**Community Voice Fund Q&A**

1. ***How much detail should be shared about a convening session in a Community Voice Fund application?” (3/9/23)***

* When completing the Community Voice Fund application
  + Identify who will convene and why
  + Identify what communities the convening will be held in and why
  + Think through opportunities for partnerships with other organizations and why
  + Identify how community leaders will be involved in the convenings and the role they will play in the overall process
  + Identify compensation plans for resident participants
  + Identify specific engagement methods - how are you getting the word out/sharing information about your convening(s)
* Key expectations of convening
  + What are the solutions as framed by the community?
  + How did the community contribute to building the agenda?
  + The number of people who attended the convening(s)

1. ***Will the Foundation consider multiple convenings/applicants from a specific geographic area? (3/15/23)***

Yes. The Foundation acknowledges that communities are complex systems which include a diverse variety of lived experiences formed by location, demographics, and socioeconomic status. Multiple applications from a specific geographic area or community will be considered. Foundation staff will review applications to ensure applicants aren’t convening in the exact same area or with the same audience to avoid overtaxing community members.

1. ***What will happen if our application happens to propose a convening(s) in the same geographic area and with the same audience as another application? (3/15/23)***

If upon review the Foundation finds applications that are very similar in geography and audience, the Foundation will schedule a call or Zoom with the applicant to determine if a partnership would be considered.

1. ***If we apply, will we automatically receive $35,000 for our proposal? (3/27/23)***

No, it is important to recognize that this opportunity is up to $35,000 but there should be a budget that justifies the cost of the convening(s). Generally, it is doubtful that the cost of one convening is $35,000.

1. ***I have an idea for a conversation for a community. Can I plan it and invite people from the community? (3/27/23)***

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to amplify community voice. If you are not embedded in the community, we would want to know if you have been invited in. What knowledge do you have of existing conversations and what community residents are you engaging with to plan and implement?

1. ***Should a convening(s) be driven by the nonprofit’s mission or vision? For example, if I operate a food pantry, should my convening be focused on food access? (4/13/23)***

No, the purpose of the Community Voice Fund is not meant to improve or evaluate an organization’s programming. The Community Voice Fund is meant to amplify the voice of people who live in the Jefferson Regional service area and to have them identify important issues and opportunities.

1. ***What if I offer a convening(s) and hear conversation topics that fall outside my organization’s mission (4/13/23)***

The Community Voice Fund’s intent is to listen to residents and share results broadly for the purpose of prioritizing community actions and leveraging resources. The Foundation team is committed to working with grantees, partners, and other key stakeholders to elevate these priorities.

1. ***When submitting a Community Voice application, can the application include expenses for existing programs for the nonprofit and convening expenses? (4/25/23)***

No, The Community Voice Fund is meant to amplify the voice of people who live in the Jefferson Regional service area and to have them identify important issues and opportunities that impact their health and well-being. This fund is not meant to cover costs of existing programming and/or a newly proposed program.

1. ***Can my application to the Community Voice Fund include an overnight trip and/or retreat? (4/25/23)***

No. In general the Foundation does not provide funding for overnight trips and generally does not sponsor local excursions. However, the Foundation recognizes the potential need to offer a convening in a space that is conducive to community discussion. Thus, the expense for a local off-site meeting location that would promote a group bonding experience to encourage open, honest conversations would be considered.