

PROGRAM HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The San Diego Foundation is committed to inspiring enduring philanthropy and enabling community solutions to improve the quality of life in our region. The Foundation Education Initiative was established through the newly launched strategic plan and The Foundation's vision for just, equitable and resilient communities to advance educational equity for all San Diego students. Too many students lack access to basic needs, including food, housing, mental health care, social-emotional support, technology and internet, and transportation. When students cannot adequately focus on learning because they struggle to meet their basic needs, college success and degree attainment may be out of reach. The ability to persist and complete college can be completely impeded when students are struggling to feed themselves, house themselves and care for their physical and emotional health.

Investing in students' ability to meet their basic needs, is an investment in degree attainment and career success and prosperity for San Diego students. Access to these supports is critical for ensuring strong academic performance and hope and confidence in the college journey. Together these factors increase persistence and graduation and improve wellbeing among students enrolled in postsecondary studies.

The Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation's College Success initiative defines basic needs initiatives as direct student supports/interventions that target everyday needs affecting college students' wellbeing and academic performance.

As stated by the Recovery with Equity report published in August of 2020, "As of July 2020, the percentage of students who expressed 'a lot' of concern about paying for housing and food, affording adequate technology/internet, caring for family members, and maintaining personal health and wellbeing had more than tripled since before the pandemic."

Among the heightened challenges facing students is the strain on mental health caused by, but not limited to, unstable learning environments, financial struggles, and grief and loss. Early enrollment data suggests such concerns have resulted in would-be graduates delaying enrollment or altogether abandoning post-secondary studies. Taking a closer look at early enrollment data, we see the California Community Colleges system had a 5.2% enrollment drop in 2020, an increase of 55% in course withdrawals, and a 17% decline in course enrollment. Community colleges traditionally enroll lower-income, first-generation and minority students. These campuses also see more students who are English-language learners, have learning disabilities, and have the most financial need.

While there were ambitious hopes of an uptick, enrollment declines have continued. A December 2021 report from the National Student Clearing House shows that the fall 2021 numbers demonstrate bachelor's degree-seeking students at four-year colleges make up about half of the shrinkage in undergraduate students, a big shift from the fall of 2020, when most of the declines were among associate degree seekers. The study found that of the 2020 high school graduates who chose not to enroll in college after graduation, only 2% ended up enrolling a year later, in the fall of 2021. When the National Student Clearinghouse looked at 2020 high school graduates, it found students from lower-income schools had lower college-going numbers, as did students at high-minority high schools. A January 2022 report from The National Student Clearinghouse revealed that overall, more than 1 million fewer students are enrolled in college now than before the pandemic began, disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable populations.

As a philanthropic leader that is deeply dedicated to educational equity, The San Diego Foundation is well-positioned to connect current and future postsecondary students with supports that help toward achieving academic success. While already supporting a cohort of college and success partners through the Community Scholars Initiative, The San Diego Foundation is dedicated to supporting the whole student by fulfilling basic needs.

Partnering with college access and success partners to address and support basic needs creates a clear connection to communities with the greatest need. College access and success partners do the life-changing day-to-day work of supporting students and their families on their journey toward college graduation and know precisely the specific necessities of their communities. The San Diego Foundation Education Initiative team aims to support college access and success partners who are committed to bridging the gap between basic needs and college success for students who are furthest from opportunity. Providing support to address the basic needs of students will allow these dedicated nonprofit organizations to better support students and families by alleviating some of the stresses that may cause dropout, stop out - the temporary state of not attending college classes - or delayed graduation.

THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The San Diego Foundation is seeking proposals from college success nonprofit organizations that are providing or connecting students to supports that address basic needs as part of college success programs. These supports can include:

- A.** Increasing students' access to nutritious and sufficient food
- B.** Connecting students to safe, secure, and adequate housing (to sleep, study, cook and shower)
- C.** Programs to promote sustained mental and physical wellbeing and social-emotional support
- D.** Connections to affordable transportation assistance
- E.** Resources for personal hygiene care
- F.** Emergency funds
- G.** Access to affordable and reliable internet access as well as technology devices

GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The Foundation is interested in hearing from nonprofit organizations about the various ways they support basic needs as part of college access and degree attainment strategies and how this grant opportunity will advance priorities. We seek to fund organizations that prioritize community-informed strategic approaches to support low-income, underrepresented students who are the first in their families to go to college. The proposals can address any of the above basic needs as part of a broad suite of services and programs to increase resilience and success. Proposals may also include any other components the partner finds will assist their target student population to meet basic and foundational needs.

Proposed programs should be executed by June 30, 2023.

The amount available for funding is \$400,000. The San Diego Foundation anticipates providing funding for 7-10 nonprofits at a range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per grant.

ELIGIBILITY

This grant opportunity is open to organizations that are nonprofit with a 501(c)(3) public charity status in good standing, located in San Diego County. Organizations must have the capacity to fully execute the proposed program by June 30, 2023. The grant opportunity is targeted toward college access and success programs that are based in and serve students in San Diego County. Priority will be given to organizations that work with student populations who are furthest from opportunity. This grant opportunity will not fund endowments, existing obligations/debt, or projects that promote religious or political doctrines.

METRICS OF SUCCESS AND REPORTING

Each organization will define its own metrics of success for the purpose of this grant. These metrics may be organizational, programmatic or both in nature. The Request for Proposal asks each applicant to define its metrics, indicators and measurement conventions. A final report sharing lessons learned will be anticipated by August 31, 2023. A report template will be provided at least one month in advance.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Review the questions below, [submit your application via MyTSDF](#) by 2 p.m., April 8, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Cecilia Morales at cmorales@sdfoundation.org or (619) 814-1367.

REVIEW PROCESS

Responses to this request for proposal will be reviewed by Foundation staff and a staff member may follow up with you to conduct a further inquiry or address clarifying questions. Staff will then submit final recommendations to The San Diego Foundation Board of Governors for approval. Once funded, grantees will receive guidance on the reporting obligations.

Thank you for your interest, time and dedication to San Diego's students.

APPLICATION QUESTION PREVIEW

Prepare your responses to the following in a Microsoft Word document and submit via [MyTSDF](#) by 2 p.m., April 8, 2022. Note that when copying and pasting from a Microsoft Word document, answers which are over the word count may be cut off. Feel free to write in the style that is most comfortable for you.

*Required

Organization Information

- *Name of Organization:
- *EIN Number:
- *Organization website:
- *Organization Address: Please input the official address or PO Box associated with the organization (residential addresses are not allowed). If awarded, the grant check will be mailed to the organization's address listed below unless your organization has a fiscal sponsor.

- Street Address:
- Suite Number:
- City:
- State:
- Zip Code:
- Phone Number:
- *Primary Contact: This is the contact person in your organization who is submitting this proposal, can answer questions about the program and serves as a key contact for reporting purposes.
 - First Name:
 - Last Name:
 - Email:
 - Phone Number:
- *Signatory Contact: This is the person in your organization who has the legal authority to execute the grant agreement on behalf of your organization, usually the CEO, Executive Director or Board Chair.
 - First Name:
 - Last Name:
 - Title:
 - Email:
 - Phone Number:
- *Upload Annual Operating Budget:
- Fiscal Sponsor Information (if applicable)
 - Fiscal Sponsor Organization Name:
 - Fiscal Sponsor Organization EIN:
 - Street Address:
 - City:
 - State:
 - Zip Code:
- *Organization Mission Statement:
- *Organizational Strength, Capacity and Past Performance: Describe your organization's strengths and how your organization has accomplished relevant work in the past. (Max 200 words)
- *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: How does your organization, including board, leadership and key staff implementing this program, reflect the community you are serving? How do you incorporate student voice and experience in your program design? Share insights into any other measures your organization takes to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in your program. (Max 300 words)

