



Letter of Inquiry Workshop

March 2, 2016

# Meeting Agenda



- Welcome
- Understanding CFT's Funding Sources
- CFT Letter of Inquiry / Giving Guide Process
- Case Studies
- CFT Giving Guide
- Additional Notes
- Q & A



# **Understanding CFT's Funding Sources**

# CFT Funds: Active Donor Involvement



**Donor-  
Advised**

Donor makes ongoing recommendations about investments or grants to **any public charity**

**Designated**

Donor establishes the fund for a **specific nonprofit organization** or charitable purpose

**Scholarship**

Donor establishes the fund for awarding educational support to **individuals**

**Agency**

Nonprofit organization establishes a fund for **itself** to outsource the financial management of its assets

# CFT Funds: Foundation's Discretion



## Discretionary

CFT uses assets primarily for community impact grants to meet local needs. Current focus is on:

- 1) teacher and leader pipelines and professional development, and**
- 2) the working poor**

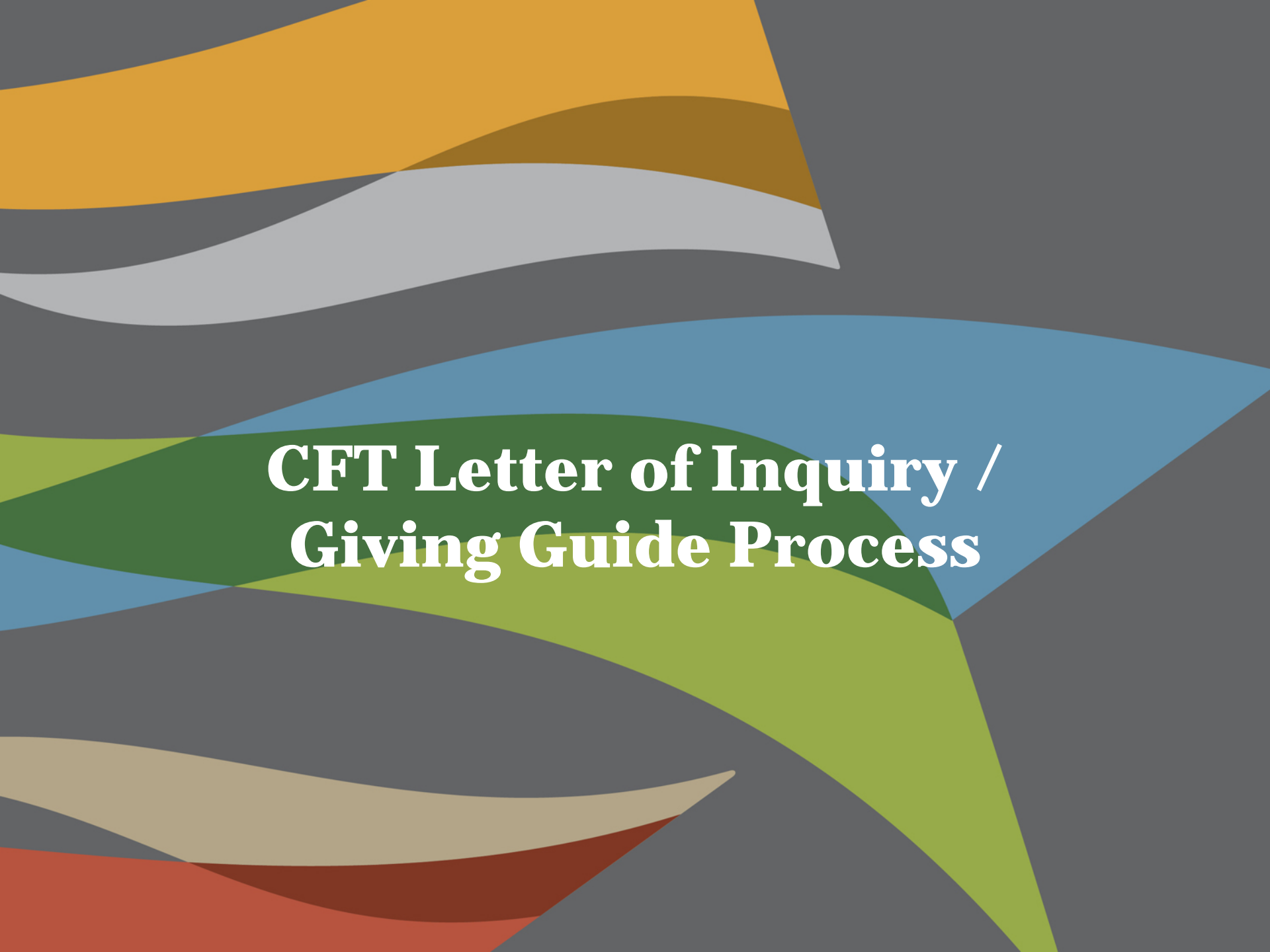
## Field of Interest

CFT uses assets to meet charitable needs in a **specific area** (e.g. Fund for Animals)

## Caruth Foundation

Assets are used by CFT for large transformative projects in:

- 1) public safety,**
- 2) education, and**
- 3) scientific and medical research**



**CFT Letter of Inquiry /  
Giving Guide Process**

# Who Is Eligible to Apply?



## Eligibility

*To participate in CFT's Letter of Inquiry process, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:*

Have a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt designation from the Internal Revenue Service *that has been active for two years.*

Have a North Texas Giving Day profile which can be created at [www.northtexasgivingday.org](http://www.northtexasgivingday.org).

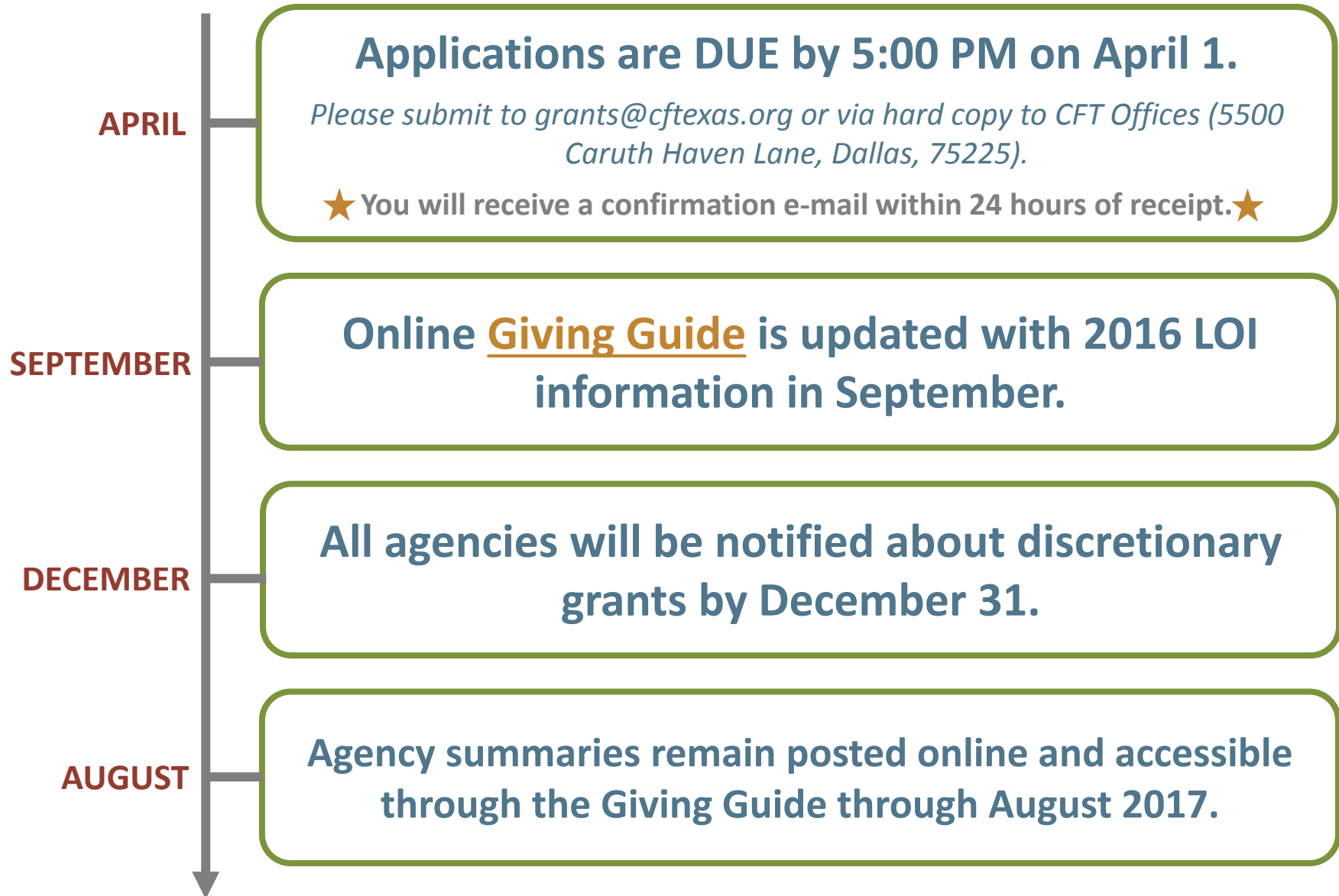
At least 50% of the population served by the grant must be residents of Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin or Rockwall Counties

