



West Oakland Community Fund

This funding opportunity was initially born out of advocacy by West Oakland residents to draw value from the redevelopment of the old Oakland Army Base.

Resident members of the West Oakland Community Advisory Group (WOCAG) shepherded the vision of the West Oakland Community Fund from its inception in 2002 to its eventual creation. This led to an agreement between the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland to provide resources for economic development projects in West Oakland. The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment is now administering this funding opportunity to support organizations creating community benefit opportunities in West Oakland, the neighborhood directly affected by the closure of the former Oakland Army Base. WOCAG, the City and the Port directed that the funds shall be spent on the following project categories:

- a. **Workforce Development**— Job training programs targeted towards current West Oakland residents.
- b. **Business Development**— Defined as programs that support local entrepreneurship, small business development and other targeted local economic development in West Oakland including local hiring programs serving West Oakland businesses and current residents.
- c. Educational Programs – Defined as including but not limited to programs serving West Oakland K-12 students around the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); adult skills development; continuing education programs; and programs supporting community college attendance for current West Oakland residents.
- d. Environmental Programs – Defined as programs that center around reducing existing or historical environmental impacts, and/or providing environmental benefits within the West Oakland community.

This round we are focusing on Business and Workforce Development though grant projects that include elements from the Education and Environmental categories will be given consideration. (Future rounds may have different subject matter emphases.)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicant must meet all the following criteria:

- **Non-profit Status:** Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, fiscally-sponsored by a 501(c)(3), a local governmental entity, or tribal entity.

- **Applicant requirements:** The applicant must have demonstrated experience in completing the work of proposed project, including experience in successfully conducting similar or related work in the past, or otherwise relevant skills and experience.
- **Geography:** Projects must benefit West Oakland residents or businesses area as designated by the map below and should demonstrate a high degree of community support and community involvement. While the applicant's offices may be located outside of West Oakland, they must explain how the proposed work will benefit individuals within West Oakland.
- **Grant amount:** Established non-profit organizations are encouraged to seek grants in the \$50,000 to \$150,000 range. Maximum grant size will only be awarded to the most exceptional projects. Awards may be scaled down from the amount requested based on project type, grantee's experience, and outcomes.
- **Duration of Support:** Most grants are for a one-year period; however, you may request a shorter or longer grant period if that is what you need. Larger grants are recommended to be multi-year.

SCOPE OF ALLOWABLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Workforce Development Projects – Job training programs targeted towards current West Oakland residents to acquire skills needed for job readiness as well as support services that enable individuals to obtain said training or secondary assistance. Examples include, among others:

- Culinary and food service
- Industrial light manufacturing
- Logistics and maritime transportation
- Training and education in construction

Program costs may include stipends for daycare expenses, transportation to/from work, uniforms etc.

Business Development Projects – We are interested in programs that support local entrepreneurship, small business development and other targeted local economic development in West Oakland including local hiring programs serving new or developing businesses and current residents. Project examples include:

- Helping West Oakland residents with education on starting small businesses including education on understanding contracts, budgeting, financial statements, product selection, and marketing as well as basic legal information on business formation and financial preparedness such as credit repair and fundamental financial management skills.
- Providing long-term mentoring and coaching programs for new business owners located within West Oakland. This includes technical assistance providers that can help West Oakland start-ups that have been established but still need support to be successful.

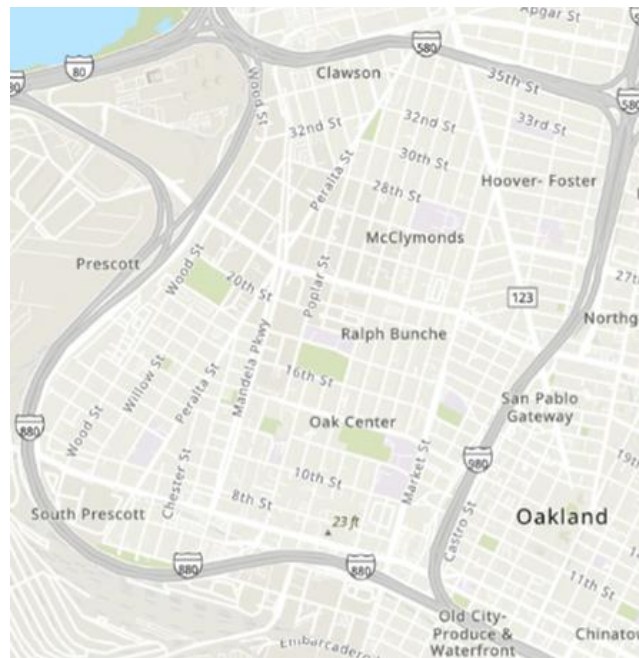
- Programs that can help West Oakland businesses train and hire West Oakland residents, particularly those in the subgroups identified below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Funding preference will be given to projects and/or organizations which are based in West Oakland. However, organizations which are not geographically located in West Oakland, or projects which serve residents beyond West Oakland, may also be eligible if the project centers around providing a strong element of direct benefits to the current West Oakland community and are consistent with one or more of the priority goals of the Fund.
2. Funding preference will also be given to supporting non-profit organizations that target the following populations: re-entry, LGBTQ, Black men aged 18-35, or emotionally or physically challenged individuals. However, your organization must have demonstrated experience with these groups.
3. No lobbying or legal advocacy may be conducted with these grant funds.

HOW TO APPLY

Please review all eligibility requirements before starting the online application and apply through our [online grants portal](#).



West Oakland is defined as the area between I-880 and I-980 (west to east), between I-580 and I-880 (north to south), plus the Jack London Square industrial area between I-880 and the Embarcadero, west of Martin Luther King Jr. Way.