REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE INITIATIVE
Air Quality Issues

The San Francisco Foundation invites proposals focused on air quality issues for grants from its Environmental Health and Justice Initiative. Awards will be made in November 2002.

The San Francisco Foundation is a community foundation serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. The Foundation’s mission is to mobilize resources and guide their use to promote vibrant, sustainable communities throughout the Bay Area. In service to the people of our community, we partner with diverse organizations and donors to create new opportunities and to be a catalyst for change.

Introduction
The San Francisco Foundation has long been committed to improving environmental health and promoting environmental justice in the Bay Area. In July 2000, the Environmental Health and Justice Initiative was established to partner with leaders in the nonprofit, public, business, academic, and philanthropic sectors, in order to improve environmental health and justice conditions for Bay Area residents. The Initiative’s goal is to address the disproportionate impact of health problems related to environmental factors experienced by low-income and Native American populations, and communities of color. Our vision is to foster a proactive and effective environmental health and justice movement, and to see a Bay Area where all people can breathe clean air, drink safe water, and work, live, and play in unpolluted environments.

Issue Area
Environmental health and justice is a large and challenging field that encompasses a wide array of topics including children’s environmental health, indoor and outdoor air quality, disruption of human hormone systems by synthetic chemicals, increases in diseases that have suspected links to toxics, and a variety of consumer safety concerns. With this Request for Proposals (RFP), the Foundation is focusing on improving air quality in southeast San Francisco and in the greater Bay Area.

Air Quality Background
The Bay Area has a mix of air pollutants, with elevated levels of both “criteria” air pollutants including ozone and particulate matter and of “hazardous” air pollutants including benzene, formaldehyde, and diesel exhaust. Ozone has received the greatest attention in recent years because the Bay Area has exceeded the federal air quality standard for ozone on several occasions. However, other pollutants also exceed health thresholds and pose risks to the population.
The sources of these air pollutants are diverse and include vehicles, diesel trucks and buses, and other mobile sources; stationary sources such as factories and power plants; and small sources such as dry cleaners and fireplaces. Air pollution is affected by energy policy, transportation policy, and land use policy. Air pollution is not distributed equally among communities and is a significant environmental justice issue. The most impacted communities face a concentration of combined sources that contribute to elevated health concerns.

The regulatory program applied to air pollution is extremely complex, and the lack of enforcement of existing statutes, regulations, and permits is a critical problem. To address air quality issues over the long term, fundamental changes are needed in the methods used to produce energy and in the ways that people are transported. Initiatives that reduce air pollution will also contribute to reductions in global warming, as combustion sources in energy production and transportation account for both a high proportion of air pollution and a high percentage of the emissions of gases that contribute to global warming.

**Purposes of Funding**
Recognizing that air pollution affects human health and contributes to climate change, the San Francisco Foundation invites proposals that address improvements in air quality and public health through education, advocacy, community organizing, coalition-building, the development and promotion of alternative technologies and paradigms, and public policy initiatives. We will also consider support for projects that assist people affected by diseases caused or worsened by poor air quality in the San Francisco neighborhoods of Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill.

The Foundation recognizes that the limited amount of funding available through this Initiative is not sufficient to address the multitude of factors that contribute to air pollution. The Foundation is interested, however, in proposals that increase direct public action in support of air quality improvements; that build capacity to address these issues over the long term; that support collaborative efforts and coalitions among groups advocating progressive change in air quality, transportation, energy, and air pollution-related public health concerns; and that develop alternatives and solutions to those technologies currently contributing to air pollution.

**Areas of Emphasis**
We are particularly interested in efforts that:
- Involve and directly benefit environmentally-at-risk populations.
- Promote civic engagement and leadership.
- Promote collaboration among nonprofit organizations, public health agencies, research entities, and the business sector.
- Offer creative alternatives and solutions to improving our region’s air quality.
- Provide community education on environmental health and justice concerns.
- Emphasize the prevention of harm and the promotion of a precautionary ethic.
**Populations Served**
While everyone is vulnerable to the negative health impacts associated with various environmental factors, it is clear that certain populations are disproportionately at risk. Therefore, the Initiative prioritizes projects that benefit communities of color, low-income populations, Native Americans, infants and children, immigrants, and low-wage workers.

**Eligible Applicants**
Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, informal organization with an appropriate fiscal sponsor, or public agency serving the residents of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and/or San Mateo Counties. Current grantees of the Foundation are eligible for funding through the Environmental Health and Justice Initiative.

**Grants Budget**
$200,000 is available for this round of funding. We expect to award four to seven grants of $15,000 to $50,000 each for a one-year period. You may submit a request for more or less than this range. The Foundation will consider proposals for up to $100,000 from coalitions. Please be advised that continued funding is not guaranteed.

In accordance with a court-ordered consent decree, $100,000 of the available funds will be allocated to projects working to improve the air quality of southeast San Francisco, specifically Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill.

**Use of Funds**
Funds may be requested for expenses appropriate to the proposed project, including partial salaries, consultant fees, trainings, meeting costs, material costs, and operating expenses. Recognizing that grassroots environmental health and justice organizations face substantial challenges, the Foundation is interested in strengthening the organizational capacity of our grantees. Applicants may dedicate up to 25 percent of their total grant request towards meeting this need.

**Requirements**
We are interested in learning about the approaches and experiences of the Initiative’s grantees. Therefore, we ask that grantees participate in a collaborative learning process and meet two to four times each year in order to share experiences, distill key learnings, evaluate work accomplished, and foster networking. Opportunities for technical assistance and professional development will also be made available.

**Timeline**
- July 22, 2002: RFP issued
- September 4, 2002: Proposal Deadline
- Nov. 15, 2002: Decisions Announced
How to Apply
Please find our grant guidelines and proposal forms on the Foundation’s website: http://www.sff.org/grantmaking/apply.html. A complete proposal will include:

- Completed Proposal Summary Form.
- Completed Budget Form.
- Current operating budget for your organization.
- Completed Diversity Data Form.
- Governing Board list.
- Letter of Resolution.
- Evidence of federal tax-exempt status.
- Most recent audited financial statements.
- Proposal narrative of no more than 5 pages addressing:
  1. Mission of the organization and key staff.
  2. Need for and purpose of the proposed program or project.
  3. Specific activities and intended outcomes of the project.
  4. Prospects for success including opportunities and challenges.
  5. Names and phone numbers of at least three references, familiar with your work, from outside your organization.

Deadline
Proposals must arrive at the Foundation’s offices by Wednesday, September 4, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. Please send five complete copies of all proposal materials and attachments.

Send Proposals to: Derek Aspacher, Grants Manager
The Environmental Health and Justice Initiative
The San Francisco Foundation
225 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104-4224

The Process
Once your proposal has been received by the Foundation, we will send you an acknowledgement letter. Your application will be reviewed by the Environmental Health and Justice Initiative’s Grants Review Committee. A committee member may call you for further information or to schedule a site visit. Grant recommendations will be presented to the Foundation’s Board and award decisions will be announced by November 15, 2002.

Questions?
Please contact Angela Quon, Program Assistant, at 415-733-8542 or acq@sff.org. If you would like more information about The San Francisco Foundation, visit our website at www.sff.org. Please feel free to forward this RFP to other potential applicants.