



2024 Program Syllabus and Schedule

SESSION ONE: CFT 101: WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE

October 9, 2024 | 2:00–4:30 pm Session | 4:30-6:00 pm Optional Happy Hour

To some, the term “philanthropy” is thought of as an exclusive club open only to those who can afford it. Beyond wealth and money, how else can a person give and engage with nonprofits in a meaningful way? In this session we will begin to explore the idea of aligning your values and passions with your giving goals, and how we need to redefine ‘philanthropy’ to include diverse perspectives and the giving of time, talent, treasure, and voice.

This session will feature a CFT overview and participation in a group exercise using CFT’s Identifying Values and Defining Passions cards. After the session, join us for an optional off-site happy hour at Columbian Country Club where you will have the chance to connect with your fellow cohort members and ELP alumni.

SESSION TWO: EQUITABLE GRANTMAKING

November 20, 2024 | 2:00-4:30 pm

Before getting to the point of making a grant to an organization, it is helpful to understand the current philanthropic landscape in North Texas. This includes both opportunity and need within our community. In this session, the cohort will learn more about who we are as a region – our historical inequities and their continued impact on our community today – as well as how CFT approaches funding using an equity lens. Groups will have the opportunity to break up into small table discussions during the session.

SESSION THREE: GRANTMAKING AND PLANNING

January 15, 2025 | 2:00–4:30 pm

This session provides an opportunity for cohort members to give input on the grantmaking process that will occur over the course of the program. The group will decide on a shared list of values and funding priorities in an intensive workshop that will involve table discussions and a group vote on the focus issue areas. This work will provide CFT staff with the necessary framework to bring forward an array of nonprofits that vary in size and serve diverse populations that align with the cohort's funding priorities.

SESSION FOUR: FINDING AN EFFECTIVE NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY / CORPORATE GIVING LANDSCAPE

February 19, 2024 | 2:00-4:30 pm | 4:30-6:00 pm Optional Happy Hour

We have all had our heartstrings tugged on when reading stories or watching videos about nonprofits and their impact in the community, whether we have an existing relationship with them or are learning about them for the first time. What tools can be used in assessing whether a nonprofit is actually effective or impactful – and what does that mean? This session will address what is important to you when you decide you may want to give to an organization, things to consider, and hopefully, address some misconceptions. It will include smaller group discussions and report-outs to the larger group.

SESSION FIVE: QUESTION AND APPLICATION WORKSHOP

March 26, 2025 | 2:00–4:30 pm

Through the CFT Philanthropy team's vetting, using the ELP cohort's priority focus areas and values, six nonprofits will be invited to apply for funding from the group. This session will include group discussions on each of the proposals and will follow with a vote to determine which three will move forward in the funding process. Proposals will be provided prior to the session for your review. After the proposals have been reviewed by your groups, we will workshop, together, what questions you'd like the three nonprofit finalists to answer.

SESSION SIX: NONPROFIT FINALIST PANEL DISCUSSION

April 16, 2025 | 2:00-4:30 pm

Applications and photos do not fully capture the work that nonprofits do in the community. During this session, the cohort will be able to ask questions and hear firsthand how each of the three nonprofit finalists operate and would use the funding. After hearing from each, a facilitated debrief and group discussion will help prepare the group for the final funding decision.

SESSION SEVEN: FUNDING AN ORGANIZATION + GRANT DECISION AND CHECK PRESENTATIONS

May 21, 2025 | 2:00–3:30 pm Session | 3:30–5:30 pm Optional Graduation Happy Hour

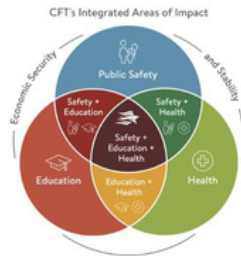
This session is when the cohort will make their final grant decisions with their \$500 grant to one of the three final organizations. Here, you will have the opportunity to advocate, discuss, and determine the outcome for the final grant to organization(s). The decisions will be made through an intensive workshop of table discussions and voting. There will be a celebration among cohort members following the grant decision with cohort members and nonprofit recipients.

CFT's Key Initiatives



COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

Supports community convenings on key issues, overall donor and nonprofit services and education, disaster recovery, and general operating support.



