

For more information on the grant process please contact:

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Strategic Collaboration Grant Program

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The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nonprofit organizations in numerous ways and has illuminated opportunities for collaborative efforts to strengthen our sector. By collectively leveraging strengths and assets, we can emerge as an even stronger region. In recognition of the critical role the nonprofit sector plays in Central Iowa's recovery, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines has created this Strategic Collaboration Grant Program.

PRIORITIES OF THIS GRANT PROGRAM:

- a) **Support the development, enhancement and/or expansion of collaboration, partnership or alignment opportunities by and among organizations within or across systems.** Funding will support alignment or strategic partnership initiatives such as: processes to facilitate shared service agreements, joint programming efforts, co-location strategies, and other collaborative projects that contribute to the collective strength of the sector. Organizations may seek funding to navigate strategic conversations between or among organizations in the exploration of opportunities to re-align, merge, or otherwise join forces. *Example: A nonprofit loses key funding to maintain staff as a result of COVID-19 and seeks to enter into a strategic partnership with another organization in fulfillment of current or modified strategic goals. Funds could support facilitation between two organizations to merge governance and operations.*

AND/OR

- b) **Support cross-organizational asset mapping, system exploration or other collaborative analysis.** Funding may support processes to identify and leverage partnerships to collectively delve into systems and networks that could be reimagined or enhanced. Support may be provided to understand gaps and opportunities through data and other research that respond to needs and opportunities in our community related to recovery and resiliency. Projects that seek to address disparities for marginalized communities and lead to inclusive action will be prioritized. *Example: A group of nonprofit organizations in arts & culture, workforce, disability services, food system, youth development, etc. engages to collectively identify resources, data/information and explore a better path forward in a post-COVID environment.*

This program is **not** designed to provide funding for ongoing programming/projects, rent, lost revenue, technology or general operational expenses. Nonprofits seeking funding to improve governance or management of their organization should apply for the Community Foundation's [Capacity Building Grant Program](#). Funding needs can also be posted to the [GIVEdsm platform](#).

TIMELINE:

Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is depleted. Decisions will be communicated during the following timeframes: week of August 3, week of September 7, week of October 5 and week of November 2.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Organizations and collaboratives interested in this grant program are encouraged to reach out to the Community Foundation prior to the submission of an application to ensure alignment with program criteria.

Contact Bridgett Robinson, Robinson@desmoinesfoundation.org to schedule an exploratory conversation with Community Foundation staff.

Given the nature of collaborative projects, case-by-case discussions around grant request amount and project timelines will provide a nimble response to sector needs. A total of \$200,000 has been made available in this grant program; individual grant awards will be dependent on the project proposed. An additional \$35,000 has been made available through Bravo Greater Des Moines to support projects led by or significantly impacting current Bravo cultural partners.

To submit a Strategic Collaboration Grant request, please email Sanchez@desmoinesfoundation.org a **project budget, contact information, and narrative summary** addressing the following questions:

- What is the challenge or opportunity this project proposes to address in Greater Des Moines?
- Summarize the project (timeline, process, partners, goals)
- What is anticipated to be the long-term impact to our community as a result of this proposed project?
- If you are applying to *support cross-organizational asset mapping, system exploration or other collaborative analysis*, please reference how your project seeks to address disparities for marginalized communities and lead to inclusive action.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Grants will be made to charitable organizations with 501(c)(3) status, or governmental agencies serving a charitable purpose. Funding is limited to projects that will significantly improve the Greater Des Moines community and honor the critical role the nonprofit sector plays in Central Iowa’s recovery and long-term resiliency.