



Butte Strong Fund

Grant Program Guidelines

Rebuilding for a Stronger Butte County

2023

Recover. Rebuild. Revitalize.

We expect 2023 likely will be the final year of Butte Strong Fund grantmaking.

At this point in the recovery we will be transitioning from an open cycle (apply at any time) process to a more traditional closed cycle process. In short, this means there are firm deadlines around specific areas of interest for each specific grant cycle.

The Butte Strong Fund supports the rebuilding and revitalization of communities throughout Butte County impacted by the Camp Fire. Tragically, the Camp Fire has been declared the most devastating and deadliest wildfire in California history. Its impact has been felt by everyone in our region, and it will take many years of collaborative work for us to rebuild and revitalize homes, health, and wellbeing for all of our neighbors.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with the nonprofit, government, philanthropic, and private sectors to accelerate recovery and rebuilding to create a thriving, resilient, and even stronger Butte County than before the Fire. We are a partnership of funders – North Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund – dedicated to working together to achieve this goal.

We are particularly interested in projects and initiatives that serve the most vulnerable members of our community – those with the least resources and most needs, who have the most challenging time recovering post-disaster. We also seek to fill gaps – providing shorter-term, catalytic funding that is not available elsewhere and has the potential to leverage longer-term ongoing support. We want to ensure that our investments leverage – but do not duplicate – other funding streams and lead to significant and measurable positive benefit for impacted households and the region as a whole.

We are honored to steward investments on behalf of a broad range of donors and will therefore design and implement the Butte Strong Fund transparently, accountably, and in accordance with the principles of Partnership, Collaboration, Focus on the Most Vulnerable,

Leverage, Impact, and Sustainability.

See below for more on our specific guidelines, criteria and process – and *please note that we will continue to update the program areas and selection criteria as new gaps, issues and opportunities emerge through the long-term recovery and rebuilding process.*

PROGRAM AREAS

OVERVIEW

Housing was identified as the top issue facing our community prior to the Camp Fire and is now clearly the most critical area of need for all of our residents who have been directly and indirectly impacted through the fire. An adequate supply of safe, stable, and affordable housing is key to having healthy communities and a thriving economy as well as to meet the needs of those who lost their homes and/or experienced significant housing cost increases due to the Camp Fire.

Moreover, the effect of sudden changes in population redistribution has a serious impact on the health and wellness for the community as a whole. Stress levels are high, and trauma is widespread with employers, co-workers, family and friends needing to confront the effects of trauma and work together to overcome them and build resilience. Increasing the health and well-being of all of our community members is clearly a top priority.

Other program areas may be added as significant needs and opportunities emerge. At this time, any work outside of these two priority areas will be considered by invitation only. For support of individuals most directly impacted by the Camp Fire, Butte Strong Fund and North Valley Community Foundation are supporting the work of the Camp Fire Collaborative and organizations serving those identified by the Unmet Needs Committee.

HOUSING: LAND AVAILABILITY

Housing remains a top priority for our grantmaking in the Camp Fire recovery. We have made significant investments into affordable housing projects, direct assistance grants for homeowners building on the Ridge and volunteer home building programs and continue to see an overall necessity to help the people rebuilding in the burn scar. As outlined below, our focus for the upcoming grant cycle in 2023 is assisting nonprofit organizations create a land bank for affordable housing projects in the future to ensure that there continues to be affordable housing as the region recovers.

Quarter 2 (Application period: April 2023; Deadline: May 1, 2023)

We are looking to make grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations to support:

- Grants for multifamily or single-family land acquisition to provide low-income and affordable housing in the Camp Fire footprint. Funding would be available to nonprofit organizations heavily invested in the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

RESOURCE HUBS

In 2023, health and wellness continues to be our top priority. As part of our collective efforts in recovery and resilience, the Butte Strong Fund will focus on quarter 2 on collaborative approaches to addressing basic needs for vulnerable populations rebuilding and resettling on the ridge. Priority will be given to collaborative approaches to addressing these needs with organizations leveraging their own strengths and resources with others for greater collective impact.

Quarter 2 (Application period: April, 2023; Deadline: May 1, 2023)

We are looking to make grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations to support:

- Joint efforts to create a system of care in Butte County to resource Camp Fire survivors with basic needs and support including food distribution, clothing, furniture and household goods.