CFT COMMUNITY IMPACT

Supports CFT efforts to create a healthy and thriving community for all, especially at the intersection of needs across health, wealth, living, and learning with focus on equity and connectedness.



CFT'S EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY

Educates and guides highly engaged, community-minded professionals ages 25-40 to ensure that our region's legacy of generosity continues to thrive and grow.



CFT'S COLLIN COUNTY IMPACT FUND

Helps ensure that as Collin County grows, there will be dedicated resources to support the increasing needs for community services.



CENTER FOR BUSINESS IMPACT

Partners with businesses to create lasting community impact through Strategic Giving, Employee Engagement, and Professional Development. We provide tailored solutions that align with corporate values, helping businesses maximize their impact and foster a purpose-driven company culture.



CFT'S NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Empowers every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about. North Texas Giving Day is an annual event that builds awareness and support for nonprofits like nothing else. In 2024, North Texas Giving Day raised \$67.3 million benefiting over 3,200 local nonprofits.



EDUCATE TEXAS

Helps improve outcomes for students through investments in college and career readiness, higher education, teacher effectiveness and regional collaboration across the state.

CFT Staff Directory - ELP



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TOP VALUES

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EMERGING LEADERS
IN PHILANTHROPY
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Session Two:

EQUITABLE GRANTMAKING



Before getting to the point of making a grant to an organization, it is helpful to understand the current context of the opportunities and needs within our community.

In this session, the cohort will learn more about who we are as a region – our historical inequities and their continued impact on our community today – as well as how CFT approaches funding using an equity lens. Groups will have the opportunity to break up into small table discussions during the session.

Pre-Session Reflections

- How would you define a thriving community?
- What elements do you believe are necessary in order to create a thriving community?
- When you think of current issues in our community, what comes to mind?

Goals for Session Two

- Gain a deeper understanding of the local context for philanthropy
- Begin discussing the cohort's funding priorities



EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY

CIRCLE OF CONTROL

With such a wide variety of issues and the increasing needs within our community, it can be difficult to understand how best to personally get involved and impact lasting change. Identifying what lies within your personal circle of concern, influence, and control can be a helpful first step in determining where and how to take action. Focusing your time and talent on those things you have the ability to influence and/or control can help you effectively achieve the impact you desire.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

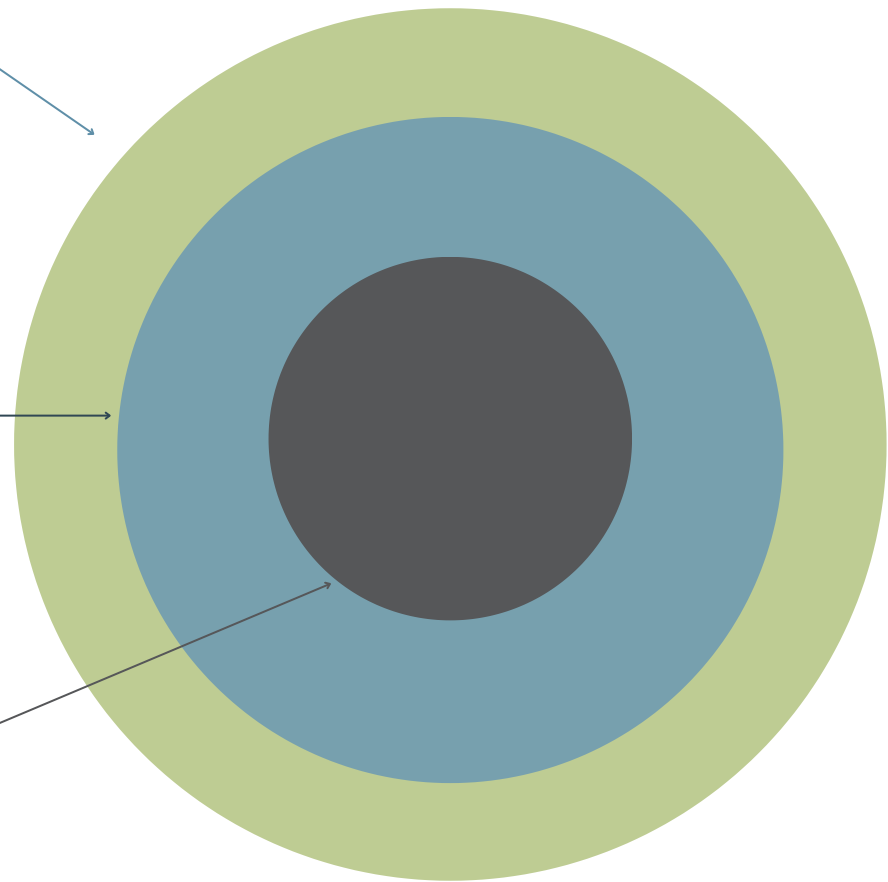
The “Circle of Concern” includes the wide range of concerns you have in the world, your work, and life - health, family, the economy, etc. Everything you include inside the circle matters to you, everything outside the circle is of little or no concern to you.

