



Dixie Fire Grant Program Guidelines

**A partnership between North Valley Community Foundation
and Almanor Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund**

2021

The Wildfire Relief & Recovery Fund supports the rebuilding and revitalization of communities throughout our region impacted by wildfire. Tragically, the wildfires have become more and more dangerous, happen more frequently and are incredibly destructive in recent years. More specifically, our region has suffered immensely. The impact of these fires 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 region.

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. 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 benefits 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 Wildfire Relief & Recovery Fund transparently, with accountability 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.*

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PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Immediate assistance is our top priority facing the community as the Dixie Fire continues to threaten communities. Other program areas may be added as significant needs and opportunities emerge. At this time, any work outside of immediate assistance will be considered by invitation only. Applications will be reviewed by a joint committee representing NVCF's Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund and Almanor Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

Tax Status

Be qualified as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), or be classified as a unit 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.

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.

Geography

Programs and projects must clearly benefit Plumas or Butte County residents who have been directly or indirectly impacted by wildfires.

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.

Restrictions

The Dixie Fire Grant Program 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.

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 will be prioritized that target lower-income households, particularly those that include seniors or children; individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities; and populations that lack access to federal or state recovery resources or reside in isolated areas with limited services.

2. Dixie Fire Connection

Projects that directly benefit those most impacted by the Dixie 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 and 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 up to \$5,000. Amounts above this range may be considered by invitation only.

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

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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

Grantees are required to submit semiannual reports on project progress and financial expenditures. Please note that timely grant reports will assist the committee 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. North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) may hold issuance of additional grant installments in the event of performance issues.

4. Public Acknowledgment of Grant

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

CONTACT

If you have questions regarding the grant application process or the guidelines, contact Logan Todd, Vice President of Grant Programs and Client Services, at ltodd@nvcf.org.