

The North State Equity Fund

In 2020, United Way of Northern California (UWNC), and North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF), established the North State Equity Fund (NSEF) in response to the tragic death of George Floyd. The fund was created with seed money from the two partner organizations and with a contribution from the Community Foundation of Northstate (CFN) to support nonprofit organizations working to promote intercultural dialogue and equal opportunity.

In 2021, UWNC's Board of Directors adopted an anti-racism statement to guide its equity-based framework for grantmaking and other community investments. This framework aims to reduce barriers that equity-based organizations face in applying for and receiving grants.

In 2022, the McConnell Foundation and the S.H. Cowell Foundation committed funding to the North State Equity Fund, allowing the fund to expand its reach to more organizations. The fund also incorporated the board-approved Equity in Grantmaking Framework that formally extends UWNC's commitment to equity in its community investments. The framework aims to simplify the grantmaking process and deepen relationships with grantees, with the goal of reducing barriers for frontline culturally relevant organizations. Through this lens, UWNC has been able to evaluate existing grant programs and consider new approaches.

UWNC is committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect, including staff, volunteers, clients, colleagues, donors, government employees, business leaders, event attendees, and members of the public. In its work, UWNC fights for the health, education, and financial stability of all residents in its region, regardless of their background or circumstances.