

**November 11, 2015**

**To:** Sonoma Valley Fund Board  
**From:** Barbara Hughes, Sonoma Valley Fund Grants Committee Chair  
**Subject:** Capacity-Building Grant Proposal Recommendations and Overview of Year One Activities

We are pleased to present the following organizations for your endorsement as grantees in the capacity-building learning cohort. The organizations were selected after a rigorous review process, including analysis of proposals and two evaluation meetings with the grants committee. We sought to identify organizations that are at a particular moment in their organizational lives where they would benefit from: cross-organizational learning; consulting support; participating in an assessment of capacity and an assessment of opportunities; and, guidance in facing and addressing organizational challenges. Our threshold criteria required that, to be included, organizations must:

- Provide services reaching our target population in Sonoma Valley
- Provide important and demonstrated need for their services in Sonoma Valley
- Demonstrate an understanding of the opportunity and obligations associated with participation in the program
- Be positioned to both benefit from and contribute to a shared learning environment

Out of thirteen total applicants, the following six organizations successfully demonstrated alignment with these criteria. We now seek your endorsement of the following cohort:

1. **ARTescape** – though a small organization, ARTescape has demonstrated strong interest in exploring the issue of sustainability and succession. They appear to be at an organizational stage where focused and professional support could make a tremendous difference.
2. **Boys & Girls Club** – is an anchor institution in Sonoma Valley. They are seeking to grow relationships (collaboration), they have experience with volunteer recruitment and training, and they are eager to be in community with other organizations.
3. **La Luz** – another key organization serving Sonoma Valley. La Luz is poised to benefit from support as they seek more clarity on mission and vision, their role in the community, and how to use both to make decisions.
4. **Sonoma Overnight Support** – is eager to participate and to deepen cultural competence. We anticipate that they will bring issues of infrastructure and collaboration forward to the group.
5. **Sonoma Valley Mentoring** – They may benefit from building relationships and leveraging other organizational expertise in program design and delivery.
6. **Teen Services Sonoma** – understanding that they are in a growth mode and hoping to build relationships.

As a reminder, the goal of the capacity-building grants program is to provide funding and technical assistance to organizations interested in committing time, energy and innovative thinking to assess and plan for increased organizational effectiveness.

Highlights from Year 1 of this opportunity include:

- Participation in a facilitated learning cohort
- Ongoing professional consultation from Informing Change, experts in non-profit capacity building
- Comprehensive organizational assessment and support in developing a capacity building plan
- Funding of \$5,000 to be used at grantee's discretion
- Potential for funding beyond the first year of participation

Recognizing that capacity building can require a long-term investment, grantees will have the potential to continue receiving support beyond the first year of funding/technical assistance. For Years 2 and 3, grantees will submit proposals to determine eligibility for funding support to implement the projects developed in Year 1.