The Center brings people, ideas and infrastructure together to create positive change. Our collective impact model seeks to improve community health in California. Sierra Health Foundation founded The Center to deepen our impact statewide and to reduce health disparities for the underserved living in California. With commitment, creativity and collaboration, we promote efforts to eradicate health inequities across the state.

www.shfcenter.org/ldre
BACKGROUND

California's future depends on all of its residents – particularly young people who are our future business owners, doctors, teachers and elected officials – to be healthy and successful. Investments that make sure youth have meaningful opportunities to improve their quality of life are smart for the future of California. 

As one of the most diverse states in the nation, California also depends on the health and success of its population. Yet many African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and other Californians face systemic barriers to leading healthy lives. These barriers block access to quality education, safe neighborhoods, clean environments and other resources, and result in racial inequities. 

Civic-minded groups, including nonprofit organizations, are essential to the flourishing of communities, and a vibrant and diverse civil society requires both effective community-based organizations and strong, diverse leadership throughout the nonprofit sector. The goal of this funding opportunity is to strengthen the capacity of and develop leaders within organizations managed by leaders of color, working with youth in low-income communities of color, to address racial inequities through policy and system change. 

This program is funded by The California Endowment and Sierra Health Foundation and is managed by The Center.

THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In partnership with The California Endowment and Sierra Health Foundation, The Center will award a total of $100,000 to support advocacy-related capacity building and leadership development activities for youth-focused nonprofit organizations led by people of color serving in Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba. This round of funding is open to youth-focused organizations working to eliminate health disparities, with an interest in increasing their organizational capacity to address issues of racial equity through policy and systems change. 

The Center has a broad definition of health, believing that health is influenced by many factors, including socioeconomic conditions, environment, education, housing and income. These factors have come to be known as the Social Determinants of Health. Where we live, work and play has a significant influence on our health. The Center also believes in advancing health equity, which Healthy People 2020 defines as the “attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.” Reducing health disparities and eliminating health inequities is a key factor in striving toward better health for all and reflects our commitment to ensuring that people throughout our funding region have the opportunity to lead healthy lives.
In this funding opportunity, we are particularly interested in youth-focused organizations that are poised to engage in policy and systems change efforts designed to address racial inequities and structural racism that limit opportunities to live healthy lives for low-income communities of color. Examples of racial disparities include:

- In schools, African American students are more likely to be suspended than white children.¹
- In the justice system, one in six Latino men has a lifetime likelihood of imprisonment, compared to one in 17 White men.²
- Less than half of American Indian and Native-Alaskan high school students have access to the full range of math and science courses in their high school. African American students, Latino students, students with disabilities and English language learner students have less access to the full range of courses.³
- According to a large-scale study of disparities in student achievement, White Americans significantly outperform nine AAPI ethnic groups including Vietnamese Americans, Cambodian Americans and Lao Americans. In math, seven AAPI ethnic groups, including Cambodian Americans and Lao Americans, scored at significantly lower levels than White Americans.⁴

Policy development, community engagement, leadership development and capacity building are common strategies in policy and systems change. In contrast to direct services, policy and systems changes are necessary to increase resources and opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes for the long term.

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¹ https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-discipline-snapshot.pdf
² http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfm?id=122
⁴ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/241646759_Asian_American_and_Pacific_Islander_Students_Equity_and_the_Achievement_Gap

### Important Dates

- **February 28, 2017** Release of RFP
- **March 15, 2017** Proposers’ webinar
- **April 10, 2017** Proposals due by 1 p.m. Pacific Time
- **Late May 2017** Grants awarded
- **June 15, 2017** Grant start date
- **July 13, 2017** Learning Community Convening #1

### Eligibility Criteria

#### Organization

This capacity building/leadership development funding opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations led by leaders of color that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are designated a 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization. Nonprofit fiscal sponsors for projects that are not qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to apply as long as projects meet the criteria below.

An organization managed by leaders of color is defined as one:

- that has an explicit mission to serve racial and ethnic populations, and
- in which key executive staff with policy- and decision-making authority, and at least half of its board of directors, represent racial and ethnic populations.

Additional eligibility criteria for the 2017 funding round:

- Organization must currently have a focus on youth.
- Organization’s funded activities must be designed to build capacity and/or engage in leadership development to address racial inequities through policy and systems change.
Geography

Applicant organizations must serve residents living in one or more of the 33 eligible counties of the Leadership Development for Racial Equity Program. These counties are Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

Selection Criteria

The most competitive applications will:

- Make the case for your organization’s need and readiness to engage in advocacy-related capacity building or leadership development to address racial equity;
- Describe your organization’s focus on youth and related successful outcomes;
- Focus on building organizational effectiveness to conduct advocacy and policy or systems change related to racial equity;
- Describe the anticipated difference the funded activities would make; and
- Include a reasonable scope and budget, based on this funding opportunity’s framework.

