



DESTINATION: **HOME**

Request for Qualifications

COVID-19 Financial Assistance Partners Serving Vulnerable Communities

Release Date: Friday, May 8, 2020

Submission Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2020 at 5:00pm PST

This request for qualifications seeks to identify qualified non-profit organizations to provide direct financial assistance to vulnerable and hard to reach extremely low income households in Santa Clara County who are experiencing additional economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Qualified organizations will be eligible to receive support ranging from \$10,000-\$40,000 to directly enroll and disperse assistance to vulnerable families and individuals.

Overview

Destination: Home is a public-private partnership ending homelessness in Silicon Valley. Through our collective impact model, we incubate new ideas, advocate for policies, and fund effective strategies that address the root causes of homelessness and help ensure that our most vulnerable residents have stable housing.

In March, Destination: Home began raising funding to provide emergency financial assistance to support low income households whose housing stability was threatened due to the impacts of COVID-19. It has become apparent that, without such assistance, the loss of income in a concentrated timeframe could result in tens of thousands of households at risk of homelessness.

While the countywide [Homelessness Prevention System](#) has been the primary mechanism for distributing assistance to vulnerable families and individuals, Destination: Home also recognizes the importance of partnering with additional organizations to serve historically hard to reach groups and meet the unique needs of specific populations throughout the county.

With this in mind, Destination: Home is initially committing up to \$1,000,000 to non-profit organizations and community groups with experience serving vulnerable individuals and families in Santa Clara County. In particular, this request for qualifications (RFQ) seeks to identify organizations who can help provide assistance to households whose income has been negatively affected by COVID-19, and:

- were making <30% of the Area's Median Income (a.k.a. Extremely Low Income) prior to the crisis;
- are ineligible for government unemployment benefits and federal stimulus payments, including cash economy workers and undocumented and mixed status households

Selected Organizations will be eligible to receive support from \$10,000-\$40,000 to directly enroll and disburse assistance to any of their clients who meet the specific eligibility criteria for the next round of assistance. Organizations receiving funding will be provided with a simple, standardized process to follow for certifying eligibility and asked to reference a centralized database to avoid duplication of services. Direct client assistance payments will be set at a flat amount of \$1,000 per eligible worker and up to two workers per household. Destination: Home is also exploring streamlined financial tools to get funding to households quickly and will work with selected grantees to determine the most effective way to disperse funding to their clients.

Eligibility and Minimum Requirements

As noted above, Destination: Home is seeking to partner with organizations and community groups to provide direct financial assistance to vulnerable households throughout Santa Clara County. This RFQ invites interested entities to submit information that will enable them to be

selected as qualified partners for direct emergency financial assistance grants or other forms of support from Destination: Home.

To be considered for selection, respondents to this RFQ must be able to provide evidence of the following minimum requirements for funding eligibility:

- Applicant must be a 501c3 non-profit organization, or a community group with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor, serving residents in Santa Clara County;
- Applicant must provide basic needs services, immigration services, family support, youth development, community organizing or other public/community benefit for vulnerable families and individuals;
- Applicant must serve and/or engage with populations who cannot access other forms of financial support (i.e. federal stimulus, unemployment insurance, etc.);
- Applicant must demonstrate that they have the capacity/infrastructure to capture and report minimal data as required by Destination: Home and disburse financial assistance to residents directly.

Qualifications Evaluation Criteria

This RFQ will select organizations currently operating in Santa Clara County who are seeking direct financial assistance support for the clients they serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the proposal narrative, respondents must demonstrate their qualifications and ability to provide direct assistance services through the following questions:

- Briefly explain how your organization supports Extremely Low Income (ELI) residents in Santa Clara County, including the geographic area and populations served.
- Describe how your organization plans to engage and serve residents, specifically targeting populations who cannot access other forms of financial support (i.e. Federal Stimulus Funds, Unemployment Insurance).
- Please describe your organization's capacity/infrastructure to disburse checks or gift cards and capture and report minimal data as required by Destination: Home for the purpose of providing direct financial assistance to clients.
- Please indicate your preferred method for distribution of funds (e.g. gift cards, checks, electronic transfers) and discuss your willingness to partner with Destination: Home if other more streamlined financial tools can be made available such as QR codes.
- Please explain if your organization has implemented a similar project in the past.

Submission Instructions

The proposal narrative should not exceed three (3) pages, excluding attachments, using 1" margins and 12-point font. Proposals should include:

- Summary response to "Eligibility and Minimum Requirements" section;

- Response to all categories of “Qualifications Evaluation Criteria” section;
- A request for direct client support from \$10,000-\$40,000;
 - In addition to the financial assistance request, a modest amount - not to exceed \$5,000 - for personnel/administrative support may also be included
- Primary contact information (name, phone, email, mailing address) for your organization;
- A copy of your IRS 501c3 letter, if available.

Please submit any questions and your completed proposal packet electronically to grants@destinationhomesv.org. Proposals will only be accepted via e-mail. Applications are due on **Friday, May 15, 2020 by 5:00pm PST.**