



Fiscal Sponsor Information San Francisco Bay Area

A relatively small number of foundations award grants directly to individuals, while the vast majority limit their funding to nonprofit organizations. If you are seeking support for a project but are not affiliated with a nonprofit, you may increase your chances of securing foundation support if you can find a nonprofit organization that will serve as your project's fiscal sponsor. In this type of arrangement, a nonprofit acts as an individual's fiscal agent, receiving and administering the grant for a small percentage of the funds.

How do I find a fiscal sponsor?

In order to develop a list of potential fiscal sponsors, begin with your current affiliations. Make a list of the professional societies, educational associations and institutions, religious organizations, social and recreational clubs, nonprofit organizations, and other groups with which you are already associated, including employers. In searching for a fiscal agent, you should seek out organizations that have demonstrated an interest in programs or projects similar to yours. It will be easier to find a fiscal agent if your project enhances or furthers that organization's charitable purposes and/or if that organization benefits in some way from being associated with your project.

Electronic and Web Resources for Researching Nonprofit Organizations

The Foundation Directory Online & FC Search: The Foundation Center's Database on CD-ROM each have an associated grants file of more than 350,000 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations by some of the largest independent, corporate, and community foundations in the U.S. Both databases are available for searching for free in the San Francisco library.

The Foundation Center—San Francisco Web Site (http://fdncenter/sanfrancisco/comm_res.html)

Includes information on Community Resources-Technical Assistance Providers. The resource list includes many associations, service organizations, and technical assistance providers that serve San Francisco Bay area and California.

The Foundation Center's Web Site – Researching Philanthropy (<http://fdncenter.org/research>) page includes **Links to Nonprofit Resources**, annotated links to hundreds of nonprofit resources and Web sites. Plus the **Literature of the Nonprofit Sector** (<http://lnps.fdncenter.org>) our library catalog or the **Archives** at the *Philanthropy News Digest (PND)*, our weekly news compendium, to locate abstracts of national news stories on particular foundations and nonprofit organizations that have been covered in the media.

The Foundation Center's Web Site – Finding Funders (<http://fdncenter.org/funders>) page has a **Grantmaker Web Sites** directory that provides a browsable and searchable listing of Web sites arranged by type of grantmaker: private foundations, corporations, grantmaking public charities and community foundations. The **990 Finder** is searchable database of the IRS returns 990 and 990-PF of private foundations, public charities, and other nonprofits.

The Foundation Center also highlights innovative nonprofit organizations in its **NPO Spotlight** in PND. "Spotlight On...", a feature on each of the Center's libraries home pages (**Atlanta, Cleveland, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.**), highlights local nonprofit organizations and their programs.

GuideStar (<http://www.guidestar.org>) is a searchable database of nearly one million nonprofit organizations. You need to register on the site to have free access to their database.

Action Without Borders' **Idealist** Website (<http://www.idealists.org>) hosts one of the largest searchable listings of U.S. and international nonprofit Web sites.



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Bay Area Progressive Directory (<http://www.bapd.org>) is an index to about 1000 organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area that are related to progressive activism and/or helping out disadvantaged people.

Volunteer Center of San Francisco: Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties (<http://www.thevolunteercenter.net/>) A clearinghouse of volunteer information for San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit organizations, individuals, city agencies and other civic groups.

Print Directories

Additionally, the following directories may be used to identify local and regional chapters of national organizations that might serve as a fiscal agent for your project.

The Encyclopedia of Associations: National Organizations, Call number 042 ENC NAO Vol. 1, Pt.1-3
The Encyclopedia of Associations: Regional, State & Local Organizations, Call number 042 ENC WES
National Trade and Professional Associations of the United States, Call number 042 DOW
The National Directory of Nonprofit Organizations, Call number 042 TAF 2005 V.1-2.

Once you have a list of potential fiscal agents, you will want to know whether or not the organizations on your list have a track record with foundations or corporate funders. To help you determine this, refer to *The Foundation Directory Online, FC Search: The Foundation Center's Database on CD-ROM*, or to *The Foundation Directory* that indicates some nonprofits that have received foundation funding.

If you would like to see an online example of fiscal sponsorship, policies, procedures and guidelines, the following sites may be useful:

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) (<http://www.nyfa.org>) offers guidelines and a downloadable application form for individual artists, collaborative artists' projects and emerging arts organizations of all disciplines. NYFA also has a **national listing of organizations that operate fiscal sponsorship programs for visual artists** available in PDF format. (http://www.nyfa.org/files_uploaded/OtherFSPrograms.pdf)

Women Make Movies has a fiscal sponsorship program with its guidelines posted on its site. (<http://www.wmm.com/assist/fiscalsponsorship.htm>)

The Bay Area Video Coalition has guidelines and an application form online. (<http://www.bavc.org/media/sponsorship>)

The International Documentary Association has a fiscal sponsorship program for its members. Information on the program and how to apply are included. (<http://documentary.org/resources/funding/fiscalsponsorship.html>)

The Agape Foundation has fiscal sponsorship guidelines and application procedures posted on its site. (<http://www.agapefn.org/sec/s-gr/gr-main.html#fsg>)

Fractured Atlas "provides services, resources, and support to liberate a nation of artists," including information on its fiscal sponsorship program. (<http://www.fracturedatlas.org/site/services/fiscal>)



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LOCAL FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Listed below are selected local nonprofit organizations that have fiscal sponsorship programs.

