ECCCA v

EAST CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CHARTER

Background of ECCCA
In 2016, a number of foundations established the East Contra Costa STRONG Nonprofits Fund, a pooled fund at the East Bay Community Foundation, with the long-term goal of strengthening the ecosystem of organizations addressing poverty in the region through the provision of direct services, community organizing, and advocacy for systems change. The Fund provided a grant to CompassPoint Nonprofit Services to convene a cohort of up to 10 small- to mid-sized nonprofit organizations to participate in a series of group learning sessions and individual coaching focused on sustainability planning. This cohort operated in parallel with the Contra Costa Leadership Institute (CCLI), a leadership development cohort led by LeaderSpring with principal funding from the Thomas J. Long Foundation. A total of 16 organizations participated in and completed these two cohorts. Many of these groups have come together over the past year to consider opportunities for further collaboration.

ECCCA Purpose

The purpose of the network is to
- Develop a common voice on issues affecting East Contra Costa residents, particularly those experiencing poverty, social isolation, or other obstacles to their ability to participate fully in the benefits of the community (ADVOCATE).
- Share and leverage resources among participating nonprofits and private funders, to create a more sustainable ecosystem particularly with respect to encouraging the public and private sectors to better support services to disadvantaged populations (COLLABORATE).
- Work towards building nonprofit capacity and sustainability understanding the important role nonprofits play in addressing the needs of the diverse members of the community (BUILD SUSTAINABILITY).

ECCCA Short-term goals:

1. ECCCA will form a steering committee of 13 nonprofit leaders to develop theory of change and an action plan.
2. ECCCA will seek funding for and hire a Coordinator to help them implement the action plan and staff the ECCCA.
3. ECCCA will invite diverse community leaders, including those from nonprofits, government agencies, foundations and businesses serving the East Contra Costa community, to participate in ECCCA who may be interested in partnering to advance the theory of change (see San Mateo Thrive Model).

4. ECCCA will seek resources to increase the capacity of the nonprofit sector, including resources to address infrastructure and support better wages and benefits for staff.
5. ECCCA will continue in-person, facilitated meetings every other month to strengthen relations, share information and continue to identify opportunities for collective effort.

ECCCA Three Year Goals

1. Increased engagement by elected officials and public and private funders in issues affecting those living in poverty and/or social isolation in East Contra Costa.
2. More accessible health and social services as a result of coordination and collaboration across sectors.
3. More low-income and diverse residents participate in shaping the decisions that impact their lives and communities.
4. Improved viability of local nonprofits with better ability to deliver services to clients.
5. Local nonprofits are able to compensate staff members fairly (define) and offer medical benefits.
6. Increased community awareness role of nonprofits and the benefits they bring to East Contra Costa residents.
7. More robust, multi-year support from foundations for East Contra Costa nonprofits.
8. Improved equity and compensation for nonprofits subcontracting with Contra Costa County.

ECCCA Governance Structure

Decision-making
Decision-making will be made through group consensus. If consensus cannot be reached a majority vote will make the decisions.

Members who have attended at least 4 out of the last 6 meetings shall have voting rights.

Meetings
Two-hour meetings will take place every other month, rotating among the member sites. Meeting agendas will be developed by the ECCCA Coordinator and distributed 5-7 days before the meeting.

<u>Roles and responsibilities</u>
- ECCCA Coordinator
    - Develops agendas, facilitates meeting to ensure participants are willing and able to fully participate, secures and prepares meeting speakers, suggests pre-read materials or tools prior to the meeting
    - Provides reports and updates to funders of ECCCA, requests support (beyond grant funds) as needed

- Steering Committee
    - Sets the direction of ECCCCA, helps establish meeting agendas and sustain active participation among members in ECCCA, manages budget, uses networks to engage diverse community leaders in ECCCA, engage in debrief calls to reflect on previous meetings and plan for future meetings/activities, maintains up-to-date on issues, challenges, and opportunities in the external environment that may impact ECCCA's efforts, engages in branding, marketing, and promotional activities on behalf of ECCCA.
    - Steering Committee members shall hold one year terms. The founding steering committee shall consist of the original ECCA members. After one year, steering committee members shall be chosen by vote. The steering committee will consist of up to 13 members.
    - Each member of the Steering Committee will also serve on one other Committee (described below).
    - Steering Committee members will rotate taking the role of meeting notetaker. The notetaker will disseminate notes to ECCCA within 48 hours of the meetings. Notes will include clearly articulated decisions made and next steps.
    - Active steering committee members will receive a $5,000 stipend for their organization.

- Committees
    - Meet every other month and may include as many as 5 members in addition to Steering Committee members.
    - Three committees will form:
        - Advocacy Committee (tasked with forwarding long-term goals 1, 3 and 8).
        - Collaboration Committee (tasked with forwarding long-term goals 2 and 6).
        - Sustainability Committee (tasked with forwarding long-term goals 4, 5, and 7).

- Notes and updates from committee meetings will be presented to the full membership at least 5-7 days prior to full membership meetings.
- Active committee members who do not serve on the Steering Committee will receive a $2,000 stipend for their organization.