Strengthening Nonprofit Organizations

Work with the Arizona Community Foundation to enhance financial sustainability.
“Collaboration is like oxygen. When you are surrounded by the energy, creativity, and support of others, you can breathe deeper, run faster, jump higher, and reach for the stars.”

BRENDA THOMSON
Executive Director of the Arizona Humanities Council, an ACF nonprofit fundholder since 2011
Nonprofit organizations play a vital role in supporting thriving communities. Since 1978, the Arizona Community Foundation has invested in the health of our nonprofit sector through competitive grant cycles, discretionary and advised grantmaking, professionally managed funds, and loans that support community projects.

You are the experts in how to best serve Arizona communities. Partnering with us strengthens your organization’s financial sustainability, allowing you to focus on carrying out your mission.

It’s a win-win.
When you work with ACF, you partner with a community-based, nonprofit institution with over 40 years of experience in supporting the nonprofit sector across the state.

We collaborate with thousands of organizations working to meet the needs of Arizona’s residents and enhance our shared quality of life. Here are some of the ways we support the nonprofit sector:

- A range of fund types catering to the unique needs of nonprofit organizations
- Year-round grant funding
- Planned giving and endowment building training programs
- Low interest loan programs that support community projects
Create a nonprofit fund
ACF offers nonprofits the opportunity to establish an organizational fund that provides reliable financial support, earning income through pooled investments. These funds can support your work in perpetuity, help save for a major project, or help your organization plan for an emergency. Your nonprofit fund can even be set up to honor a donor restriction.

Two fund types are available to suit your organization’s particular needs:

**RESERVE**
*(NON-ENDOWED)*

A professionally managed fund that allows a nonprofit to earmark and invest dollars for strategic initiatives or emergency use and generate income while remaining accessible to the organization’s board.

**BOARD DESIGNATED**
*(QUASI-ENDOWED)*

A board designated, professionally managed fund that allows a nonprofit to generate investment income, year after year. ACF provides safeguards against principal invasion in order to achieve long term sustainability.
Advantages of Establishing a Fund with ACF

Stability and credibility.  
ACF has managed charitable funds for nonprofit organizations, individuals, families, and businesses since 1978. Our Investment Committee, composed of leading experts in investment management, provides oversight and guidance to all fundholders to ensure appropriate growth and preservation of capital.

Investment expertise.  
With assets exceeding $1.4 billion, ACF assures substantial efficiencies and economies of scale as well as diversification of investments. Nonprofits can be confident that total returns will be maximized.

Flexibility.  
Nonprofits can choose one or both of the available fund types. Many organizations find value in each fund type and establish them at the same time for maximum flexibility and the benefits of ACF’s stewardship. Multiple funds established by the same nonprofit can be pooled to meet minimum balance requirements, lower administrative fees, and receive combined financial statements.

Stewardship.  
ACF keeps pace with industry standards and encourages nonprofit fundholders to set up a withdrawal plan that ensures your organization’s long-term sustainability.

Capacity building.  
ACF staff are available to nonprofit fundholders and their board members who may benefit from specialized trainings in endowment building, planned giving, and accepting complex assets. Fundholders also have priority access to trainings and events at ACF.

Personalized service.  
Each nonprofit fundholder is assigned a designated relationship manager who is available for regular meetings and support. ACF’s professional staff are well versed in helping nonprofits accept non-cash assets like real estate, life insurance, and closely held business interests—and can work with you to liquidate these gifts and prepare them for deposit into your nonprofit fund.

At right: Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council has been an ACF nonprofit fundholder since 1993
ACF’s grant funding is awarded year-round, and grants support nonprofits, educational institutions, tribal entities, government agencies, and most religious organizations anywhere in the U.S. and internationally, with a primary focus on programs and projects that benefit Arizonans.
Advised Grants
Donors work with their dedicated relationship manager to develop a giving strategy and recommend grants from their fund. All recommendations are vetted by our grants management team to ensure grantees are qualified, viable organizations in good standing.

While grants recommended by individual donors represent over 55% of annual grant distributions, ACF also awards funding through competitive grant cycles and discretionary grantmaking.

Competitive Grants
Applications can be submitted through our online grantee portal during competitive grant cycles. Current open grant cycles can be found at azfoundation.org/grants, upcoming opportunities are added at the beginning of each month.

Unique competitive grant cycles are available annually in Maricopa County and each of our six regions, serving: Cochise County and Patagonia, Flagstaff and northern Arizona, Graham and Greenlee counties, Sedona and the Verde Valley, Yuma and San Luis, and Yavapai County.

ACF staff members conduct free workshops statewide throughout the year to assist prospective applicants in navigating the grantee portal and the competitive grant process.

Discretionary Grants
We also have a pool of funding available from our Field of Interest Funds and Funds for the Common Good that can be granted throughout the year in alignment with our Philanthropic Agenda and community needs.

Award decisions are determined by diverse panels of local community members that include ACF board members, regional boards of advisors, community leaders, staff, and subject-matter experts.

Grant funding supports:

- Arts & Culture
- Environment & Sustainability
- Community Improvement & Development
- Health Innovations
- Quality Education
AEBI EQUIPPED GOMPERS WITH MENTORSHIP AND TOOLS TO CRAFT AN EFFECTIVE PROCESS FOR CULTIVATING DONORS.
Training and Resources

Each year, ACF offers training opportunities across the state that focus on nonprofit professionals, including continuing education seminars with nationally recognized guest speakers, workshops on preparing grant applications, and planned giving resources.

