

Funding Opportunity

Investing in Impact: Community-Directed Giving through Intermediaries

St. David's Foundation is pleased to announce the *Investing in Impact* open call.

Background

As outlined in the Foundation's strategic plan, [Pathways to Health Equity](#), we aspire to focus more of our investments and action in communities with the greatest health needs in Central Texas, acknowledging that some of those communities are also the populations and places about which the Foundation knows the least.

To advance this work, the Foundation must begin by:

- Learning *from* the communities we are trying to better understand
- Fostering trust *among* the communities we look to serve
- Investing *in* local relationships
- Offering *resources into* communities

St. David's Foundation seeks to identify and work with established local partners to serve in an intermediary role to foster connections between the Foundation and communities with the greatest health needs in Central Texas.

For the purpose of this Open Call, we are using the term "intermediaries," which we define as established local entities that engage in activities such as re-granting, hosting pooled funds, program design and management, fiscal sponsorship, convening organizations, and a variety of other efforts to build organizational and personal capacity. Intermediaries fulfill a critical role, creating vital links between a funder and its intended beneficiaries.

St. David's Foundation seeks nonprofit partners for the role of an intermediary to foster collaborative, grassroots grantmaking while learning from the communities we are trying to better understand.

With this funding opportunity, we seek to invest in the capacity of community-rooted intermediaries with the potential to re-grant St. David's Foundation funding to serve low-resourced entities, emerging nonprofits, grassroots organizations with limited infrastructure, neighborhood associations, informal community networks, community-

based initiatives, and community constituents toward the Foundation’s mission of advancing health equity.

Long-term success will be realized when the Central Texas funder ecosystem includes a more robust infrastructure that brings resources closer to the communities with the greatest health needs in our geography so that these communities can co-create solutions to achieve their health priorities.

Funding Opportunity

The *Investing in Impact: Community-Directed Giving through Intermediaries* open call is focused on **building the capacity of intermediary organizations to re-grant Foundation resources through a community-directed and participatory process that reflects the needs, voices, and priorities of communities with the greatest health needs.**

Through this grantmaking effort, we will learn with awarded grantees how organizations operating as intermediaries could allow the Foundation to leverage local expertise and insights to identify organizations, networks, initiatives, and services that would have the greatest impact and address the most needed health priorities in communities and regions with the most significant health needs.

Grants will be used to **strengthen the capacity of the intermediary organization to be a more effective, community-accountable partner in distributing resources in the service of advancing health equity.** Examples of capacity building needs include, but are not limited to:

- **Building the capacity of the applicant organization to fund and support smaller, low-resource entities** including, but not limited to: emerging nonprofits, grassroots organizations with limited infrastructure, neighborhood associations, informal community networks, community-based movements, and community constituents
- **Testing and implementing community-directed giving that equips communities and individuals to achieve their own health priorities.** This may include:
 - **Identification of health priorities by various constituencies** and how those priorities are catalyzed through funding to serve smaller, low-resource entities as described
 - **Demonstration of understanding of health equity by local communities** and how it is advanced through the distribution of funding to serve smaller, low-resource entities as described
 - **Representation of community voice** in the decision-making about the distribution of funding to serve smaller, low-resource entities

- **Developing a sustainable business model** that allows the operations of the applicant organization to continue over time
- **Developing and improving processes** to ensure that community representation, community direction, community decision-making, and community voice are optimized in the resource distribution process
- **Supporting capacity of the applicant** in financial management, grant application processes, communication, grant decision-making methodologies, funding distribution mechanisms, grant management systems, grant reporting, community engagement, and community accountability
- **Accessing operational support** for staffing and other internal needs to help the organization thrive

Eligibility Criteria

- Operate in one or more of the following Central Texas counties: Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson.
- A tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Evidence of:
 - Functioning as an intermediary organization
 - Potential to re-grant Foundation resources through a community-directed process that reflects the needs, voices, and priorities of communities with the greatest health needs

Note: Organizations with an existing St. David's Foundation grant funding may apply.

