



2017 Accelerator Awards Guidelines

The Santa Barbara Foundation seeks to support compelling projects, approaches, or organizational structures that provide effective pathways to problem solving and improved community outcomes. The foundation is committed to deepening its impact throughout Santa Barbara County by supporting innovative projects and approaches that transform how the community addresses the critical problems and great opportunities of our time. To help fuel and ‘accelerate’ important community efforts, the Santa Barbara Foundation is infusing significant resources into a newly created Accelerator fund to accomplish these goals.

Focus

Accelerator Awards are intended to support transformative projects at a level justified by their significant impact on the quality of life for Santa Barbara County residents, and based on strong evidence that they can solve critical community problems. Through Accelerator Awards, the Santa Barbara Foundation seeks opportunities to support the development of the best concepts and vision for Santa Barbara County.

Funds are available for:

- new projects or programs that address timely or relevant issues or opportunities
- existing projects or programs taking a fresh approach or new twist to solving problems
- innovative ideas or approaches that go beyond marginal improvements in the existing programs and services offered in the sector
- collaborations and partnerships
- projects or programs that go beyond the exploratory and planning phases and are ready to advance to the next level
- transformation of an organization, sector, or service delivery system for greater effectiveness and improved community outcomes

Funding Amounts and Duration

Recognizing that a larger investment may be required to achieve greater outcomes, grant awards may be up to **\$500,000** for projects that have met all the criteria and priorities stated in these guidelines and have a demonstrated capacity to implement the project. Multi-year grant commitments of up to two years may also be considered.

Priority

Priority will be given to projects or programs that:

- have a compelling hypothesis or theory of change
- are evidence-based and have a demonstrated need, desire, and acceptability within the community
- provide multi-benefits across sectors and community interests – social, environmental, economic
- have clearly identified outcomes for the grant period (1-3 years)
- are tied to or part of an overarching community plan or vision
- include an evaluation or measurement component to track progress and success
- have assessed the viability of the proposed activities and the project partners have a demonstrated capacity to manage the scale and scope of the project
- have other funding partners or potential to leverage other funding sources
- incorporate a strong financial model and plan for long-term sustainability and/or a defined exit strategy
- demonstrate readiness for ‘acceleration’ funding to implement – pilot or launch new project or program, or expand or scale up an existing program

Eligibility Requirements

- Organizations must be certified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or use a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) tax status.
- Government agencies, universities, and schools or special districts may qualify for funding through a support foundation or a nonprofit partner serving as the fiscal agent. In some circumstances the foundation will consider direct funding to government agencies or schools if a support organization is not feasible.

Application Process

A **Letter of Inquiry (LOI)** is required prior to an invitation to submit a formal application for the Accelerator Awards grant program. The Santa Barbara Foundation welcomes LOIs year-round from eligible organizations based on the guidelines. The foundation has a continuous committee review process so LOIs may be submitted at any time. We will respond within 1-3 months, informing the applicant whether there is sufficient interest to pursue a formal proposal. An invitation to submit a proposal does not guarantee funding.

The LOI should include:

- A completed Accelerator LOI Cover Sheet
- A narrative summary of the project on the letterhead of the lead or sponsoring organization or institution

Letter of Inquiry Format

The LOI should describe the proposed work in 5-6 pages beginning with a summary paragraph of the proposed project and the primary goal or outcome, as well as the amount of funding you are seeking from the Santa Barbara Foundation. For the remainder of the letter, please address each of the questions below. Keep responses succinct so as not to exceed the 6-page limit.