Planned Giving
ACF supports nonprofits in cultivating planned gifts and helps generous individuals live out their charitable intentions.

Planned Giving Basics
A series of workshops that provides an overview of endowment building and planned giving is offered annually to nonprofit staff and board members. ACF’s Planned Giving 100 and 200 series workshops are the beginner and intermediate tracks that prepare nonprofits for participation in the Arizona Endowment Building Institute.

Arizona Endowment Building Institute (AEBI)
Nonprofit representatives who participate in this program will learn how to seek outright gifts to endowments and direct future gifts received from wills or estate plans into endowed funds. Over the course of a year, AEBI’s curriculum equips nonprofits with the necessary tools to develop and implement their own endowment building programs. These nonprofit organizations have taken advantage of the learning offered through AEBI:

- All Saints Episcopal Church & Day School
- Area Agency on Aging-Region One
- Arizona Animal Welfare League
- Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
- Arizona Foundation for Women
- Arizona Women’s Education and Employment
- Ballet Arizona
- Banner Health Foundation
- Beatitudes Campus of Care
- Beatitudes Center DOAR
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona
- Boys and Girls Club of Metro Phoenix
- Cancer Support Community Arizona
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Child Crisis Arizona
- Christian Care Communities
- Crisis Nursery
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Duet
- El Rio Health Center Foundation
- Florence Crittenton Services
- Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project Foundation for Blind Children
- Franciscan Renewal Center
- Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
- Free Arts for Abused Children
- Gompers Habilitation Center
- Herberger Theater Center
- Horses Help
- Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona
- Lowell Observatory
- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
- Museum of Indigenous People
- Musical Instrument Museum
- Neighborhood Ministries
- A New Leaf
- New Life Center
- One-n-Ten
- Paz de Cristo
- Phoenix Art Museum
- Phoenix Rescue Mission
- The Phoenix Symphony
- Phoenix Zoo
- Prescott College
- Prescott Meals on Wheels
- Rainbow Acres
- Save the Family
- Sedona Arts Center
- Sedona Community Center
- Sedona Historical Society
- Sedona International Film Festival
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Sojourner Center
- Sonoran University of Health Sciences
- Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center
- St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance
- Stardust Building Supplies
- Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
- UMOM New Day Centers
- Valley Life
- Valley Presbyterian Church Foundation
- Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition
- Yavapai College Foundation
- Valley of the Sun YMCA
- Yavapai Humane Society
- YWCA of Greater Phoenix
Community Impact Loan Fund

The Community Impact Loan Fund is an innovative philanthropic tool designed to support your nonprofit organization’s access to capital, helping you achieve scalability and impact. The fund leverages funding from donors to provide low interest rate loans for community projects.

Who is eligible for a community impact loan?
- Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in good standing based in Arizona
- State and local governments and agencies
- Tribal governments and agencies
- Federal agencies

Other requirements
- Projects must align with one or more of ACF’s strategic priorities: health innovations, quality education, community improvement & development, environment & sustainability, or arts & culture
- All borrowers must create significant social outcomes within Arizona
- All loans must be approved by ACF’s Community Impact Investing Committee, which includes members of the ACF Board of Directors and other community experts

Affordable Housing Predevelopment Loan Fund

Stable neighborhoods and affordable housing are the building blocks of a healthy community. ACF’s Affordable Housing Predevelopment Loan Fund provides funding for affordable housing projects across Arizona. In partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and with financial support from several community partners, this fund provides zero-interest loans to nonprofit housing developers for difficult to finance predevelopment expenses. Once the project receives long-term lender financing, loans are repaid to the fund—making those dollars available for new projects.

Who is eligible for a predevelopment loan?
- Nonprofit community development corporations
- Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations
- Joint ventures where a nonprofit is a significant, active partner in the project

Applicants can apply for a loan of up to $75,000 while demonstrating the capacity to develop rental or home ownership units.

Rural Development Investment Fund

The Rural Development Investment Fund assists rural communities with low-interest, short-term financing for infrastructure projects that USDA Rural Development has committed to funding. Loans from this fund benefit water systems, schools, affordable housing, firehouses, parks, and related needs in rural communities.

Who is eligible for a rural development loan?
- Nonprofits, municipalities, and federally-recognized tribal entities serving rural communities under the criteria established by USDA

Other requirements
- Project must have documented commitment of funding from USDA
DESERT STAGES THEATRE
A loan from the Community Impact Loan Fund provided the opportunity for this youth-focused community theatre to renovate its new location and expand capacity.

COFFELT-LAMOREAUX APARTMENT HOMES
When the state’s first affordable housing project faced the threat of demolition, dozens of collaborative partners renovated the community. A loan from the Affordable Housing Predevelopment Loan Fund helped kick-start the renovation of these historic apartment homes in south Phoenix.

MANA HOUSE
With a loan from the Community Impact Loan Fund, Catholic Charities transformed a 25,000 square-foot Phoenix warehouse into transitional housing and on-site services for Veterans who are currently—or at risk of becoming—homeless.
Ready to learn more about the benefits for your nonprofit? Let’s talk.

Our team is here to answer questions.

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