

COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING FOR RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT (CORE) INITIATIVE

Fresno residents leading neighborhood change

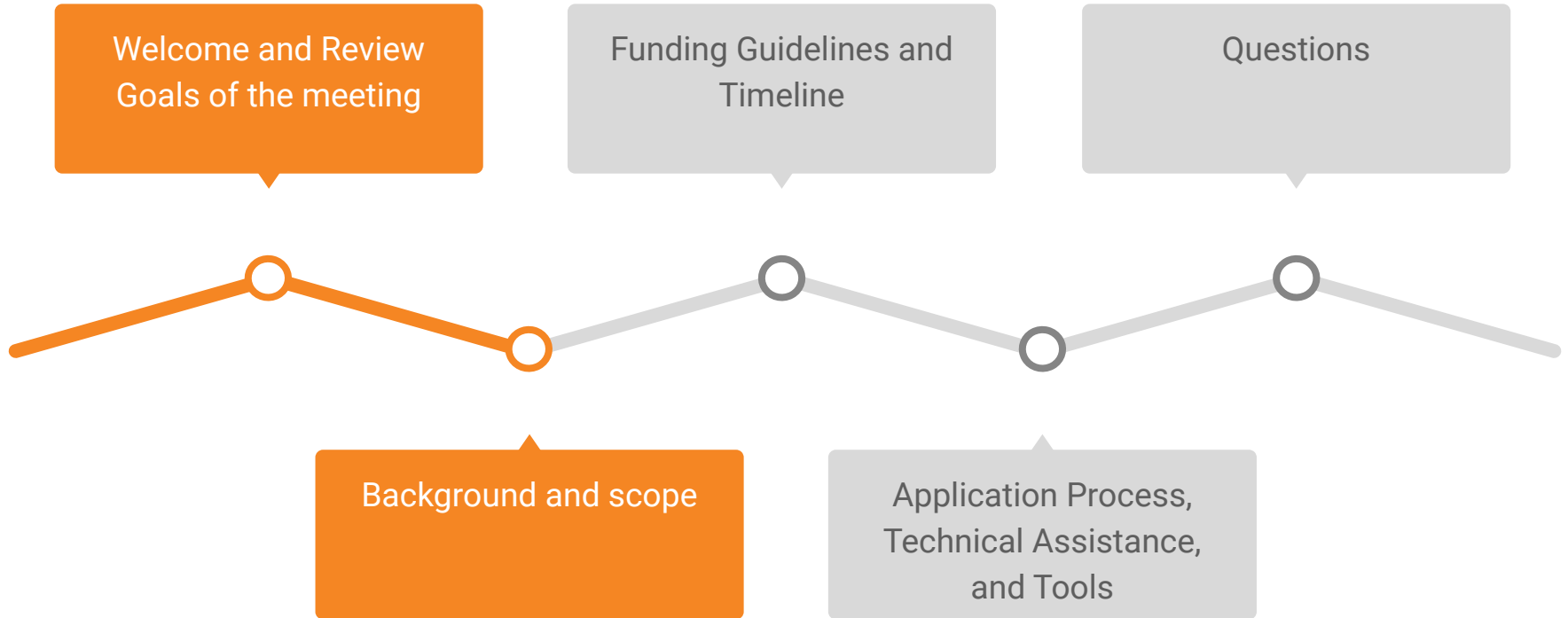
A partnership between James Irvine Foundation and the Central Valley Community Foundation



Welcome and Introductions



Meeting Agenda



Background and Scope



About CORE

The CORE Initiative is made possible by a grant to the Central Valley Community Foundation by The James Irvine Foundation.

The James Irvine Foundation and the Central Valley Community Foundation are committed to increasing economic and political opportunity for residents working but struggling with poverty in Fresno.

We value the critical role that non-profit organizations and community initiatives play in engaging and empowering residents to be involved in positively changing their neighborhoods.

The CORE initiative will identify small and emerging nonprofits that have the potential, with the right financial and leadership development support, to develop into effective and lasting organizations.

