

Grant Opportunity: Capacity Building for Nonprofit Organizations

When people think of nonprofit organizations, we tend to think first about their missions, strategies, and programs. What often gets less attention is what's less visible: systems, operations, the capacity to implement programs. Yet, these ingredients are key to an organization's survival and sustainability, and to its ability to deliver on its mission.

This year, vBCF will again offer a limited number of grants—typically averaging \$3,500 to \$5,000, not to exceed \$10,000—to nonprofit organizations aligned with vBCF's mission to help them address capacity needs by procuring technical assistance from a coach or consultant.

Past projects include (but are not limited to):

- Organizational needs assessments (capacities, systems, etc.)
- Board development
- Leadership coaching
- Building capacity around racial equity
- Fund development
- Business plans
- Exploring restructuring, mergers, and shared services

Capacity grants are not available for strategic planning; organizations seeking support for this purpose must instead apply for project/program support during one of the Foundation's regular grant cycles.

Staff will review capacity grant proposals on a rolling basis, applications will be accepted until funds are expended. Grantees are asked to provide a brief report at the conclusion of their grant.

To Apply:

- 1) Complete the [capacity grants application](#), which includes the following questions:
 - a. The need your organization is seeking to address
 - b. Why the need is important to address, especially now
 - c. How the proposed project will address this need and improve the overall performance of the organization. How will you know you've succeeded?
 - d. Who from your organization will be participating? (For board development engagements, please include a letter from your board chair/president expressing commitment to the project.)
 - e. What other capacity needs do you see on the horizon for your organization?
- 2) Upload a proposed scope of work, (including costs, deliverables, timeline and qualifications) from the consultant(s)/coach(es) with whom you propose to work
- 3) Upload confirmation of your organization's nonprofit status. (*Only if you are a first time applicant or there has been a change since your last submission.*)

If you have questions, please email Thomas Brendler at tbrendler@vbcfoundation.org.