The 10 Questions

1. What is the critical community issue being addressed and why is it being approached through this effort?
2. How is this issue solvable or significantly impacted at the local (or regional) level by this effort?
3. What is innovative or transformative about this project or approach?
4. What is the capacity within the nonprofit sector and broader community or 'system' to take on this effort? How does this effort fit into the overall landscape surrounding this issue and who are the community partners involved in this effort?
5. Are there other funders involved or is there potential to generate investment from other funding sources?
6. Why is this effort critical now (what happens if we don't move forward versus what happens if we do)?
7. What are the risks and who might not be in favor of this effort?
8. What is the track-record of the project or effort thus far – what has been accomplished, and, in particular, what has happened to move this effort forward the past year?
9. Where do you anticipate the proposed project or effort being 1-3 years from now and how, specifically, will you know that the goals have been achieved? What are the evaluation measures you will use?
10. Why would this grant award be a good thing for Santa Barbara Foundation and for community philanthropy in general?

LOI Submittal Procedures

- LOIs are accepted electronically via email.
- Attach your completed Accelerator LOI cover sheet and the narrative in an electronic format (.pdf or Word document) to an email using the **Attach File** feature.
- Include the name of your organization and the name of this grant program in the email subject line. (Example: My Nonprofit Accelerator LOI)
- Email the materials to grants@sbfoundation.org.

Contact Information

For questions about the Accelerator Awards, please contact Phylene Wiggins or Sharyn Main at (805) 963-1873 or by email.

Phylene Wiggins, Senior Director of Community Investments
pwiggins@sbfoundation.org

Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investments
smain@sbfoundation.org



2017 Accelerator Awards LOI Cover Sheet

Please completely fill out the form and return to grants@sbfoundation.org.

Submission date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Name of Lead Organization: _____

Project partners or collaborators:

Mailing address: _____

Contact person: _____ Contact person's title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Executive director: _____ ED's email: _____

Is this organization a registered 501(c)(3)? Yes No* Tax ID number (EIN): _____

***If the organization is not a registered 501(c)(3), please provide the following information:**

Fiscal sponsor organization name: _____

Fiscal sponsor mailing address: _____

Fiscal sponsor EIN number: _____

Proposal Information:

Project Title: _____

Description of project (in 1-3 sentences):

Which of the following geographic area(s) will this request impact? Please check all that apply.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpinteria | <input type="checkbox"/> Goleta/Isla Vista | <input type="checkbox"/> Guadalupe | <input type="checkbox"/> Lompoc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Maria | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ynez Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Where will the funds be used? _____ % North County _____ % South County _____ % Mid-County

Amount requested: _____

Is this a new project? Yes No

Total project budget: _____

Expected project duration: _____

Total budget of your organization: _____

Date of project start-up (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Program Budget -- Please do not include commas in your financial figures

Program Request: \$ _____

Budget dates for grant period: _____

NOTE: Typically, **Total Program Income = Pending Income + Secured Income**

INCOME

Possible categories: Government grants, foundation grants, individuals, business support, events, fees for service, etc.

Source	Total Prog. (\$)	Pending (\$)	Secured (\$)	Notes
TOTAL INCOME				

List any in-kind (non-cash) contributions:

EXPENSES

Possible categories: Salaries, professional fees, rent and utilities, travel, publicity/outreach, events, capital items, etc.

Item	Total Prog. (\$)	This Request (\$)	Notes
TOTAL EXPENSES			

Organization Balance Sheet Summary -- Please do not include commas in your financial figures

	MOST CURRENT (\$) ____/____/____ mm dd yyyy	PRIOR YEAR CLOSE (\$) ____/____/____ mm dd yyyy
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Equivalents		
Accounts Receivable		
Prepaid Expenses		
Inventory		
Grants/Pledges Receivable		
Other		
Other		
Fixed Assets (Net)		
Property		
Buildings		
Equipment		
Investments		
Endowments		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accrued Expenses		
Long Term Debt (Current Portion)		
Short Term Debt		
Other		
Other		
Long Term Debt (over a year)		
Loan		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL LIABILITIES		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Temporarily Restricted		
Permanently Restricted		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		

Board of Directors/Governing Body

Organization: _____

How often does the Board/Governing Body meet? _____

Name	City	Affiliation/Profession	Board Position	Years of Service

Collaborative Roster

Please list the organizations and individuals involved in the collaborative project and their affiliation.

Leading Organization Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Name	City	Organization/Affiliation	Position/Role	Years of Service