The CORE Initiative seeks the following results:

1. Equip participants with organizational and leadership tools to run their organizations more effectively and get to the “next level” of service and impact;
2. Help strengthen the finances and operations of participating organizations to make a lasting change; and
3. Increase involvement and leadership abilities of neighborhood residents, particularly youth
4. Residents develop a vision for how their communities/neighborhoods integrate with the vision for Fresno
5. Resident and cornerstone institutions foster a culture of empowerment in Fresno Communities.

This boils down to Resident Empowerment

Resident empowerment fundamentally comes down to a belief that a community can solve its own problems, and only the community can solve its own problems. It is an approach that centers on helping community members identify the changes they want to see and then supporting them in pursuing their goals. Community change is accomplished by working with residents, rather than doing things for them or to them.

RFP Funding Guidelines



Funding Goals



CORE Filmmaking Project

Participate in a filmmaking project that documents the efforts of many people and organizations to improve Fresno’s distressed neighborhoods.

CORE Operating support

Grants between \$25,000 and \$100,000 for small and emerging nonprofits/CDC in Fresno’s poorest neighborhoods, as defined by CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Grants are one year in duration.

Total Awarded: \$600,000



Youth and Resident Empowerment / Engagement

Increased resident and community engagement to shape the development and direction of their neighborhoods and communities.

Organizational and leadership Skill-Set Development

Cohort style education and support to build the organizational and leadership skills to support strong leaders and strong organizations.

12-months of intensive leadership and organizational development support

Shared decision making and investment of additional resources to strengthen the network

Total shared funding: \$400,000



CORE Learning Modules

Foundational Skills

Creating a shared Framework for Learning Together, Building organizational health, Expanding leadership base

Leadership Skills

Strengthening Individual skills, Conflict Management and Mediation Skills for Community Leaders, Personal Advocacy and Self-Care

Civic Engagement Tools

Expanding, diverse, inclusive citizen participation, Aligning with a strategic community agenda, Finding your Community Voice: The role of advocacy and influencing public policy

