

TRANSFORM CONTRA COSTA



Measure X Innovation Fund

\$2 Million of one-time funding available to County departments, cities, and community-based organizations for community-embraced and community-based programs and services.



As referred to the County Administrator from the Board of Supervisors

“The concept of an innovation fund available for funding pilot programs and innovative projects was brought to the attention of the Measure X Community Advisory Board and supported by Board of Supervisor members. Guidelines/policies for the fund have not been developed. It is anticipated that the funding would be available to County departments, cities, and community-based organizations in response to local service needs.

The funding would be prioritized to community-embraced and community-based programs and services. Minimally the funds would be used to support the Measure X funding goal of Equity in Action (Goal #2).

As with all the Measure X funded programs, in future years the success of the pilots and projects will be evaluated. Should the model produce positive measurable outcomes, additional funding will be recommended.

The recommendation includes allocating these funds to the County Administrator’s Office for development of funding guidelines and allocations. It is recommended that the Innovation Fund guidelines be reviewed in a future Finance Committee meeting prior to issuing requests for proposals.”



Innovation Fund

- Board one-time designation of \$2,000,000 from Measure X Sales Tax revenue
- Grants to be administered by the County Administrator on behalf of the Board
- Awards to be made after Review Committee recommendation, Finance Committee review, and Board approval



Mx Community Advisory Board Goal 2: Equity in Action

Prioritizing equity and removing structural barriers that cause inequities and poverty, so that all residents can thrive. Strategies include:

- County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice
- East County community-based equity center (based on the Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition presentation)
- Removal defense and case management for immigrant residents, via Stand Together Contra Costa: including legal representation across court systems and social service workers to provide holistic, language accessible, culturally-responsive social services and navigation.
- Community-based and schools-based arts programs
- Immigration-based legal services via Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance
- Arts & Culture Commission programs
- **Innovation fund (to facilitate community-based responses to service needs)**
- Community-based asylum support for LGBTQ+ individuals and immigrants



Proposed Innovation Fund Guiding Principles

- The first question is not 'Is this going to work?' but rather, 'If it works, would it matter?'
- Unlike traditional grantmaking, intentionally seek to trade off probability of success in return for greater potential impact.
- Invest in approaches that may have a higher risk of failure, but the potential to be lasting and truly game changing if they succeed.
- Seek out ideas with transformative potential, take risks on less proven approaches, and recognize that innovation requires flexibility, iteration and, yes, even failure.
- Strive to balance rigorous analysis with intuition about a project's potential for transformative change.
- The impact from one or two big, transformational successes in a portfolio can justify the opportunity cost of many failures.
- Recognize that money given away for social purposes is effectively gone, regardless of outcomes.



Proposed Innovation Fund Priorities

- ✓ Projects that improve equitable access to public services
- ✓ Projects that remove structural barriers that cause inequities and poverty
- ✓ Projects that have the potential to provide the greatest impact for every dollar spent
- ✓ Projects that have potential for transformative change rather than simply replicate safe, established programs



Proposed Ineligible Projects

Projects that...

- Are not new or innovative to Contra Costa County
- Are designed to only supplement operations or revenue lost
- Do not align with Contra Costa County's Innovation Fund priorities (see prior slide)
- Will not be executed in 2023-2024



Proposed Funding Categories (if needed for guidance)

- 1. Safe & Engaged Communities** – Improving health, wellness, and public safety outcomes through community outreach/awareness, education and engagement.
- 2. Agriculture and Food Systems** – Improving environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity.
- 3. Economic Vitality** – Providing education, job training, decent jobs and viable businesses to reduce the number of people at a poverty level.
- 4. Clean & Sustainable (Clean and Green) Environment** – Safe food and water, proper waste disposal, clean air, pest control; preventing waste.
- 5. Reliable & Accessible Infrastructure** - Modernization, technology, or equity in digital access, cybersecurity and resilience.



Funding Categories

1. Safe & Engaged Communities -

Ideas that will help:

- Increase public access to technology that connects individuals to needed public services
- Individuals take more control over their own personal health and fitness and have better access to supportive tools and services
- Individuals take more control over their own personal safety at home, work or at leisure, and in preparation for natural or manmade disasters



Funding Categories

2. Agriculture and Food Systems – Innovations that:

- Increase access to and consumption of local agricultural and value-added products at local or export markets
- Improve the quality, productivity and safety of agricultural producers, systems and products through research, development and education
- Preserve agricultural lands through improvements to soil and water conservation programs, permitting policies, and landscape level innovations
- Support expansion of agricultural industries and methodologies with farmer training programs
- Facilitate the development of affordable farm worker housing by developing recommended reform and deploying strategies with existing government support programs
- Support the effective integration of the food systems network into local agricultural networks, production systems and value chains



Funding Categories

3. Economic Vitality

Innovations that:

- Connect businesses and skilled workers
- Serve local workforce needs, such as childcare, transportation issues, training or career counseling and development, and advancing education
- Mitigate Contra Costa's workforce challenges caused by COVID-19