Agape Foundation

www.agapefn.org
1095 Market Street, Ste. 304, San Francisco, CA 94103
Tel: 415-701-8707
Email: info@agapefn.org
Fees: 7% of grant

The Foundation acts as fiscal sponsor for tax deductible contributions to the legal and educational work of grassroots organizations. Agape will grant fiscal sponsorship to organizations and film and/or video projects promoting peace and social justice. It will not offer this program to social or direct service organizations unless they have a major advocacy component.

Earth Island Institute

www.earthisland.org
300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133
Tel: 415-788-3666 Fax: 415-788-7324
Email: skamprath@earthisland.org
Fees: 9% overhead

Earth Island Institute develops and supports projects that counteract threats to the biological and cultural diversity that sustain the environment. Earth Island Institute provides nonprofit sponsorship and administrative services for new and existing projects. In addition, provides assistance in strategic planning, accounting, public outreach, fundraising, and other resources and services that maximize the effectiveness and quality of collective efforts.

Public Health Institute

www.phi.org
555 12th Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
Tel: 510-285-5500 Fax: 510-285-5501
Email: communications@phi.org
Fees: contact agency

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. The Public Health Institute focuses its efforts in two distinct, but complementary ways. PHI promotes and sustains independent, innovative research, training and demonstration programs—many in collaboration with the private health care system and community-based organizations. PHI also serves as a partner with government to support its role in assessment, policy development and assurance.

PHI also acts as a fiscal sponsor for independent or soon-to-be independent organizations. Administrative and technical assistance support services include accounting and financial management; development



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support; contract and grant administration; corporate legal counsel; human resource functions including recruitment, benefits, and payroll; and public relations and communications.

San Francisco Foundation

www.sff.org/grantmaking/sponsors.html

Community Initiative Funds

225 Bush Street, Suite 500, San Francisco CA 94104

Tel: 415-733-8580

Fees: 10% of gross receipts plus 50% of the interest earned on funds on deposit.

The San Francisco Foundation Community Initiative Funds (CIF) provides fiscal sponsorship services for the following types of projects: philanthropic collaborations between foundations, allowing the pooling of funds and jointly managed disbursements to appropriate grantees; community efforts responding to crises and urgent calls to action; projects of limited duration; and new, incubating organizations.

San Francisco Study Center

www.studycenter.org

1095 Market Street, Suite 601, San Francisco, CA 94103

Tel: 415-626-1650/ 1-888-281-3757 Fax: 415-626-7276

Email: lola@studycenter.org

Fees: 10-15% depending on budget and funding source

The Study Center acts as a fiscal sponsor and provides accounting and administrative supervision to a number of projects, primarily in human services and the arts. Fees are 10-15% depending on budget and funding sources.

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE)

www.saveourplanet.org

11948 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 201, Los Angeles, Ca. 90066

Tel: 310-737-9148 Fax: 310-737-9151

Email: seeadmin@earthlink.net

Fees: 6.5% of revenue plus a minimum of \$200.00 fiscal sponsorship fee per year

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE) is an organization of member groups whose purpose is to encourage and facilitate activism from both local and global perspectives. It is a 501(c)(3) public charity providing nonprofit status, start-up guidance, and other services to member groups. SEE accepts individual activities and large organizations, start-up initiatives and established groups. SEE projects are active on every continent.

Tides Center

www.tidescenter.org,

The Presidio, PO Box 29907, San Francisco, CA 94129

Tel: 415-561-6300

Email: newprojects@tides.org

Fees: contact agency

Tides Center partners nationally with people engaged in creative nonprofit endeavors, providing a legal home and financial and administrative services so they can focus on the essential work of creating positive



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social change. The issues that sponsored projects address are quite diverse though they tend to fall into five categories: democratic renewal and vital communities; just and sustainable environmental practices; economic opportunity; social justice; and international affairs.

Trees Foundation

www.treesfoundation.org
PO Box 2202, Redway, CA 95542
Tel: 707-923-4377 Fax: 707-923-4427
Email: trees@treesfoundation.org
Fees: 7% of revenue

Trees Foundation works for the conservation and restoration of the ecological integrity of forest ecosystems by assisting, supporting and promoting affiliate groups in North Coastal California.

Through Trees foundation fiscal sponsorships, organizations can seek and receive tax-deductible donations and grants without having their own nonprofit status. Projects range in size from an individual with a single donation to coalitions raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. Trees Foundation provides full support for all sponsored projects, including administrative oversight, bookkeeping, and reporting.

Youth Empowerment Center

www.youthec.org
1357 5th Street, Oakland, CA 94607
Tel: 510-451-5466 Fax: 510-451-5466
Email: info@youthec.org
Fees: contact agency

Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) fiscally sponsors youth projects whose mission and vision match that of the organization. YEC Administrative Office is actively involved in many operational aspects of the sponsored projects by providing such services as: bookkeeping/accounting and reporting, strategic planning, fundraising strategy consultation, budgeting, resource sharing, and human resources.

Fiscal Sponsorship Print Resources

For further advice on fiscal affiliation, see the following books located in the individual grantseeker bookshelves:

Colvin, Gregory L. *Fiscal Sponsorship: 6 Ways to Do It Right, 2nd ed.* San Francisco: Study Center Press, 2005. Call number: 900 COL (red tape)

Yarvis, Lori. *Fiscal Sponsorship Arrangements*, 3rd ed. New York, NY: Lawyers Alliance for New York, 1995. Call number: 900 YAR (red tape)

For materials on fiscal sponsorship, try searching our **Literature of the Nonprofit Sector Online (LNPS)**, the Center's bibliographic database. You could start searching on the subject "Sponsors" with the keyword "Fiscal".