ELIGIBILITY

1. **Tax Status:** Qualified applicant organizations include federal- and state-recognized tribes, unrecognized tribes with a fiscal agent, nonprofit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, programs fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), or units of local government (including public schools). Qualified entities include churches that serve congregations of at least 100 people and the proposed projects or programs that are not denomination specific and meet the specific criteria. Other organizations may also propose projects that meet the specific criteria but may be required to partner with a 501(c)(3) entity.
2. **Non-Discrimination:** Organizations must offer programs and services without discrimination based on age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or religious belief.
3. **Geography:** Programs and projects must clearly benefit Butte County residents who have been directly and/or indirectly impacted by the Camp Fire.
4. **Use of Funds:** Our funds are deployed strategically where other sources of funding are not available. As much as possible, we leverage our grants by first tapping into federal and state aid programs and insurance. The project must not supplant public funding or fill gaps that the government and/or private insurance have committed to address.
5. **Restrictions:** The Butte Strong Fund will not consider grant requests for fundraising events, annual funds, endowment funds, political lobbying, individuals, or activities that are restricted to members of a faith community. Capital improvements such as new structures, repair of damaged structures, or acquisition of structures will generally not be considered except for possible short-term, low- or no-interest loans.
6. **Frequency:** Eligible entities may not apply for more than one grant for the same program or project within a 12-month period.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects and initiatives will be evaluated by the following selection criteria, and priority given to those that most strongly meet the following criteria:

1. **Vulnerable Populations:** Multiple studies have shown that disaster recovery is not equal and that vulnerable populations have greater needs, fewer options, and longer recovery time frames. Projects that target lower-income households particularly those that include seniors or children; individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities; and/or populations that lack access to federal or state recovery resources or reside in isolated areas with limited services will be prioritized.
2. **Camp Fire Connection;** Projects that directly benefit those most impacted by the Camp Fire will be prioritized.
3. **Demonstrable Impact:** The project's approach (design, delivery, and staffing) is tailored to meet the specific needs of the target population(s) and has a reasonable timeline for implementation. Projects that result in significant outputs and outcomes – either through addressing a broad range of the community's needs and/or resulting in an enduring positive impact for individuals and households – will be prioritized.
4. **Collaboration:** Projects that partner with other organizations and stakeholders to maximize impact and minimize duplication are desired. Organizations with strong track records of collaboration will be prioritized.
5. **Organizational Capacity:** Applicants need to demonstrate their capacity to implement the proposed project in terms of leadership, staffing expertise, and financial health.
6. **Leverage & Sustainability:** The project is supported by a diversity of funding sources and/or has the capacity to leverage additional sources. It is financially feasible with a realistic and viable strategy for sustainability through other ongoing sources.

GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS

In general, grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$150,000 and range in duration from one to three years. Amounts above this range may be considered by invitation only. Proposals under \$50,000 should be submitted through the small grant program application. Larger grants should be submitted through the large grant program application.

Grant requests larger than 25% of the applicant organization's annual operating budget will come under additional scrutiny to ascertain the organization's financial strength and its ability to deliver on the project while maintaining existing operations.

ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

Proposed grant budgets may include project staff and consultants and other programmatic expenses needed to plan and implement the programs and provide the proposed services. Grant budgets may also include the costs associated with outreach, intake, and evaluation.

Administrative costs of up to 10% of the grant amount will be considered.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AWARDED GRANTEES

1. Grant Agreement

Upon approval of your application, you will receive a formal, legally binding grant agreement, which will require your signature. This will include the final scope of work, timeline for outcomes, grant budget, the reporting schedule and other legal assurances.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Butte Strong Fund requires grantees to submit biannual reports for large grants and one final report for large grants on project progress and financial expenditures. Please note that timely grant reports will assist the Butte Strong Fund in fulfilling its stewardship responsibility to our donors and the community.

3. Grant Payments

An initial installment of the grant will be paid upon execution of the grant agreement. Subsequent grant installments will be paid upon submission of reports according to the reporting schedule in the grant agreement. The Butte Strong Fund may hold issuance of additional grant installments in the event of performance issues.

4. Public Acknowledgment of Grant

Must be coordinated with the Butte Strong Fund and consistent with the guidelines provided in the grant agreement. Contact David Little, Executive Vice President of Communications, at dlittle@nvcf.org with questions.

GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

1. **Butte Strong Fund - Small Grant Program**

Eligible organizations that are seeking \$50,000 or less in funding for qualified programs may apply to the Butte Strong Fund - Small Grant Program. This process requires applicants to upload a complete project budget showing sources of income for the proposal as well as all projected expenses. Applicants must also provide a certificate of liability insurance.

2. **Butte Strong Fund - Large Grant Program**

Eligible organizations that are seeking more than \$50,000 for a qualified program must apply to the Butte Strong Fund - Large Grant Program. This process requires applicants to upload a complete project budget showing sources of income for the proposal as well as all projected expenses. Applicants must also provide a certificate of liability insurance.

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding the grant application process or the guidelines, contact our grants team at grants@nvcf.org.