

CFSA Field of Interest Impact Funds: FAQ

Q. What are these funds?

A. CFSA's FOI Impact Funds were created to support the following fields of interest with additional general operating funds and strategic support: Animal Welfare, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Education & Workforce Development, Environmental Sustainability, Greatest Need, Healthy Communities, Housing, and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Access (IDEA).

Q. Why did CFSA select these field of interest categories?

A. The current Field of Interest categories were identified from focus areas where additional funding for critical services, local leadership initiatives, and nonprofit capacity building will support the creation of an equitable and vibrant community for all Southern Arizonans.

Q. Why did CFSA create them?

A. CFSA's FOI Impact Funds were created with three primary goals: to increase the availability of general operating support for CFSA's nonprofit partners; to offer an accessible entry point to welcome more diverse donors into the CFSA family; and to provide a simple and effective way for the philanthropic community in Southern Arizona to participate in collective impact funding in the areas they care about most.

Q. How is CFSA going to use donations to the funds?

A. Through our [CORE Grants Program](#), CFSA has joined other national foundations in focusing on providing general operating support to increase the capacity and strength of nonprofit organizations. Initially, donations made to CFSA's FOI Impact Funds will be used to support CORE Grantees within that specific field of interest. As awareness and contributions to these funds grow, there may be opportunities to use funding to establish a new initiative, support existing initiatives, or launch focused funding for an identified community need.

Q. Why is general operating support important?

A. To measurably affect change and improve the quality of life in Southern Arizona, nonprofits need flexible working capital to maximize their impact. General operating support enables nonprofits to build the strong and sustainable infrastructure necessary to run effective programs. It also fosters innovation and risk-taking, allowing nonprofits to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. In addition, this type of grantmaking helps to reduce the power imbalance between grantmaker and grantee, bringing new transparency and trust to the relationship.

Q. What options are available for donor recognition?

A. Impact Fund donors will be recognized on our website and in our annual reports.

Q. What engagement options are available for donors who want to be more involved?

A. Donors interested in learning more about grant opportunities and high-performing nonprofits in their field(s) of interest are encouraged to participate as a [CORE Grants Collaborator](#). We also encourage you to reach out to staff members in our Community Investment Department to learn more about community needs.

Q. What if I'm interested in supporting a FOI Impact Fund through my IRA or my donor advised fund?

A. CFSA's FOI Impact Funds can be supported through a variety of gift types including a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, a grant from your donor advised fund, a gift of appreciated securities, and more. Please contact our Finance Department at finance@cfsaz.org or 520-770-0800 if you are interested in learning more about additional gift options. We also welcome matching gift opportunities for these funds.