



APPLICATION TO BECOME A **CARING COMMUNITY**

Part of the Chapman Foundation Call for Applications

WELCOME

If you are here, you are serious about creating a community of practice where individuals feel seen, valued, and heard. This application is part of a Call for Applications inviting communities to explore a multi-year partnership with The Chapman Foundation to become a Caring Community.

The Caring Community Journey is a relational, discernment-based process designed to help determine mutual fit, readiness, and alignment. It is not a competitive grant application, but rather the beginning of a conversation about whether this long-term partnership is right for your community at this time.

The purpose of this application is to help The Chapman Foundation understand your community, what is drawing you to this work, and your hopes for participating in the Caring Community initiative. It will prompt reflection on leadership, partnerships, shared responsibility, and the conditions needed to successfully launch, grow, and sustain a Caring Community over time.

Becoming a Chapman Foundation Caring Community is a long-term partnership, typically unfolding over three to five years. Throughout the journey, responsibility and ownership gradually shift to the community as leadership, capacity, and sustainability take root. This structure is intentional and designed to support meaningful, lasting change.

THE CHAPMAN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Chapman Foundation partners with communities by investing in the early years of a Caring Community. While each community's journey and costs vary, the Chapman Foundation provides catalytic funding to help launch and sustain the work alongside local investment. This shared commitment reflects a mutual dedication to building strong foundations, developing local leadership, and creating lasting, community-led impact.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP

The Chapman Foundation is committed to creating Caring Communities and is ready to invest in yours! For long-term sustainability and shared leadership, successful Caring Communities typically include at least three committed organizations representing different sectors. These organizations will form your governance structure and help ensure the creation of a thriving Caring Community.

Please provide the following details:

Lead Organization: This is the organization leading the charge in the community, and the main point of contact who is filling out the Caring Communities Application. This organization serves as the Lead (Fiduciary) Organization, stewarding financial responsibility while supporting shared leadership across the community.

LEAD (FIDUCIARY) ORGANIZATION	
Lead Organization:	
Website:	
Address:	
Point of Contact:	
Email:	Phone:

Coordinating Organizations: These TWO organizations support the Lead Organization and are part of the governance structure to help ensure Caring Community success.

COORDINATING ORGANIZATION #1	
Partner Organization:	
Website:	
Address:	
Point of Contact:	
Email:	Phone:

COORDINATING ORGANIZATION #2	
Partner Organization:	
Website:	
Address:	
Point of Contact:	
Email:	Phone:

ADDITIONAL INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS

Please list any organizations and representatives that have expressed interest in participating, as well as any key stakeholders who may join in the future.

Organization:
Community Sector:

Organization:
Community Sector:

Organization:
Community Sector:

Organization:
Community Sector:

Organization:
Community Sector:

Organization:
Community Sector:

The questions below are intended to support reflection and shared understanding. There are no “right” answers, but you should have a solid concept and support system for your Caring Community.

THE VISION

Please help us understand your “why” for participating in the Caring Communities Initiative.

Define your community. Who are you representing?

(Geographic area, populations served, affiliations, etc.)

Describe the individuals or organizations currently helping convene or connect your community across sectors. How do you currently work together or hope to?

(The foundation of a Caring Community team is formed from the coordinating partners listed above and should be thought of as your local coordination team. This team will help define guidelines, set goals, and create your sustainable model for success. Please share how you currently work together or how you are connected.)

What is drawing your community to explore the Caring Community Journey at this time?

(For example, are there existing community goals or challenges driving your participation?)

What systemic change are you aiming to create, something no single organization can accomplish alone?

(For example, we are looking to strengthen communication across our health, education, and safety sectors. With a long-term goal of bringing this to the larger community.)

What does success look like for your community?

(For example, a successful Caring Community for us will be creating a continuous learning opportunity in the Chapman Foundation philosophy, turning workplaces into Caring Workplaces, and having opportunities for the entire community to participate.)

As you understand it, what feels clear about the commitment requires to become a Caring Community?

(For example: the structure is in place to manage this initiative)

Do you have any questions, uncertainties, or see any roadblocks that we can help answer?

(Partner organizations, community buy in, financial concerns)

What else should we know that we haven't already asked you about?

(This is one of the most famous and helpful of all survey questions, ever. We really just want to understand if there is anything else we should know that we haven't already asked you about?)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Submitting this application is one step in a shared discernment process. After reviewing applications the Chapman Foundation may schedule follow-up conversations, invite additional stakeholders into dialogue, or recommend further exploring before moving forward.

Not all applications result in immediate partnership. This reflects alignment, timing, and community readiness. All applicants will be contacted with status of their application.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

We are hopeful that this checklist will help you organize your application. These items are intended to set you up for success while showcasing the care and clarity for the work we will do together.

Please attach your signed application and any other documents in PDF format.

- ☐ Completed and signed application
- ☐ Letters of support from partner organizations
- ☐ Supporting community documentation, if applicable (needs assessment, strategic plan, operating agreements, or documentation of larger community problems that help provide rationale for the work)

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

We truly and sincerely look forward to reading your application. Thank you for the time and energy you have invested in this application and for the vision you hold clearly in your mind. Together, we will change the world. ***Signing this application indicates interest in exploring a Caring Community partnership. It does not constitute a formal agreement or guarantee of selection.***

Acknowledgment of Interest and Commitment to Explore:

Signature: _____

Printed Name & Title: _____

Organization: _____

If you have any questions while completing this application, please contact your Chapman Foundation point of contact.

Send a completed application to Micki Gibbs (Micki.gibbs@chapmancommunities.org) or Katie Horning (Katie.horning@chapmancommunities.org)