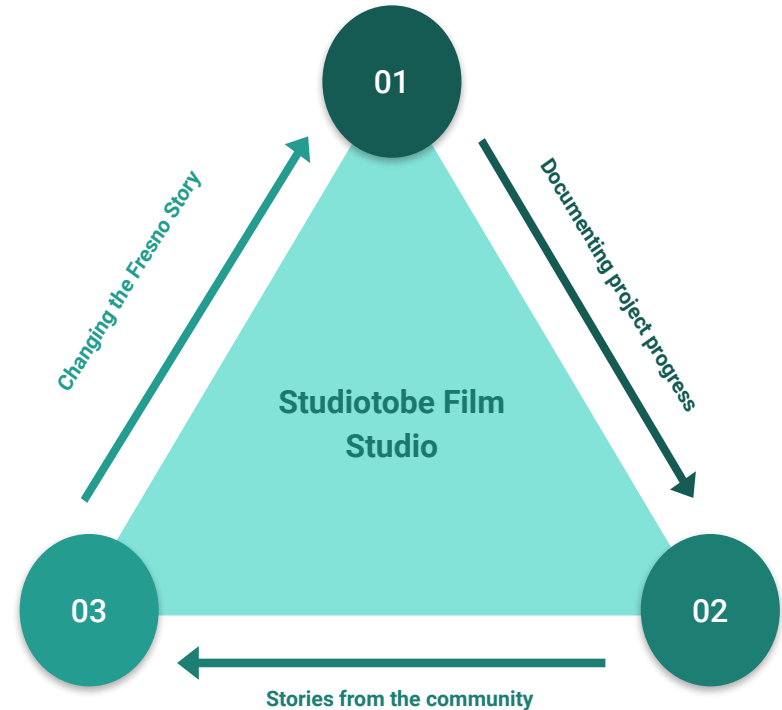


CORE Filmmaking Project

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Goals

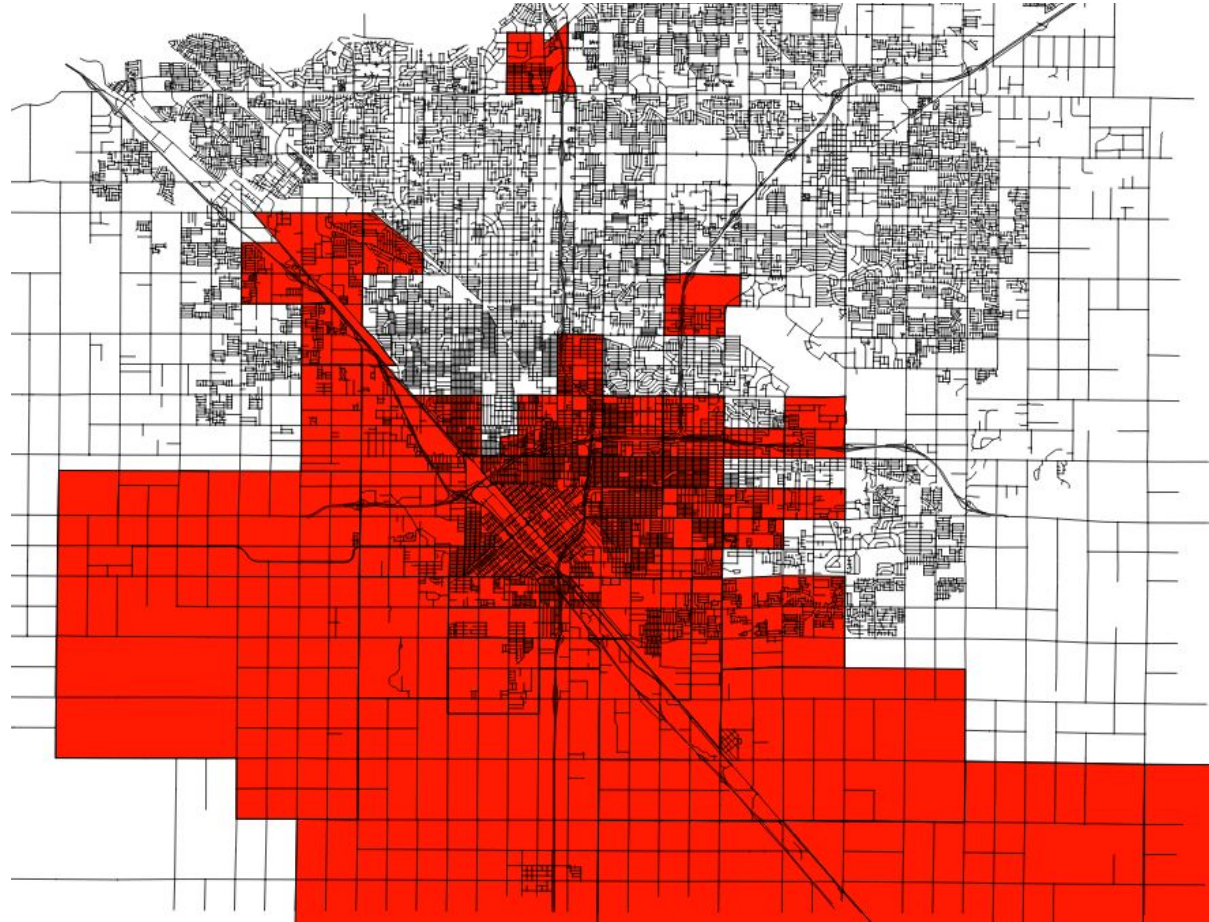
1. Document Fresno's Transformation
2. Provide a *new* narrative about Fresno
3. Mobilize further engagement





Geographic Focus

The geographic focus of the CORE initiative is communities within the city of Fresno and align with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)'s CalEnviroScreen (CES) 3.0, an index that identifies the lowest income, most polluted census tracts in California. Specifically, targeting communities that score above 90th percentile of the most pollution-burdened and lowest-income in California, representing 213,000 of the 560,000 total residents (38%).



Who may apply for the CORE initiative?