Funding Categories

4. Clean & Sustainable (Clean and Green) Environment -

For projects designed to deliver energy-related social and environmental benefits to County residents and propose to identify or develop local renewable energy, energy efficiency or fuel switching in Contra Costa County that increases community access to or ownership of clean energy:

- Implement a demonstration project that has the potential to reduce the cost of living for county residents
- Address the disproportionate health, environmental, economic and climate impacts on disadvantaged communities
- Advance innovative, low-cost, efficient transportation systems like transportation network, autonomous vehicles, and bicycle/scooter sharing
- Advance renewable energy resilience projects for Contra Costa County
- Identify and implement energy efficiency projects to reduce energy expenses
- Plan and Implement renewable energy projects for Contra Costa County with significant return on investment
- Expand the use of alternative fuel vehicles
- Expand the network of zero emission vehicle fueling and charging stations



Funding Categories

5. Reliable & Accessible Infrastructure - Modernization, Technology, or Equity in Digital Access

Innovations that:

- Increase access to technology within disadvantaged communities that connects individuals to needed public services
- Close the equity gap surrounding technology (digital divide)
- Improve existing business processes and workforce efficiency
- Enhance citizen experience through the launch new services or business models



Proposed Eligibility Requirements Part I

- ✓ Tax Exempt Organization IRS designation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (most nonprofits) - automated with EIN search
 - IRS designation under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code (chambers of commerce) - automated with EIN search
 - Most recent IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N (postcard) or Form 1023/1024 indicating religious or other exemption from filing - attached to electronic application
 - “Current” status with the California Secretary of State
 - California Business Portal printout (bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov)



Recommended Eligibility Requirements Part II

Organization must:

- ✓ Operate in Contra Costa County or provide documented services for residents of Contra Costa County
- ✓ Meet County insurance requirements, including:
 - General Liability Insurance coverage of at least \$500,000
 - Indemnifying the County, and covering for any emergent liabilities
 - Workers compensation insurance is required for organizations that have employees, or if volunteers receive ANY stipends/payment
- ✓ Have bylaws or policies that describe the way business is conducted including management, fiscal policies and procedures, and policies on nepotism and the management of potential conflicts of interest.
- ✓ Have at least one year of experience with the project or in the program area being proposed.
- ✓ Have staff or authorized representatives adequately trained to administer and provide the program described.



Suggested Process: Three Phases

- 1. Concept Paper*** – Provide \$5,000 to seed each of up to ten most promising new concepts for a maximum of \$50,000. Award to be conditioned upon participation at a **Bidder's Conference**.
- 2. Full Proposal*** – Awards made to finalists to continue successful explorations through to implementation, for a maximum of \$1,950,000.
- 3. Post-Implementation Report and Evaluation*** – Finalists to submit closeout report for CAO evaluation and report to the Board of Supervisors.

** All submittals will be through a web portal provided by the County.*



Phase 1: Concept Paper

Up to 10 concepts @ \$5,000 for a total of \$50,000:

Concept Paper– three-page submittal that addresses:

- A. Idea/concept
- B. Target population, goals and outcomes
- C. Scalability
- D. Eligibility of offerer
- E. Offerer qualifications such as specialized experience and technical competence, capability to perform and complete the project, past performance of the offeror's team



Phase 2: Bidder's Conference and Full Proposal

Awards to Finalists for a total of \$1,950,000:

Full proposal that addresses:

- A. Work/implementation plan
- B. Key implementers and stakeholders
- C. Project schedule and budget
- D. Other revenue sources, if any
- E. Detailed description of outcomes and impacts
- F. Evaluation Protocol
 - How will success be measured?
 - How will the outcomes be demonstrated to the community?



Phase 3: Post-Implementation Report and Evaluation

- Timeline will be dependent on project timelines, which should not extend past 12/31/24.
- Evaluation will be based on pre-defined deliverables and expected outputs and outcomes specific to each award.



Proposed Phase I Concept Paper Schedule

- Online Concept Paper (date)
 - No printed, emailed, or faxed proposals will be accepted for consideration
 - Once the deadline has passed, attempts to submit applications via the submission portal will be automatically rejected

- Oral Presentations (date plus 10 days)

- Concept evaluation by Review Committee and notification to Finalists (date plus three weeks)



Proposed Phase II Bid Schedule

- Mandatory Bidders' Conference (Finalist notification plus two weeks)
- Online Proposal and Attachments (Finalist notification plus 12 weeks)
 - No printed, emailed, or faxed proposals will be accepted for consideration
 - Once the deadline has passed, attempts to submit applications via the submission portal will be automatically rejected
- Oral Presentations (Proposal deadline plus 2 weeks)
- Recommendations to Board of Supervisors (Proposal deadline plus 6 weeks)
- Grant contract signing (Proposal deadline plus 11 weeks)



Innovation Fund Sample Timeline

