



## **San Mateo County & Nonprofit Feedback Summary**

The San Mateo County and Nonprofit partnership aims to strengthen collaborations and streamline shared services to better meet community needs. The joint effort has created a foundational platform to explore opportunities for growth, process improvement, outreach, and much more.

The San Mateo County and Nonprofit Partnerships Summit in February 2023 provided a space for deep engagement across sectors, and the chance to recommend improvements to these critical partnerships. We collected and evaluated an incredible breadth and depth of input from Summit attendees through our feedback collection activity.

Based on that input from approximately 150 attendees, below are the summarized and consolidated top themes and recommendations for strengthening the partnership between nonprofits and the County to better support nonprofits serving the community.

- Continue to strengthen partnerships and collaborations with core network agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), schools, and other stakeholders to better serve all San Mateo County communities, especially during times of crisis.
- Facilitate ongoing collaborative meetings to address challenges and opportunities, provide resources and opportunities for nonprofits to network and join efforts to support the community, and provide access to information regarding services, funding trainings, and open opportunities, specifically for communities of color.
- Expand outreach efforts and language accessibility by partnering with CBOs to reach diverse populations and specific regions.
- Continue to offer wrap-around services and referrals to the Latino community, including health and legal assistance and job placement support, and expand these services to other communities in the County that have similar needs.
- Advocate with the state to simplify funding structures for services to immigrant communities.
- Strengthen partnerships between the library and social safety net providers to bring services to library locations.
- Continue to prioritize and implement Diverse Equitable Inclusive (DEI) policies and practices in partnership with CBOs.
- Continue to collaborate with nonprofit organizations to support families who are at risk of homelessness and hear the voice of the community and make sure programs address the immediate needs of the community.
- Provide emergency procurement assistance to supply goods to nonprofits during emergencies.

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- Provide general support funds: Provide more unrestricted funding opportunities and more general support funds for DEI efforts, mental health, and DBI efforts.
  - Streamline administrative processes: discuss, share, and listen to barriers that will improve efficiencies currently burdening nonprofits with unnecessary administration affecting nonprofit cash flow and ability to serve the community (i.e., invoice/payment process, Request for Proposals (RFP) negotiation, realistic budgeting, and overstated outcomes expectations).
  - Provide realistic funding: Ensure that funding and grants are provided in a way that reflects macroeconomic factors that are impacting the ability of nonprofits to serve their communities, such as inflation, recession, and disasters, while also considering increased demand for services.
  - Simplify grant application process and ensure that applications are not too challenging for nonprofits to complete.
  - Encourage San Mateo County residents to volunteer their time and skills to nonprofits to better serve the community.
  - Diversify the pool of nonprofits funded to provide services so that more nonprofits can participate.
  - Ensure transparency and continue meeting with local nonprofit leaders for further learning and engagement and provide transparent processes for how to request and receive services as a nonprofit for the County.

The above summary provides an overview of improvement opportunities as recommended by Summit participants across both sectors. We look forward to continuing to develop next steps to strengthen working relationships between the County and Nonprofits to better meet the community needs.