What are Community Foundations?

Community Foundations inspire philanthropy and strengthen communities. Individuals, families and others create charitable funds that help their region meet the challenges of changing times. California community foundations granted $2.1 billion in 2017, and administered more than $22 billion in philanthropic assets.

Community Foundations invest, administer and steward charitable assets based on a set of rigorous national standards. Community foundations are tax-exempt. They are public charities overseen by Boards of Directors comprised of volunteer community leaders.

Community Foundations understand local needs and make grants to nonprofit organizations doing important work in human services, education, the environment, the arts and more. They serve as leaders by bringing together key stakeholders around important issues. They are focused on building philanthropic resources to meet the needs of their communities now and in the future. Community Foundations are “Here for Good.”

How can Community Foundations of California work with you?

- **Share in-depth knowledge** of the concerns, opportunities, groups and resources that shape their communities
- **Convene and engage** a cross-section of organizations and individuals around emerging issues
- **Provide community leadership** and a forum for dialogue and change
- **Play a key role in solving local problems** by creating opportunities for collective impact
- **Accept and administer complex assets** for community benefit
- **Serve as lead philanthropic responders** in the aftermath of disasters
- **Channel high-impact grant funding and other resources** throughout their regions
- **Participate in advocacy efforts** on important issues

There are nearly 800 Community Foundations in the United States.
Our mission is to promote and strengthen community foundations in California. Through collaboration and shared learning among member foundations and building partnerships with private and public entities, we strengthen philanthropy and support building healthy communities throughout California.