Additionally, the geographic and demographic diversity of the region as well as previous funding through LDRE will be considered in the final selection process in order to distribute funds equitably.

Funding Information

- The maximum award amount is $10,000. You may request from $5,000 to $10,000.
- These are one-time awards.
- The award term begins June 15, 2017, and ends June 14, 2018 (12-month grant).
- Only one proposal per organization will be considered. Fiscal sponsors may apply on behalf of more than one organization.
- Those receiving awards are required to participate in three learning community convenings that will be scheduled throughout the grant period. The first convening will be held on July 13, 2017. Travel costs to attend these convenings are the responsibility of the funded organization and may be included in the proposed...
budget. Please budget for three convenings in Sacramento. This location may change. Organizations should expect to bring teams of two to three individuals made up of policy-level staff, emerging leaders or board members.

- Those receiving awards will be expected to participate in an organizational assessment process. Training will be provided. Staff time can be included in the budget for this process.
- Those receiving awards will be required to submit a final narrative and financial report at the end of the funding period, reporting on outcomes proposed in the application.

**WHAT THE CENTER WILL FUND:**

- Capacity Building for Advocacy/Policy/Systems Change for Racial Equity Priority Areas:
  - Participatory Action Research/Data Collection
  - Evaluation/Research
  - Fund Development
  - Technology
  - Communications

- Leadership Development for Advocacy/Policy/Systems Change for Racial Equity Priority Areas:
  - Establishing cross-sector collaboration and coordination
  - Building youth and resident leadership in policy, advocacy and organizing in content areas
  - Spokesperson training
  - Engaging community stakeholders
  - Staff or board training

- **Examples** of what funds may be used for (proposals are not limited to these examples):
  - Assessment tools, training materials
  - Staffing, consultants, stipends
  - Meeting space, food, AV costs
  - Technology
  - Travel

- **Examples** of approaches that could be used to implement projects (proposed approaches are not limited to these examples):
  - Coalition building/Partnership development
  - Policy development
  - Leadership development
  - Community engagement, organizing and advocacy
  - Research/Participatory action research
  - Multi-ethnic/multi-racial collaboration
  - Communications/outreach and education
  - Youth engagement, organizing and advocacy
  - Peer learning

**WHAT WE DO NOT FUND**

The Center does not fund:

- Direct services (see description on the following page)
- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Individuals
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- 509(a)(3) supporting organizations
- 501(c)(4) organizations or direct or grassroots lobbying activities
Proposals for direct services will not be considered.

Direct services are those that tend to meet people’s more immediate needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, literacy, life skills, case management, individual development or physical or mental health care, rather than activities designed to result in policy and systems change.

For example, a proposal that offers unskilled summer jobs to youth is considered a direct services proposal. A proposal that engages youth in a participatory action research process and builds their leadership skills for the purpose of local advocacy, with stipends earned as part of their participation, is a systems change proposal.

Proposals must be submitted using The Center’s online grants portal by 1 p.m. Pacific Time on April 10, 2017. Late proposals will not be reviewed.

Proposers’ Webinar

A proposers’ webinar will be held March 15, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participation in the proposers’ webinar is recommended, though not required. Please register for the webinar no later than March 13, 2017. Registration information is posted on The Center’s web site, www.shfcenter.org/ldre. The webinar slides and audio recording will be posted on this web page.

Important Application Guidelines

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines:

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the guidelines below.
- Applications are due no later than 1 p.m. PT on April 10, 2017.
- Submit the application via our online grants portal. New users of the portal will need to create an account as the first step in the application process.
- For optimal functionality, please use Internet Explorer as your web browser for the portal.
- Required fields are marked with an *.
- Upload all documents listed under “Application Attachments Checklist.”
- On the portal, you may click “Save & Finish Later.” You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application. Use this link each time you return to your in-progress application.
- You may only submit your application once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- If you need help submitting your application, send an e-mail to grants@shfcenter.org with the subject line: LDRE Online Help.

Application Timeline

February 28, 2017  Release of RFP
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Questions about this funding opportunity and the application process may be sent to grants@shfcenter.org

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST


- Proposed budget – download the Proposed Budget Template in the Attachments section of the online application, fill it in and upload it.

- Proposed budget narrative – upload a narrative that explains your proposed expenditures.

- 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter

- Financial Report – must show organizational revenue and expenses for your organization’s most recent full fiscal year (not IRS form 990)