South Bay high schools (**Principal/Leadership letter of support required**)
- Strong organizational **leadership**
- Preference will be given to those organizations that are **headquartered** in SPA 6 and SPA 8

Desired Outcomes

This grantmaking strategy seeks to impact the lives of youth in South Los Angeles and underserved areas of the South Bay region as measured by one or more of the following indicators:

Project-based support

- Improved academic achievement
- Increased participation in music, sports or recreational activities
- Improved school attendance
- Improved social behavior
- Continued educational advancement
- Increased access to professional mentors and exposure to alternative business career opportunities

Additionally, this grantmaking strategy seeks to strengthen organizations engaged in this work in one or more of the following areas:

Capacity building support

- Board Governance Development
- Individual Donor Development
- Financial Management
- Succession/Transition Planning
- Marketing and Communication Development
- Create/Update Strategic Plan

All applicants will receive notification on their application status by June 2016. For more information about the PAT program, including a list of current grantees, visit www.calfund.org/pat.

¹ For the PAT initiative, recreation is defined as an activity or pastime that allows youth to express creativity and master new skills. The specific activity should take place outside of the classroom. Examples of current PAT grantees offering recreational programs include Tomorrow’s Aeronautical Museum, Compton Jr. Posse, New Earth, 24th Street Theatre, Woodcraft Rangers and YMCA of Greater Long Beach’s Youth Institute.