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

While outside of your direct control, your “Circle of Influence” includes things that concern you and that you can do something about through your influence within your life, family, or company.

CIRCLE OF CONTROL

Your “Circle of Control” includes the concerns you have control over and can directly impact through action. Using a positive and proactive focus on what you can control can have a secondary effect of increasing your ability to influence.



**Diagram adapted from
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey*

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”
- Theodore Roosevelt



EMERGING LEADERS
IN PHILANTHROPY
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

EQUITABLE GRANTMAKING REFLECTIONS

After learning more about equitable grantmaking, reflect on the questions below. Be sure to check out CFT's grantmaking processes in building thriving communities in North Texas.

1. What was your biggest takeaway from today's session?

2. What information do you feel is missing from this session? What other information would you like to know?

3. Given the information presented today, what is in your circle of concern?

4. What is in your circle of influence and control and what steps would you like to take to act on this?

5. How do companies play a role in supporting philanthropy? What does your company value and do to impact philanthropy in North Texas?



THRIVING COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

At Communities Foundation of Texas, our grantmaking and programs are key to our vision of building thriving communities for all. We believe that a thriving community is one in which all people feel cared for, invested in, nourished and valued, and have an equitable opportunity to contribute to the well-being and growth of themselves, their families and their communities.

We take a 360° approach to supporting the needs of individuals and their communities through four intersectional pillars of thriving: Health, Wealth, Living, and Learning. At the heart, what we're striving to achieve through attention to these areas is equity, connectedness, and belonging for all.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES *for all*



Health is a holistic concept engaging the biological, psychological, and behavioral dimensions of life. What affects a person's health encompasses everything from their local environmental conditions, access to things like grocery stores and parks, pets as companions, transportation, preventative medicine resources and education. To move the needle on health, interventions must move upstream and engage the choices people make and the environments in which they live.

Wealth is defined as financial security, which is significantly impacted by employment opportunities for individuals and economic development within communities. While the majority of people living in poverty have jobs, millions of adults live paycheck to paycheck, unable to cover a surprise expense - demonstrating that employment is not enough to ensure financial security. We must aim for financial resilience in the face of economic shocks, pathways to progressively improving opportunities, and the state of prosperity in which people have enough money to fulfill their needs and many of their wants.

Living - Zip code can be more predictive than genetic code when it comes to life outcomes. Decisions surrounding planning, community engagement and design; access to arts, culture and parks; as well as the presence of crime prevention strategies and justice system processes, can have a significant impact on the physical, social and mental health of community members and their ability to thrive today and across generations.

Learning - Education has the power to change a life. Educating our youth to maximize their potential also provides the foundation to power the workforce of tomorrow. The pursuit of a certification or post-secondary degree significantly impacts the earning potential for an individual, impacting the community they live in and the legacy of their future generations. Training and skills growth also provides individuals an opportunity to reinvent themselves as circumstances change throughout their lifetime.

We understand that, in the ever-evolving complexities of the systems in which we live, the pillars of Health, Wealth, Living and Learning are not stand-alone categories. They overlap, intersect, and are deeply intertwined with many other factors and issues that ultimately affect all of us. Only with the strong support and collaboration of individuals and organizations across the community working together can we achieve truly thriving communities for all.



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