



DESTINATION: **HOME**

**Andre Ellison Equity Fund:
2023 Capacity-Building Grants
for Community Partners**

Funding Opportunity Open Date: **7/17/2023**
Submission Deadline: **8/31/2023 at 11:59pm PT**



Summary

Destination: Home's Andre Ellison Equity Fund supports the outstanding work of organizations committed to preventing and ending homelessness in Santa Clara County that are led by people with lived experience of homelessness and/or people of color - those who best know the needs of their community. Through the Fund, Destination: Home seeks to share power with those most impacted, elevating new solutions and perspectives previously left out. In addition, the long-term intent is to create a stronger and larger group of organizations working together to achieve the goals of the [2020-2025 Community Plan to End Homelessness](#), including preventing and ending homelessness and increasing community engagement and support for the Plan's strategies.

Based on available funding, we anticipate awarding capacity-building grants of up to \$300,000 each over three years to up to six (6) organizations. Organizations that meet the minimum criteria outlined below that are not selected may be eligible for future rounds of support.

Background

During the development of the Andre Ellison Equity Fund, we recognized that structural racism has resulted in people of color - specifically [Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American people in Santa Clara County](#) - being significantly more likely than their white counterparts to experience homelessness. It has also meant that communities of color are more likely to have extremely low incomes (<30% Area Median Income), putting them at greater risk of homelessness. COVID-19 only [exacerbated these inequities](#). The same racist policies and practices have led to the [systematic underfunding of nonprofits led by people of color](#).

We believe that an organization's performance and impact are greatly enhanced when people with different backgrounds and perspectives - particularly those with relevant lived experience with homelessness - are engaged in an organization's activities and decision-making processes. Through the Andre Ellison Equity Fund, Destination: Home seeks to lift up the enormous potential of local organizations that reflect the lived experience and racial and ethnic makeup of the people and geographic areas served, in particular organizations whose executive leadership and governing boards include people of color and those with lived experience with homelessness. These grants and partnerships are meant to expand organizations' capacities to fulfill their missions, positively impact lives and communities, and play a stronger and more prominent role in the collaborative effort to prevent and end homelessness in Santa Clara County.

We understand that not all organizations need the same support and that capacity-building can take many forms, so we will not dictate what can be done with these grants. If it is helpful to your organization's thought process, common examples of capacity-building activities include: training personnel, receiving technical assistance, strategic planning, overhauling systems, recruiting new personnel, or improving the efficiency of the use of existing resources - but this is by no means an exhaustive list. Direct lobbying and non-charitable activities will not be funded.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this funding, organizations must meet these minimum criteria:

- Be a 501c3 non-profit organization or a community group with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor in good standing;
- Currently have an office in Santa Clara County that serves county residents and communities;
- Have a current-year organizational budget of \$1.5 million or less;
- Currently led by people of color and/or people with lived homelessness experience (“leadership” defined as board members and executive staff);
- Have an organizational commitment to preventing and ending homelessness;
- Have an organizational commitment to addressing issues of racial equity and authentically and meaningfully leading with the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness in their organizational leadership, service and program delivery models, and decision-making processes; and
- Currently serve neighborhoods or communities in Santa Clara County with incomes in the extremely low-income bracket ([<30% Area Median Income](#)).

Note: current Andre Ellison Equity Fund grantees are not eligible to apply to this funding opportunity.

How to submit an application

1. Please complete the **online form** [here](#), including uploading necessary supporting documents. You can download a [template](#) to your computer to draft your answers, or work directly in the online form. The information collected in the form will be used to determine your organization’s eligibility for this funding opportunity by verifying that the minimum criteria are met. The deadline to submit the online form and documents is August 31, 2023 at 11:59pm PT.
2. After reviewing the online forms and supporting documents to determine eligibility, Destination: Home may schedule a **conversation** between eligible organizations and a panel representing community stakeholders. Questions will be provided in advance. These conversations will present an open-ended opportunity to discuss the Community Plan to End Homelessness, your organization’s commitment to ending homelessness in Santa Clara County, and how support from Destination: Home would increase your capacity to address issues of homelessness in the community. The panel may also ask clarifying questions about the answers and supporting documents submitted in the online form.

**If your organization applied to the September 2021 “Capacity-Building Grants for Community Partners” Funding Opportunity and did not receive funding, you have the option to:

- Submit the online form with supporting documents following the instructions above with new/up-to-date responses *OR*
- Submit updated financial documents (copies of your most recent 990 form, balance sheet from the most recently completed month, and current-year annual operating budget) to grants@destinationhomesv.org along with an email stating that you wish to resubmit your 2021 online form for consideration.



The same deadline of August 31, 2023 at 11:59pm PT applies to both options. To request a copy of your 2021 submission, please contact grants@destinationhomesv.org.

If any of these components present a barrier to your organization in responding to this funding opportunity, or if you have any questions, please email grants@destinationhomesv.org.

We are offering an optional **Information Session & Community Plan Overview**, as well as an optional **Q&A Session**. Please see details below.

Timeline

Here is the timeline we expect to follow for this funding opportunity. Please note that dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. We will keep all applicants updated about any changes.

- ❑ **7/17/2023** - Funding opportunity open for applications.
- ❑ **8/2/2023, 11am-12pm PT** - Information Session & Community Plan Overview: An overview of the funding opportunity will be provided with time for questions. This will be followed by a presentation to orient applicants to the goals and strategies of the Community Plan to End Homelessness. Attendance is optional and a recording will be made available. Please email grants@destinationhomesv.org if you need accommodations.
- ❑ **8/9/2023, 12:30-1:30pm PT** - Q&A Session: Please bring your questions about the funding opportunity to be addressed live during this session. Attendance is optional and a recording will be made available. Please email grants@destinationhomesv.org if you need accommodations.
- ❑ **8/31/2023** - Submit online form with supporting documents by 11:59pm PT.
- ❑ **September 2023** - Destination: Home reviews responses to determine eligibility; possible conversations between eligible organizations and panel
 - ⇒ Note: we anticipate that the conversations will occur during the week of 9/18/2023.
- ❑ **November 2023** - Notification of funding decisions.

Sign up [here](#) to receive video conference links to attend the Information Session and Q&A Session - and to receive updates about this funding opportunity.

Destination: Home is a public-private partnership ending homelessness in Silicon Valley. Our work is grounded in a commitment to advancing racial and socioeconomic justice, and to centering the voices of those with lived experience. Through our collective impact model, we convene and collaborate with stakeholders across our community to address the root causes of homelessness - including historic and current racist policies and practices - and drive true systemic change. We embrace a data-driven and human approach - advocating for policies, incubating new ideas and programs, and investing in strategies to connect more of our homeless neighbors to a stable home and prevent homelessness before it begins.