



Puente Fire Relief Fund for Businesses and Organizations

Request for Proposals

Introduction

As the region's only Community Resource Center, Puente serves the San Mateo County South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio. Puente both advocates for our communities and leverages resources that foster economic prosperity and security, and that promote individual and community health and wellness. Puente has played a key role in both the immediate and longer-term response to the August CZU Lightening Complex Fires. Puente raised funds in the immediate aftermath of the fires to support the community members who were negatively affected, and a variety of generous donors made one-time contributions to the Puente Fire Relief Fund to support this urgent need.

With this RFP, we hope to support the recovery of the local organizations and businesses most affected by the fires by providing them with financial resources. We have already supported the recovery of individuals and families impacted by the fires and are now prepared to extend support to local businesses and organizations. Puente is soliciting proposals from farms and other businesses who suffered serious loss due to the fires because we recognize that supporting their financial stability is a critical component of supporting our community's recovery. The first round of grant applications and funding is complete, and now Puente is accepting new applicants for a second round of funding. Current grantees may be considered for Round 2 funding if losses exceeded the initial maximum grant request, but funding will be prioritized for new applicants. Current grantees will not need to re-submit a full application; additional Round 2 funding will be requested through a separate supplemental application. For more information and to receive the current grantee Supplemental Application, please contact Elena Betts Barahona at ebettsbarahona@mypuente.org.

Application Timeline

Applications must be submitted by filling out the attached application form and budget spreadsheet and e-mailing it to Elena Betts Barahona at ebettsbarahona@mypuente.org. Applications will be accepted immediately and are due by the dates below.

- Applications will be accepted immediately
- **Application deadline: Friday, July 23 by 11:59pm.**
- Funding decisions: announced by August 13th



The Challenge

The communities on the South Coast of San Mateo County have been deeply impacted by the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire. While the damage was not widespread, several local farms, ranches, and other businesses and organizations did suffer direct damage from the fire on or directly near their properties. In addition, more local businesses and organizations may have been indirectly negatively affected due to evacuations and other hardships during and after the fires. These challenges include structural and property loss or damage, loss of production or income, complex and delayed insurance coverage and payments, insurance deductible, and need for further preparedness/prevention to create resiliency against potential future fires.

The Opportunity

Given the hardships local businesses and organizations have faced in the wake of the wildfires, Puente is prepared to offer critical support to these organizations in the form of [grants](#). These funds will be available specifically for wildfire recovery, rebuilding the economic and infrastructure integrity of these organizations, and preparedness and prevention efforts.

Grants

- To be used for economic and structural/infrastructure recovery and/or resiliency (preparedness/prevention).
- Uses of funds may include:
 - Replacement of business/organizational property lost or damaged in the fires. For example, replacing burned irrigation systems or damaged tools.
 - Lost production/income during or directly related to the fires. For example, damaged crops, inability to take crops to market during evacuations and blockaded roads, loss of profits due to business closure or limited customer access during evacuations.
 - Fire preparedness/prevention efforts. For example, the purchase of a water truck or emergency kits, building protection from debris flows, etc.
- Businesses/organizations without insurance or whose insurance does not cover (or fully cover) the costs within the categories listed above will be provided grant funds which do not need to be repaid.
- Businesses/organizations who *do* have insurance coverage, but where payment from insurance companies is delayed and causing hardship are also eligible to apply for grants. However, these organizations will be expected to repay the grant funds to Puente if/when insurance does cover the costs of the projects applied for in this grant. The amount repaid will go into a Puente fund that will be made available to the community in the case of future emergencies and natural disasters.
- Grants must be used strictly for wildfire recovery and preparedness.



Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be a private business or a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Individuals are not eligible for funding through this RFP, but other support may be available through Puente. Community Organizations without a 501(c)(3) status may apply through a fiscal sponsor.
- Funding can only be used to pay for (or reimburse) disaster recovery, relief, and preparedness/prevention efforts for organizations or businesses in Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio California that were adversely affected by the CZU Lightning Complex fires.
- While businesses/organizations that sustained direct impacts from fire damage will be prioritized, any business/organization that suffered economic losses due to the fires and evacuations and meets the above criteria is eligible to apply for funding.
- Businesses/organizations must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, religious affiliation, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, or another protected status.
- Businesses/organizations must practice fair labor practices and follow all state and local employment laws.
- Each business/organization may submit one application. Multiple applications listing different individual contact people from the same business/organization will not be accepted.

Funding Awards

Maximum funding request of up to \$40,000 per applicant business/organization. Puente will publicly announce which businesses and organizations are awarded Fire Relief Fund grants.

Selection Process and Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applicants may receive a phone call, email, or site visit from Puente staff or advisory committee members as part of the selection process. Applicants will be informed of grant decisions according to the timeline listed above.

Evaluation and Reporting

All grant recipients will be required to submit two brief reports detailing work accomplished and how funds were expended in accordance with the projects and timelines stated by the applicant in the application. The first mid-term report will be due 6 months after grant approval. The second final report will be due 1 year after grant approval. Applicants must be prepared to describe in detail how funds were used.



Additional Information and Support: Virtual RFP Information Session

Puente will offer an online RFP Information Session where a staff member will walk you through the eligibility criteria, application process, how to submit a successful application, and answer any questions you may have. Please see attached flyer for information session details. RSVP to Elena (contact information below) to receive the meeting link. Attendance is optional but strongly encouraged to make sure you understand the process and expectations and are prepared to submit a strong application.

Questions

We welcome any questions you may have regarding this RFP process. Please contact Puente Project Specialist, Elena Betts Barahona, at ebettsbarahona@mypuente.org or (650)-262-4103 for further information. Elena is available to respond to questions in English or Spanish. Applications must be submitted in English, but assistance is available in filling out your application if your preferred language is Spanish.