



Santa Cruz County News

Website: www.santacruzcountyz.gov

For Immediate Release



Santa Cruz County directing \$1.5 million to grants and forgivable loans to build community financial capacity

Santa Cruz County, Arizona is directing \$1.5 million of its American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding from the US Department of Treasury toward a local small business and nonprofit “financial asset building” program.

The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA) is managing the grants application process and outreach for the program, and has posted more information about the program here: <https://cfsaz.org/sccarpa> . A fact sheet is also attached.

Financial asset building refers to community supports (classes, training, services) for entrepreneurs, artists, employers (including nonprofits) and unemployed or underemployed persons so they can build and preserve wealth. These services are intended to mitigate community negative economic impacts experienced from the pandemic.

Funding for the local community will be available in two phases:

- **Santa Cruz County Nonprofit Grants for Community Financial Capacity.** Beginning February 3, 2022 through March 25, 2022, nonprofits serving Santa Cruz County, Arizona can apply for grants of \$25,000-\$45,000. Successful nonprofit applicants will have access to operating capital to expand or offer new training, services, classes, mentoring and related supports that help residents of the county build economic opportunity. CFSA will offer a workshop online about how to apply on February 18, 2022 at 9 a.m. Local First Arizona will offer free grant writing assistance to nonprofits that need this support.
- **Santa Cruz County Forgivable Loans.** Soon after that, the county will also deploy a complementary forgivable loan program. This will help small business owners, employers (including nonprofits), employees and entrepreneurs grow wealth in the community, as well as build and repair credit. That program will provide up to \$25,000 in forgivable loans for businesses or 501c3 nonprofit organizations, and \$2,500 for artist development grants, contingent upon need. More information will be available on the CFSA website, <https://cfsaz.org>, likely in early May.

Santa Cruz County is asking nonprofit (501c3 and c6) organizations interested in the **Santa Cruz County Nonprofit Grants for Community Financial Capacity** to complete a survey. The responses will help the county build a preliminary resource inventory of the diverse ways local organizations can help residents build economic opportunity and employment in innovative and creative ways.

The survey link is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3FLHQ7L> in English and in Spanish at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XGWW6KB>. It should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

For questions or more information, please contact Angie Donelson at angie.donelson@gmail.com #END

About Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

Since 1980, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSAZ) has been a trusted philanthropic partner helping individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits work together to create an equitable and vibrant community for all Southern Arizonans. To date, CFSAZ has awarded over \$200 million in grants and scholarships. For more information, please visit www.cfsaz.org or call 520-770-0800.