

Visalia and Tulare nonprofits benefit from Bank of America grants

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By: Lauren Jennings



Numerous Fresno and Tulare County nonprofits were awarded \$1.67 million in grants from Bank of America this year.

Grants were awarded to communities of color and other disadvantaged populations impacted by the pandemic, with a focus on closing the equity and wealth gaps, according to a press release from Bank of America.

"While the pandemic has taken a toll on us all, there's no doubt it has had a disproportionate impact on the communities already grappling with the effects of economic and social inequality," said Mark Riley president of Bank of America Fresno

and Visalia market. "The private sector has a responsibility to provide support that can serve as a catalyst to help advance equity and economic opportunity for everyone."

Bank of America awarded 23 local nonprofits with grants, including several in Tulare County: The Visalia Aid Council, Visalia Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity Tulare County, Family Services of Tulare County, Self-Help Enterprises, and Community Services and Employment Training.

Community Services and Employment Training received \$20,000 for its Youth Internship Program, and Self-Help Enterprises received \$20,000 for its Support for Gateway to Homeownership Education and Financial Fitness program.

Family Services of Tulare County received \$16,000 for its supportive and transitional housing and for general operations, and Habitat for Humanity Tulare County received \$12,500 for operating support.

Visalia Emergency Aid Council received \$10,000 for its summer-COVID Hunger relief program, and Visalia Rescue Mission received \$10,000 for operating expenses.

Bank of America donated PPE equipment throughout the pandemic, including 6,000 masks and gloves to the Visalia Emergency Aid Council, as well as 10,000 masks, 4,000 gloves and 50 bottles of hand sanitizer to the Family Services of Tulare County.

Fresno DRIVE, the United Way of Fresno and Madera Counties, the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation and the Marjaree Mason Center also received funding.