2024 Community Power Initiative Funding Opportunity
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Can organizations based outside of Marin County apply to the CPI?
A: Yes, organizations outside of Marin may apply if they are serving Marin residents or collaborating with one or more Marin-based partners, and their activities or efforts directly impact Marin residents.

Q: Is there a word or character limit for narrative responses in the proposal?
A: No, there is not a maximum of words or character limit, but we encourage succinct responses.

Q: We've received funding from MCF’s Buck Family Fund before. Can we apply?
A: Yes, both prior grantees and organizations new to MCF funding are eligible to apply.

Q: If we’re currently funded by BFF, should we request our current grant amount?
A: Applicants are encouraged to request the funding needed to advance strategic priorities effectively.

Q: How much can we apply for?
A: For Larger Organizations (budgets of $2 million or more), grant requests can be made for up to $600K per year, for 1-3 years if needed.
For Smaller Organizations (budgets under $2 million), grant requests can be made for up to $125K per year, for 1-3 years if needed.
Final award amounts will be based on organization size, scope, Marin presence, and available funding. Please note that grant awards may differ from the applicant’s requests, and not all applicants will receive the maximum amount.

Q: Can I submit multiple proposals or applications?
A: No, only one application per organization is permitted. However, organizations serving as a lead for a collaborative effort may apply both for the collaborative and for their organization individually.
Q: Who reviews the grant applications and how are funding decisions made?
A: The MCF Community Engagement team in conjunction with the program committee of the MCF Board of Directors conducts application reviews. Proposals will be assessed based on eligibility and meeting the priority requirements noted in the RFP. Applicants will be notified in early May if their proposal is declined or if it requires more information to advance to the next stage of consideration. Final funding decisions will be made by the program committee and the president and CEO of MCF by May 30.

Q: If we have applied for or received funding under other MCF programs (e.g. Climate Justice Initiative, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Initiative), can we also apply for funding under the Community Power Initiative?
A: Yes, applications for the Community Power Initiative will be considered independent of whether an applicant receives or intends to receive funds from any other MCF program.

Q: Why is there a demographics section in the online application?
A: The demographics section helps MCF understand applicant organizations' demographic profiles. Data collected will be aggregated and used for equitable distribution of grants and to track resource flow to historically marginalized communities. Applicants are encouraged to provide thorough responses.

Q: With multi-year grants, could an organization be funded for only one year?
A: Yes, funding for one year is possible for some organizations.

Q: If my organization’s fiscal sponsor is outside of Marin but our work focuses on Marin, can we still apply?
A: Yes. Demonstration of work in Marin will be necessary.

Q: For collaborative applications, whose budget should be submitted?
A: The lead organization uploads its budget, and the collaborative's budget must also be submitted.

Q: What materials are needed for the application, such as letters of support?
A: Beyond what is requested in the RFP, additional materials such as letters of support are not required.
Q: If we’re not funded in this round, will we have a chance to reapply next year?
A: This has not been determined. MCF may need to adjust course after this first round based on what we learn in partnership with the organizations and residents throughout the County.

Q: What reporting requirements are associated with receiving funding?
A: A final annual report will be due July 31, 2025.

Q: Who needs to register in Grant Center?
A: Anyone within your organization who will be working on the application will need to register separately in the MCF Grant Center and have their own username and password.