How to Apply

The *Investing in Impact: Community-Directed Giving through Intermediaries* open call will open on July 31, 2024. Organizations intending to apply **must submit an initial Letter of Intent (LOI) by 5:00 CDT on September 13, 2024**. LOIs will be reviewed for compliance with eligibility criteria and alignment with the goals of this open call. Applicants will receive notice of LOI decisions by September 27, 2024.

Organizations meeting the open call requirements will be invited to participate in a streamlined application process. The **deadline for application is October 25, 2024**.

We will host an optional informational webinar where your organization can learn more about this opportunity and ask questions. Registration details below:

***Investing in Impact* webinar, August 14th at 4:00 p.m. – [Click here to register](#) (or copy and paste the following link into your browser):**
https://stdavidsfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vnGANp3qSwGwQKCOexBQWg#/registration

Contact Information:

For programmatic questions, please email: questions@stdavidsfoundation.org

For technical questions, please email: grantsinfo@stdavidsfoundation.org

Grant Details

The Foundation expects to award up to \$4M in funding through this open call. Grant announcements will be made in December 2024.

Each awardee will receive an unrestricted, one-time grant. Award size will be based on scale of proposed project, the organization’s potential for impact through community-directed giving, and the organization’s annual budget.

Organizations selected for grants will be asked to share their learnings in the two years following the grant award through annual reports, learning and evaluation conversations, and participation in up to three grantee convenings over two years.

Rubric for Decision-making

The rubric below will be used as a decision-making framework for assessing how each application aligns with the Foundation’s objective to **support community-directed giving through initiatives and institutions to advance health equity**.

Categories	Possible Points
1. Equity-focused: <i>Impacts individuals and families (or the underlying conditions and inequitable systems that affect individuals and families) whose income falls below the minimum level necessary for survival, and/or historically marginalized communities or groups</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>
2. Potential for Impact: <i>Demonstrates plan to build capacity in developing, monitoring, and administering applications and managing grants in partnership with private and/or public funders</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 points</p>
3. Of and By Community: <i>Reflects and represents the experiences and perspectives of community partners, their issues, and their constituents with pathways for community members to influence and shape decisions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 points</p>
4. Team Capacity: <i>Includes the depth of skills, capacity, and experience necessary to ensure the organization’s continued success and ability to facilitate and manage communication and relationships with diverse organizations and networks</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>
5. Health Equity Innovation: <i>Has mechanisms in place to understand dynamic health equity needs and underlying systemic drivers and evolves approaches in response</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>
6. Collaboration: <i>Exhibits productive and mission-driven partnerships, coalition-building, and collaboration</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 points</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">40 TOTAL</p>

Rubric Details

#1: EQUITY-FOCUSED

Rate the extent to which the applicant impacts individuals and families (or the underlying conditions and inequitable systems that affect individuals and families) whose income falls below the minimum level necessary for survival, or historically marginalized communities or groups, through the organization’s mission and work on the following scale:

EQUITY UNADDRESSED	
0 points	Organization does not impact individuals and families whose income falls below the minimum level necessary for survival, or historically marginalized communities or groups within its mission or work.
6 points	Organization impacts individuals and families whose income falls below the minimum level necessary for survival, and/or historically marginalized communities or groups through its mission and work.
10 points	Organization impacts underlying conditions and inequitable systems that affect individuals and families whose income falls below the minimum level necessary for survival, and/or historically marginalized communities or groups through its mission and work.
EQUITY CENTERED	

#2 POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT

Rate the extent to which the organization demonstrates significant success or has a fully developed plan to build capacity in developing, monitoring, and administering applications and managing grants in partnership with private and/or public funders, on the following scale:

LOW POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT	
0 points	Organization does not have and/or plans to have knowledge of and experience developing, monitoring, and administering applications and managing grants in partnership with private and/or public funders.
6 points	Organization demonstrates early signs of success and/or has plan to build capacity in developing, monitoring, and administering applications and managing grants in partnership with private and/or public funders.