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## Deadline

**APRIL 1, 2016 @ 5:00 PM**

# LOI / Giving Guide Timeline





# Purpose of LOI/Giving Guide for Agencies



## The LOI/Giving Guide Program gives agencies ...



● ● ● a way to **update CFT staff** on current initiatives, campaigns, and needs

● ● ● the opportunity for CFT staff to **inform donors and other community stakeholders** about agency activities and needs

● ● ● **public exposure** via the comprehensive online Giving Guide (for agencies that meet eligibility criteria)

● ● ● a **chance to be selected** for discretionary funding → *(~6% last year)*

# Purpose of LOI/Giving Guide for CFT



## The LOI/Giving Guide Program helps CFT



- ● ● **gather current information** on local nonprofit and community needs
- ● ● **engage with donors** in a philanthropic investment advisory role
- ● ● **proactively work to match** community needs with donor interests
- ● ● **directly fund** a small number of requests from CFT discretionary funds



# **CFT Giving Guide**

# Giving Guide: The Public Side of LOI



Enter Search Here SEARCH

DONATE

LOGIN

Why Work With CFT?

Create a Giving Fund

Discover & Get Inspired

Giving Guide

APPLY FOR A GRANT

SCHOLARSHIP CENTER

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

NEWS & EVENTS

ABOUT US

Giving Guide

GIVING GUIDE WELCOME

ARTS & CULTURE

ANIMALS

ELDERLY

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

EDUCATION

SOCIAL SERVICES

VETERANS

YOUTH

OTHER CAUSES

ALL REQUESTS



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Home > Giving Guide > Giving Guide Welcome

## 2015-2016 Giving Guide

### Search our North Texas Charity Listing

Each year, Communities Foundation of Texas reviews and evaluates hundreds of requests from local nonprofits to create the Giving Guide, which in turn gives donors like you access to immediate opportunities to make a positive difference in our community.

With over 450 requests in Fall 2015, the Giving Guide is sure to have an opportunity that aligns with your specific passions and giving goals.

### Choose your category and get started:



Animals



Arts & Culture



Education



Elderly



# Giving Guide: The Public Side of LOI





COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Home > Giving Guide > Health

Why Work With CFT? | Create a Giving Fund | Discover & Get Inspired | **Giving Guide** | APPLY FOR A GRANT | SCHOLARSHIP CENTER | PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS | NEWS & EVENTS | ABOUT US

Home > Giving Guide > Health

## Health

In Fall 2015, the Communities Foundation of Texas expert philanthropy team reviewed the following nonprofit agencies and offers them for your funding consideration:

**DONATE:** [Click here to donate to one of these organizations](#)

Filter this list of nonprofits:  [clear filter](#)

Adaptive Training Foundation
American Cancer Society, Inc.
American Foundation for the Blind, Center on Vision Loss
Arthritis Foundation, South Central Region - Dallas Office
Baylor Health Care System Foundation
Cancer Care Services
Cancer Support Community North Texas
Caring for Children Foundation of Texas
Career Link Foundation



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# Giving Guide: The Public Side of LOI



**COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS**

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Home > Giving Guide > Health

