

Measuring Our Grantmaking Impact

In 2014, the San Antonio Area Foundation held focused conversations with nonprofit organizations to help us strengthen our grantmaking impact. Information obtained from these conversations helped us to shape the funding priorities and identify indicators of success for our Community Grants application process. Our new grantmaking framework follows. In addition to our funding priorities, grant seekers should note that:

- We fund program-related operating expenses, including salaries.
- We value and encourage collaboration. While not required, we look favorably upon collaborative projects.
- We fund established programs and provide seed funding for emerging programs.
- We award grants for capacity building through our Strengthening Nonprofits initiative. Nonprofit agencies may submit a Strengthening Nonprofits application in addition to a Community Grants application (comprised of the five funding areas listed below).

Funding Area	Program Funding Priorities	Outcomes as Measured at Community Level	SAMPLE Outputs/Measurements at Agency Level
Animal Services	Programs that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the health and wellness of animals • educate our community about animal care • provide spay/neuter and/or adoption services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve “No Kill” status • Increase education on responsible pet ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of live releases and live release rate • # of spay/neuter surgeries • Intake of animals in shelters/refuges
Arts & Culture	Programs that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote accessibility to the arts • encourage broad participation from all parts of our community • provide arts education & outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an accessible and vibrant arts community • Increase economic impact of the arts (SA2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of performances or exhibitions • % of people attending at reduced or free rates • # of culturally diverse events • Increased level of attendance at arts events (SA2020) • # of national/international press mentions (SA2020)
Children & Youth	Programs that enable children and families to lead safe and productive lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide children access to basic needs, including food, shelter and clothing • Enhance parenting skills • Reduce child maltreatment and neglect (SA2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of children receiving access to basic needs • Increased family involvement in children’s education • # served in programs that reduce risks for child abuse, neglect, bullying and trafficking (SA2020)

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Community at Large	<p>Programs and services that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve the safety and welfare of vulnerable and underserved populations increase chances for individual/family success and self-sufficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support for individuals and families as they move toward self-sufficiency Increase in services that provide continuum of care Increase in services that reduce isolation Reduce poverty rate by enabling low income individuals to earn a living wage (SA2020) Reduce rate of homelessness (SA2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # caregivers provided respite # low income children provided affordable childcare so parents can go to school or work # people taught job-readiness skills # people completing financial literacy programs Decreased # of predatory loans Reduced family displacement/homelessness rate (SA2020)
Medicine & Healthcare	<p>Programs that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote healthy lifestyles, with an emphasis on reducing obesity and diabetes are preventive in nature or educate the community in prevention increase access to comprehensive healthcare, including dental, vision and mental services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce emergency room visits Reduce incarceration rates due to mental illness Reduce adult and childhood obesity rates (SA2020) Reduce diabetes rate and deaths citing diabetes as a primary cause (SA2020) Reduce teen pregnancy rates and pre-term birth rates (SA2020) Increase access to health care (SA2020) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track outcomes using “Healthy People 2020” measures Track improvements in health status of clients served Decreased incidence of diabetes-related visits Increased adherence to healthcare directives Decreased incidence of chronic conditions in client population # of screenings/clients served # of low/no vision clients served
Seniors	<p>Programs and services that enable seniors to live healthy, safe and vibrant lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in opportunities for seniors to engage in and contribute to social, civic and cultural activities that increase socialization and engage their skills and experiences Increase in access to safe, affordable, housing and transportation Decreased rates of elder abuse and fraud Increase in services that enhance skills, which promote empowerment and self-sufficiency such as financial planning and technology Improved health, behavioral and supportive care for seniors Improved health outcomes Improved respite and education for caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of unduplicated seniors served # of meals delivered to seniors # of seniors with improved health outcomes # of senior’s houses that have been improved or retrofitted to meet their needs # of caregivers provided respite or participating in educational classes # and type of skill-building classes provided