

AVISO IMPORTANTE: Circularemos una versión de la Convocatoria en español lo antes posible. Si tiene alguna pregunta urgente relacionada con el uso de términos en inglés, favor de contactar a Michael Layton (mlayton@iaf.gov), con toda confianza.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGES THROUGH THE
BUILDING BROADER COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE
February 2017**

Background

In a time of globalization, the definition of community is changing. Frequent movement across borders – for work, for family, and for leisure – connects people to their communities of origin, to communities where they earn their living, to communities where their families reside and to vacation locations. Markets are more open and consumers, workers and producers come and go from all over North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. Money flows – for services, investment, wages, and remittances – are an important economic factor throughout the region. More and more, communities transcend borders.

The Working Group on Building Broader Communities in the Americas (BBCA) believes the growing mobility and interconnectedness between increasingly diverse U.S., Canadian, Latin American, and Caribbean communities will strengthen the region economically, politically, and socially and should be fostered. Comprised of community foundations, diaspora organizations, and funders from the United States and Latin America, the Working Group believes that closer connections will lead to a strong economic future throughout the region, solutions to common problems, and more effective interactions among a host of people and institutions.

The Role for Community Foundations

Community foundations are logical institutions to help encourage and support cross-border connections. They have a deep and enduring connection to their locale, which allows them to have a nuanced perspective of their communities. Their independence and missions lead to a holistic community orientation, not just a focus on a single constituency, and many are able to take the long view and work on issues for many years, if necessary.

In doing this work, community foundations in different countries can benefit from relationships with each other. Working with community foundations on the other side of a border is a useful way for each foundation to learn about the needs of people and companies that may reside in each place, understand the issues of concern in different locales, support donors, and discover the most appropriate roles and best practices for community foundations that want to support transnational relationships. The BBCA believes that more informed and engaged community foundations will ultimately strengthen communities that these community foundations call home.

While the work of the BBCA emphasizes community foundations, there are other valuable members of the BBCA who are committed to promoting transnational communities and mobilizing resources for grassroots development but do not adhere to that organizational model. If you are a BBCA member but do not identify as a community foundation, and are interested in proposing an exchange, please contact Michael Layton at m Layton@iaf.gov us to discuss this possibility.

The Opportunity

As community philanthropy in the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean evolves, it is clear that community foundations from different parts of the region could benefit from cross-border learning exchanges. Visits to a community foundation in another country have a number of benefits. These visits:

- give a new perspective on your own foundation practices that can improve your own effectiveness.
- offer insights into the makeup of communities on the other side of the border and a better understanding of where there are transnational connections – among donors, employers, diaspora organizations, congregations, immigrants, etc.
- provide teams that travel together with a significant amount of time to discuss what they are learning and how it might affect their work back home.
- create cross-border peer relationships between community foundations that can advance learning, grow transnational connections, and deepen impact.

Because of these benefits, these exchanges are being funded by the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (Mott) as part of the BBCA.

Eligibility and Requirements

- 1) Joint application
This cross-border exchange funding opportunity is available to any two community foundations in the United States, Canada or Latin America and the

Caribbean regardless of size. Foundations interested in participating in an exchange are asked to submit a proposal jointly.

- 2) **Team approach**
To be most effective, exchanges include a team of senior staff and board members. At least three people from the visiting community foundation are expected to make the international trip and each exchange must include individuals that have decision-making authority over the foundation’s work in this area, such as the CEO, senior staff member or board member.

- 3) **Visits to both countries**
The participating community foundations are expected to visit both countries at least once for at least one day each. A one-way exchange is not permitted. An agenda might include participation in a board meeting, senior staff meeting or site visit; interviews with key functional leaders; and/or attendance at a donor event or meeting with community members that have an interest in the visiting foundation’s region.

- 4) **Summary of Learning and Impact**
A brief report outlining the goals of the exchanges, a list of the participants, the dates of travel, the activities, plans for continuing the relationships developed through the exchange, and the lessons and impact of the visits is required within 60 days of the final visit.

- 5) **Match**
Participating community foundations are expected to provide a match using the guidelines below. There is no requirement on the amount of contribution from each community foundation as long as the total match is met.

Amount of Discretionary Grantmaking	Match
Less than \$1 million U.S.	2:1 (i.e. BBCA will put up \$2 for every one contributed by the community foundation)
\$1 million - \$3 million U.S.	1:1
Greater than \$3 million U.S.	To be decided on a case-by-case basis

Expenditures on travel, hospitality and related costs can be included as part of the match.

The maximum grant is \$20,000. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact Caroline Merenda at cmerenda@cfleads.org.

6) Project timeline

Projects must begin within three months of grant award. Projects must be completed within 1 year of grant award.

Information Needed to Request Support

To request support, please provide the following information:

1. Names of two community foundations interested in participating in an exchange. They must be from different countries.
2. Addresses of the two community foundations participating in the exchange
3. Amount of request and rough budget of how funds will be used.
4. Amount of match provided by each community foundation participating in the exchange.
5. What you hope to learn from your exchange.
6. Who from each foundation will participate in the exchange. At least three people from each foundation are expected to travel.
7. Timeframe for exchange completion.
8. Designated community foundation staff point person at each of the participating foundations and estimated time commitment.
9. Email and phone for CEO and for alternate community foundation contact.
10. The designated grant recipient. We prefer to have transactions with only one foundation.

Please keep responses brief. (Provide no more than two paragraphs each for questions 6 and 8.)

Submit requests via email to:

Caroline Merenda

Director of Operations and Program Services

CFLeads

cmerenda@cfleads.org

Timeline

BBCA is committed to launching this work as quickly as possible. Grants will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants will be contacted within one month of receipt of the request for funds. Funding will be available within 2 weeks of the approval of the request.