



50 Fund Game Changer Grant Program  
Community Investment Opportunity

### The Opportunity

50 Fund seeks eligible nonprofit organizations to apply for up to 4 one-time general operating grants of \$250,000 each to nurture the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of Bay Area children, youth, and young adults through place-based investments in the economic, social and physical infrastructure of their communities.

Specifically, 50 Fund will consider CAPITAL investments that close the financing gap on mostly funded projects, provide fixtures, furnishing, and equipment (FFE) necessary for program scale or increased effectiveness, or retire asset-backed debt to materially free up free cash flow for greater program investment.

50 Fund will also consider COLLABORATION investments, based on a [Collective Impact](#) framework, that have been formal for at least one (1) year at the time of application and propose to significantly deepen reach in existing communities or expand programs or services to new communities.

In EITHER area, and unchanged from the first Game Changer round, investments will be made in organizations that use evidence-based or informed approaches, have a track record of effectiveness and demonstrate the potential for greater scale.

- Evidence-based or informed  
Interventions are based on a theory of change and have fidelity to third-party evaluations by measurement experts
- Track record of effectiveness  
Codified, quantitative and qualitative measurement of impact (both outputs and outcomes); applicant exhibits an organizational learning culture
- Potential for greater scale  
Proposes material impact, relative to track record, that is directly achievable through 50 Fund investment

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**General Eligibility Criteria**

- A 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a registered office in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area
- Propose efforts that directly impact San Francisco Bay Area children, youth, and young adults from birth through 24 years of age who reside in low-income households or high-risk communities, including public systems (e.g. foster care or juvenile justice). Preference will be given to applicants that propose investments in projects located in or primarily serving beneficiaries living in [Qualified Census Tracts](#)
- Have an operating budget of equal to or greater than \$1 million in the most recently concluded fiscal year (or tax year 2013, whichever is later)
- Be at least 5 years from the organization's founding at the time of application and have 3 years of experience in the program for which funding is requested.

**Specific Eligibility Criteria**

**CAPITAL**

- Projects still in development or in 'campaign phase' must be 75% or more funded at the time of application. Strong preference will be given to applicants whose capital projects will 'break ground' within 6 months of receiving the Game Changer grant.
- Fixtures, furnishing, and equipment (FFE) applicants must demonstrate direct and highly correlated links between the resources to be purchased and the evidence-based or informed intervention proposed by the applicant. Moreover, the 50 Fund Game Changer grant must either fully fund the total costs of the purchase or be the only additional funding needed to fully fund the total costs of the purchase.
- Asset-backed debt retirement must show evidence of a track record of on-time repayment for at least three (3) years and a balance that would be materially reduced by the Game Changer grant. The applicant must also demonstrate that the resulting increase in free cash flow would be investment in program execution resulting in greater scale and impact.

**COLLABORATION**

- One organization within the collaboration must serve as the lead applicant and meet the general eligibility criteria as described above.

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- All collaborating organizations included in the application must have formal documents of collaboration with the lead applicant with specific reference to the collaboration that are at least twelve (12) months old at the time of application.
- Collaboration applicants must propose programs or services that are provided within the zip code where the majority of the beneficiaries reside. Moreover, applicants must demonstrate that community residents are engaged with a spirit of inclusion and interdependence
- Collaboration applicants must demonstrate that they champion issues and efforts beyond the scope of their particular roles and agencies, demonstrating commitment to the community as a whole
- Applicants must document a history of financial support for the collaboration and the potential to leverage the 50 Fund's Game Changer grant to attract sustaining resources

### Timeline

- December 1, 2015: Game Changer Grant Program opens
- December 10, 2015 at 1pm PST: Webinar
- December 15, 2015 at 10am PST: Webinar
- December 17, 2015: FAQs online
- January 9, 2016 at 11:59pm PST: Application due date
- January 25, 2016: Grants announced

### Additional information

Questions about your Game Changers application should be sent to [gamechangers@50fund.org](mailto:gamechangers@50fund.org). No phone calls please.