## Health

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Filter this list of nonprofits:  [clear filter](#)

- Adaptive Training Foundation
- American Cancer Society, Inc.
- American Foundation for the Blind, Center on Vision Loss**  
Established in 1921, The American Foundation for the Blind expands possibilities for those with vision loss by broadening access to technology, improving the quality of information available to professionals who serve people with vision loss, and providing resources to those with vision loss and their families, friends and colleagues. Funding is requested for four seminars on living independently with vision loss to be hosted at the Center, and community outreach programming that will reach over 2,400 visually-impaired individuals, family members, rehabilitation professionals, teachers and caregivers.  
[www.afb.org/cvl](http://www.afb.org/cvl)  
[Donate now](#)

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# Who uses the Giving Guide?



- CFT fund holders
- CFT philanthropic advisors
- Peer private foundations and companies
- Anyone who wants to make an impact in North Texas!



# **CFT Discretionary Grants**



# Priority Criteria for Discretionary Grants



Consider whether your agency has a request that matches any of the following priority criteria:

- Does the request address a **key issue in the community**?
- Is there **reliable data** and/or information to substantiate the community need?
- Is the need **particularly timely**, and is the reason well documented?
- Is the intended impact of the project **measurable**?
- Does the request include **collaborative efforts** to achieve greater impact?
- Does the request include **strategic, research-driven programs** and initiatives?
- Are there **opportunities to leverage** the LOI grant from CFT once received?

# Niche Area Funding Available



## CFT has specific funding available for the following purposes:

- financial education for widows
- education and training of student nurses
- medical research related to cancer or heart disease
- scholarships for students attending fundamental theology schools
- scholarships for blind individuals
- STEM education for girls
- programs that use technology to serve people with barriers to reading due to low vision or learning differences

*If your organization provides programs or services in any of these areas, we highly encourage you to submit an LOI request in that particular area.*



# **Case Studies: Funded Requests**





## Just Beginnings Program Pilot



- **Parenting program for incarcerated youth** that the San Francisco-based Youth Law Center developed in conjunction with Georgetown University.
- **The Dallas pilot will deliver parenting instruction** to 30 court-mandated youth detention center teen fathers and post-release teen fathers.

## CFT Priority Criteria Met:

- ✓ **Collaborative:** First3Years, Café Momentum, and Youth with Faces are working together to implement the pilot program
- ✓ **Addresses a timely need:** Approximately 25-30% of youth served by Café Momentum and Youth with Faces are fathers, but neither program has offered parenting support, which is essential for the healthy development of their children and to encourage the fathers to see themselves as positive role models for their children.
- ✓ **Strategic, data-driven, and measurable:** Georgetown University researchers have already found positive results at 5 other sites in California, Ohio, and Connecticut. They will evaluate the pilot using video recordings from before, during, and after fathers' participation before potentially expanding the pilot to additional sites in Texas.





## Project Inclusion



- Program which seeks to offer **theatrical productions tailored to the needs of children with developmental disabilities** including autism, ADHD, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other conditions.
- **Customized productions** reduce loud noises, darkness, flashing lights and other over-stimulating sensory input while still delivering a rich cultural experience.

## CFT Priority Criteria Met:

- ✓ **Key community issue:** Parents of special needs children often report that they do not bring them to live theater performances because their children have a low tolerance for over-stimulation, and parents don't want to be a disruption to others. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are at least 450,000 children in Dallas and Collin Counties who can benefit from sensory-friendly productions.
- ✓ **Strategic and research-driven:** Sensory-friendly productions were designed based on input from partners at Autism Speaks, UT Southwestern, University of North Texas, Children's Medical Center, and the Dallas Museum of Art.
- ✓ **Based on reliable data:** Before submitting the LOI, Dallas Children's Theater measured the success of three pilot sensory-friendly performances by collecting audience survey data.



**And While You're Here...**

**North Texas Giving Day 2016**



# North Texas Giving Day 2016



June 1 Fort Worth Kickoff

June 2 Dallas Kickoff

**Announced Soon:** Collin and Denton County Kickoffs

Important: Be sure your Giving Day Point of Contact is up to date!

[www.northtexasgivingday.org](http://www.northtexasgivingday.org)



**Q & A**