- *Current College Success Programming: Describe the current college access and success program(s) your organization offers. What does your curriculum prioritize? What specific student populations do you typically serve? How many days per week and hours per day do students engage with your program? What are the unique features or accomplishments of your college success offerings? What is expected of a student to be considered a program graduate? (Max 500 words)

Program Budget and Financials

- *Total Amount (\$) Requested for the Program/Project:
- *Program Budget Overview: Attach a program budget that details your anticipated expenses for your proposed program. [Click here for the link to the Budget Template.](#) Download and mirror this format when submitting your budget.
- *Upload Program Budget
- *Upload Most Recent 990 Form
- *Budget Narrative: Describe and provide as many specific details as possible to help us understand how funding will be used. (Max 200 words)

Program Information

- *Program/Project Name:
- *Brief Description: Provide a brief description of your proposal's approach, program's format for delivery, target student population, and what makes it unique. (Max 100 words)
- *Service Area (Check all that apply): Indicate which of the following region(s) is the region you will deliver all or majority of your program. Refer to this [map](#) to determine zip codes and service area.
 - All of San Diego County
 - Central San Diego County
 - East San Diego County
 - North Central San Diego County
 - North Inland San Diego County
 - South San Diego County
- *Zip Codes: List the zip codes associated with the region(s) you will serve with the proposed program.
- *Current Basic Needs Efforts and Community Insights: Describe broadly why and how your organization addresses basic needs as a college success and degree attainment strategy. (Max 300 words)
- *Priority Strategy: Select the priority strategy that your project will incorporate
 - Food security
 - Housing security
 - Social emotional learning
 - Mental health support
 - Physical health support

- Affordable transportation
- Personal hygiene care
- Emergency needs for students with dependents
- Digital access and technology
- Other
- *Detailed Proposed Program Overview: Describe in detail your planned program strategies to meet the current community needs. How did you come to determine and define these strategies? (Max 250 words)
- *Anticipated Number of Students Served:
- *Special Student Population: Select the unique student populations this program is designed to serve. Be specific in your response and avoid a blanket selection of all populations if possible. Use the 'Other' section if none of these population descriptions apply.
 - Asian Pacific Islander
 - Black
 - Disconnected Youth
 - English Language Learners
 - Foster Youth
 - Homeless/Housing Insecure
 - Immigrants and Refugees
 - Indigenous
 - Justice-Involved Youth
 - Latinx
 - LGBTQ+
 - Low-Income
 - Military
 - Students with individualized education plans and 504 plans
 - Underrepresented racial and ethnic communities
 - Other
- *Target student population narrative: Use this section to further describe how your program is designed to serve the intended student population. (Max 200 words)
- *Expected Outcomes: Summarize your expected outcomes in bulleted form of no more than 3-6 points that this funding can either fully or partially help you achieve. Use the SMART framework: Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Results-focused and Time-Specific. (These outcomes will form the basis of the grant agreement and grant reporting. Outcomes should be clear enough that you can report on progress towards these quantitative metrics. This section does not need any rationale, simply your outcomes.) (Max 200 words)

- Measurement and Evaluation: How do you define success related to your proposed programming? Describe your evaluation efforts, how you measure impact and track for success. (Max 200 words)
- Partnerships: List and briefly describe the nature of any existing partnerships with schools, districts, government or other community-based organization you leverage for the delivery of your programs. (Max 150 words)

Supplemental Questions (Optional)

- These questions are optional and will not be included in any decision-making during the review of your application. Recognizing the valuable knowledge and insight service providers gain from their work, The San Diego Foundation continuously strives to learn from our grantees.
- What are the three most critical issues impacting your sector? (List in bulleted form)
- What are three top opportunities you see for your organization to expand your work and impact? (List in bulleted form)
- What are three ways that can increase collaboration between partners in your sector? (List in bulleted form)