Ideal organizations will meet the following criteria:

1. 501c3 Status or actively pursuing it
2. Operating within Fresno City Limits
3. Small and/or “Emerging” Organizations defined by budgets do not exceed \$500,000 on a yearly basis.
4. Two Years’ Experience in Fresno’s Most Distressed Neighborhoods
5. Involving Neighborhood Residents in Positive Change
 - a. Involving residents in developing a new vision for their neighborhoods and/or identifying priorities for improving their neighborhood(s);
 - b. Working with residents and supporting their efforts to lead positive changes in their neighborhoods;
 - c. Increasing leadership opportunities and the role of community members, especially youth, to improve their neighborhoods; and/or
 - d. Supporting the creation of resident-led neighborhood associations or other forms of community organizations that are focused on improving the distressed neighborhood.
6. Dedicated Staff or Volunteer Time
7. Committed Advisors or a Board of Directors
8. Committed to Participating in the CORE Learning Group
9. Not Currently an Irvine Foundation Grantee

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria below provide the framework that will be used for evaluating the proposals. The most competitive organizations will:

1. Meet all the eligibility criteria outlined in the previous slide.
2. Demonstrate that they have gained the trust and support of residents in target neighborhood(s) and that their staff and/or volunteers reflect the diversity of views, ethnicity, and experiences of residents living in target neighborhoods.
3. Clearly being able to state what they are trying to accomplish in the targeted neighborhood(s) and how they define the successes they have had to date, as well as what they will accomplish as a result of the CORE Initiative's financial and leadership development support.
4. Demonstrate their processes for building the leadership abilities of residents in targeted neighborhoods, particularly youth, and empowering them to be the leaders of positive change.
5. Demonstrate an ability to be persistent and creative in helping accomplish residents' priorities in their neighborhoods and can point to early successes that have happened as a result of their work with residents.
6. Demonstrate that its boards of directors or advisory groups are committed to the mission of their organizations and dedicate time, talent, fundraising support and/or leadership of the efforts.

