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## **THE W. W. CARUTH, JR. FUND AT THE COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS AWARDS \$6.3 MILLION IN GRANTS TO DRIVE SOCIAL INNOVATION**

### ***First Set of 2019 Caruth Grants to Benefit Education, Public Safety and Health***

DALLAS – April 17, 2019 – [Communities Foundation of Texas](#) (CFT) today announced that fifteen organizations have been awarded a total of \$6.3 million in grants from [CFT’s W.W. Caruth Jr. Fund](#). CFT is the custodian of the Caruth Fund, the foundation’s largest endowment donated by William Walter Caruth, Jr. to advance innovative and evidence-based solutions to significant community challenges in the areas of education, public safety, health, and medical and scientific research. Mr. Caruth aspired to combine his heart for giving with the tools of entrepreneurship and scientific inquiry to bring about widespread community improvements, and these grants will advance those goals.

Of the fifteen awards, nine seek to either improve educational outcomes for children and adults or advance institutional effectiveness through leadership and equity training, performance measurement or technology. Two of the grants aim to reduce crime and, in one case, build community connections by reclaiming neglected land. Four of the grants seek to improve the health and resilience of families through direct service or increased access to fresh food.

Grantees include: [At Last, Inc.](#), [Behind Every Door](#), [Bridges to Life](#), [Catch Up and Read](#), [Collaborative for Fresh Produce](#), [Crossroads Community Services](#), [Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center](#), [Dallas Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation](#), [GreenLight Credentials](#), [ScholarShot](#), [Stand for Children Texas](#), [Teaching Trust](#), [TexProtects](#), [The Trust for Public Land](#), and the [UNT Foundation \(supporting Teach North Texas at UNT\)](#). The attached table contains a full list of the grantees, award amounts, and project descriptions.

Many of the newly awarded projects are intersectional, meaning that they utilize strategies that aim to improve outcomes across Education, Public Safety, and Health. Sarah Cotton Nelson, CFT’s chief of philanthropy, explained that this was intentional: “Our north star at CFT is building a thriving community for all. We want to be looking at the community’s challenges holistically and working across sectors to solve them.”

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The grants range in size from a planning grant of \$70,000 to implementation and replication grants in the amount of \$500,000. They will serve residents across the Dallas Metroplex, with a strong emphasis on high poverty areas. Some efforts encompass the entire state. CFT looked for projects at different stages of innovation and development. “We are being more explicit than ever about organizing our grantmaking along the stages of the human-centered design process from discovery through prototyping, implementation, and evaluation to scale up. We plan to maintain a strong focus on data-tracking and storytelling throughout,” said Nadine Dechausay, the director of community philanthropy who oversees Caruth grantmaking strategy.

More grants will be announced throughout the year. This will be the largest set of Caruth grants to be distributed in a single year. Updates will be published on the [CFTexas.org website](https://www.cftexas.org), [Facebook page](#), and [Twitter feed](#). David Scullin, CFT’s president and CEO, expressed strong support for this much-expanded effort. “We are excited about this chapter of Caruth grantmaking. It shows how we are constantly refining our approach and working to connect the dots between visionary donors and extraordinary work in the community.”

#### **About Communities Foundation of Texas**

With the goal of building thriving communities for all, Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) works with many individuals, families, companies and nonprofits through a variety of charitable funds and strategic grantmaking initiatives. In 1974, W.W. Caruth, Jr. established his fund as part of the Communities Foundation of Texas with philanthropic goals to support frontier-advancing projects in education, scientific research, medical advancement and public safety. Like it does for the Caruth family, CFT professionally manages more than 1,000 charitable funds and has awarded more than \$1.8 billion in grants since its founding in 1953. CFT is committed to serving and understanding donor needs, expertly handling complex gifts, wisely managing charitable funds and leveraging its community knowledge to increase charitable impact. *Learn more:* [www.cftexas.org](https://www.cftexas.org)  
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