10 points	Organization demonstrates significant success or has a fully developed plan to build capacity in developing, monitoring, and administering applications and managing grants in partnership with private and/or public funders.
HIGH POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT	

#3 OF AND BY COMMUNITY

Rate the extent to which the organization authentically reflects and represents the experiences and perspectives of community partners, their issues, and their constituents with pathways for community members to influence and shape decisions on the following scale:

ABSENCE OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP	
0 points	Organization is not at all reflective or representative of the experiences and perspectives of community partners, their issues, and their constituents and does not have pathways for community members to influence and shape decisions
6 points	Organization is somewhat reflective or representative of the experiences and perspectives of community partners, their issues, and their constituents and has preliminary pathways for community members to influence and shape decisions.
10 points	Organization, including its leadership, is fully reflective and representative of the experiences and perspectives of community partners, their issues, and their constituents and has clear pathways for community members to influence and shape decisions.
MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP	

#4: TEAM CAPACITY

Rate the extent to which the team has the depth of skills, capacity, and experience necessary to ensure the organization’s continued success and ability to facilitate and manage communication and relationships with diverse organizations and networks:

LIMITED CAPACITY	
0 points	Organization leadership and staff lack required skills, capacity, and/or experience to ensure the organization’s continued success and ability to facilitate and manage communication and relationships with diverse organizations and networks.
3 points	Organization leadership and staff have skills, capacity, and experience to ensure the organization’s continued success and ability to facilitate and manage communication and relationships with diverse organizations and networks.
5 points	Organization leadership and staff exceed expectations of depth of skills, capacity, and experience to ensure the organization’s continued success and ability to facilitate and manage communication and relationships with diverse organizations and networks.
ROBUST CAPACITY	

#5: HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION

Rate the extent to which the organization has mechanisms in place to understand dynamic health equity needs and underlying systemic drivers, and evolves approaches in response, on the following scale:

LIMITED INNOVATION	
0 points	Organization does not have mechanisms in place to understand dynamic health equity needs and underlying systemic drivers and does not demonstrate the ability to evolve approaches in response to needs . Organization is unlikely to innovate to advance health equity.
3 points	Organization has limited mechanisms in place to understand dynamic health equity needs and underlying systemic drivers and evolve approaches in response . Organization has potential to innovate to advance health equity.
5 points	Organization has robust mechanisms in place to understand dynamic health equity needs and the underlying systemic drivers and evolves approaches . Organization is positioned well to innovate to advance health equity.
ROBUST INNOVATION	

#6: COLLABORATION

Rate the extent to which the organization exhibits productive and mission-driven partnerships, coalition-building, and collaboration on the following scale:

ABSENCE OF COLLABORATION	
0 points	Organization does not exhibit productive and mission-driven partnerships, coalition building, or collaboration. Organization is unlikely to collaborate with community partners to advance their mission.
3 points	Organization somewhat exhibits productive and mission-driven partnerships, coalition building, and/or collaboration. Organization is likely to maintain and expand community partnerships to advance their mission.
5 points	Organization exhibits productive and mission-driven partnership, coalition, or collaboration. Organization has a proven track record of maintaining and expanding meaningful community partnerships.
MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY COLLABORATION	

About St. David's Foundation

St. David's Foundation is a community-focused and equity-driven organization supporting health and wellness in five Central Texas counties – Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson. As one of the largest health foundations in the United States, SDF funds over \$80 million in grants annually. Through a unique partnership with St. David's HealthCare, the Foundation reinvests proceeds from the hospital system into the community to advance health equity and improve the health and well-being of our most under-resourced Central Texas neighbors. St. David's Foundation also operates the largest [mobile dental program](#) providing charity care in the country and offers the largest healthcare [scholarship program in Texas](#).