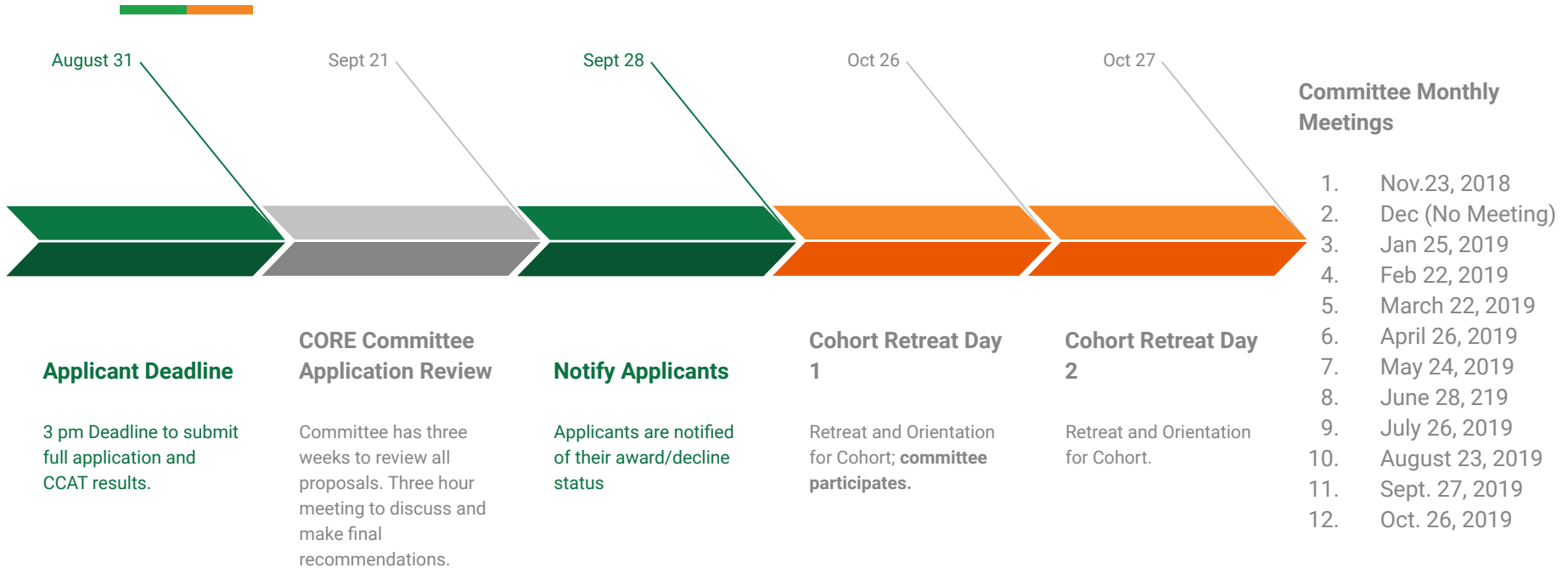


Grant Amounts and Duration

1. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Applicants may request an amount within the range of \$25,000 and \$100,000 dollars. A total of \$600,000 is available.
2. Between six to eight grantees will be selected.
3. The grant term will begin approximately Nov. 1 and will be for one year in duration.
4. Grants are to support the operations of the grantees and can be used for general operating and administrative expenses that advance the mission of the group.
5. Those receiving awards will be required to submit a final narrative report 30 days following the end of the funding period, reporting on activities and outcomes included in the proposal, as well as a financial report.



CORE Initiative Timeline



Monthly Meetings - Cohort and Committee Meetings will be held concurrently on the **Fourth Friday of each month (12) at 9am to 1:30; with an agenda that includes:**

1. Committee Meet with Facilitator(s) and CVCF Staff to debrief on 1 to 1 mentoring meetings and feedback on program offering (30-45 min)
2. The Committee and the cohort will have an opportunity connect and network. (30 Minutes)
3. Cohort Learning agenda and shared decision making (3 hours)

Application Process

Submission Guidelines

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines:

- Applications are due no later than August 31st at 3 p.m. Email your application (PDF format) and your operating budget for the current fiscal year to kelvin@anchoringsuccess.com
- There is not application template provided. Limited to 8 pages however.
- You may submit your application only once.
- Send questions about this grant program and the application process to kelvin@anchoringsuccess.com with the subject line “CORE RFP QUESTION”.



Application Guidelines

Applications are limited to eight pages in length, not including the budget attachment. No template is provided, ensure that your narrative include the following components.

Narrative

1. Contact Information
2. Amount Requested
3. Your Story
4. Neighborhood Focus
5. Measuring Progress
6. Involving Residents and Building their Leadership Abilities
7. Community Partnerships
8. Commitment to Authenticity
9. Assessment of Challenges
10. What value does the CORE Initiative offer to you?

Attachment(s)

1. Annual Operating Budget

The budget must show your organization's revenue and major line-item expenses for a full fiscal year.

Technical Assistance (TA)

TA is available to help interested participants scope out and develop their applications.

1. Participating in the technical assistance process is not required, but it is available for entities who may benefit from support in developing an application.
2. If you are interested in receiving technical support to develop your application, sign up for TA support here - <https://goo.gl/forms/XBcK2aNCtvS5j7sf1>

Levels of Support are defined below.

Level 1 Support - Limited to 1-2 brand new organizations. CBOS who may have never applied to a funder. Level 1 will not be offered after July 31. **No longer Available.**

Level 2 Support - Organizations will get an assigned Humanics Consultant to meet with and ask questions, and get feedback on how to strengthen the application, help with identifying resources, etc. Final day to request this level of support is August 11.

Level 3 Support - This support is for organizations who simply want a review of their complete application prior to submitting. The Assigned Humanics Consultant will review your application as it aligns with the RFP, provide you with questions to consider as you refine your application, offer feedback on areas to strengthen your application, etc. Final day to request this level of support is August 23.

All feedback will be provided on or before August 25 to allow you to complete a final application to submit on August 31st by 3pm.

Other Tools and Resources

Does my organization/group qualify for this funding opportunity?

Eligibility

We are providing a mini assessment to help you think throughout the eligibility and selection criteria to determine whether your organization should apply. This document is for your own use only and not part of the application process. [[Download Assessment](#)]

How do you recommend we tell you the story of our nonprofit / group?

The Meyer Foundation offers a checklist to help you craft a compelling narrative.

1. Character Study Worksheet [[Download](#)] - This worksheet will help you flesh out your stories character.
2. Story Building Blocks [[Download](#)] - Fundamental elements of compelling stories

How do I measure my group/organization's capacity?

We are providing a mini-assessment to guide you through some of the questions to consider when attempting to measure the current capacity of your organization. Answering No to these questions will provide you a glimpse of the areas of opportunity for the success of your organization.

[[Download Assessment](#)]

Questions

Send further questions about this grant program and the application process to kelvin@anchoringssuccess.com with the subject line “CORE RFP QUESTION”.