

## “A Thriving, Just, Healthy and Equitable Region”

### Important & Frequently Asked Questions

As HAF and WRCF unveil and implement our programmatic strategy, many have come to us asking important questions about what this strategy will look like, how relationships will change with the foundation, and other important considerations. We hope to address some of these questions with the following responses:

#### **How is the foundation going to develop programs and services to achieve its new strategic vision?**

As a foundation, we are exploring our local and regional partners and others who are working directly on critical areas. For example, we are actively working with governments, industry and nonprofits on some of our area’s most pressing issues, even as the pandemic limits our ability to gather. At the same time, we’re engaged in peer-learning alongside other community foundations and major grant-making foundations such as The California Endowment. We are planning for a broad and inclusive community co-design period, during which we work closely with community members to refine our goals and develop a broad understanding of the challenges and opportunities. We anticipate this work starting July 1, 2021, which coincides with our fiscal year.

**Why these four goals? What about other issues like health care and education?** The four goal areas—Racial Equity, Thriving Youth and Communities, Healthy Ecosystems and Environments, and a Just Economy and Economic Development—were chosen after a robust process of examining goal opportunities and in close consultation with our board of directors. While the foundation did explore dozens of goal areas, ultimately, the board and foundation staff felt these four goal areas aligned strongly with the foundation’s experience, partnerships, relationship with the community, and our assessment of the foundation’s capabilities and skills.

#### **You have listed many goals for the foundation. What if the foundation’s goals don’t cover my area?**

The strategic vision is a guiding document, and the goals contained therein were crafted to be broad and inclusive. By designing these goals in this manner, we can stay true to the strategic vision and address urgent community needs as they arise. Furthermore, we believe the intersection of our goals is where we can make the most significant impact. When the foundation’s programs and services support multiple goals, we can realize our outcome faster than if we invest in each alone.

**It seems many roles have changed within the foundation; who should I contact at HAF & WRCF for information about grants, programs and more?** We hear you. Changing roles is a complicated process with many implications for our community partners. We assure you we are committed to continuing to work with individuals, nonprofits, governments, educators, Tribal leaders, local businesses, and anyone else engaged in the work of improving our community. Please see the “Building an Organization for the Future” section in the Strategic Vision document for more information. If you have

specific questions, we ask that you reach out to us in a way that's convenient for you. Contact information for the Humboldt Area Foundation and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation can be found in this document's footer.

**Are HAF and WRCF separate organizations?** The foundations are the same legal entity, serving two unique communities in our region. We operate with one centralized team supporting grantmaking, finance, operations, investment, and more under a single 501c3 non-profit entity. However, our unique local communities have always been served by dedicated staff specializing in specific geographies and communities. Our distinct WRCF and HAF brands are a feature of our local focus and service within our unique counties, while the strength of our infrastructure allows us to support the entire region. Similarly, the Trinity Trust emphasizes and services the unique needs of their county, while leveraging our operating strength of a single, non-profit community foundation supporting Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity in California and Curry County in Oregon.

**What's in HAF and WRCF's toolkits to achieve these goals?** HAF and WRCF have several mechanisms to achieve our strategic vision and goals, including grant funding to our community partners; community loans; educational scholarships; working with other funders to secure funds from outside our region; programmatic work; convening and networking among regional stakeholders; capacity building among our nonprofit partners; leadership training to prepare the next generation of those who will shape our community; advocacy on behalf of our region; research into the opportunities and challenges we face; policy and system transformation at all levels of government; and a robust partnership between public and private entities.

**How will HAF and WRCF show progress as it works toward these goals?** A central aspect of effective interventions will be our ability to measure, learn and adjust our course or expand our efforts based on evaluation. One goal of the foundation's reorganization is to enhance this evaluation function to provide accountability to our board, community and funders.

**I have a fund at HAF/WRCF – will this change, too?** No. All Donor Funds and Scholarships, as well as Agency Funds, will continue to be managed as they always have: fulfilling donor intent and agreements with great care, fiduciary responsibility and in accordance with the laws that govern such trusts. As these funds are entrusted with us, we will always honor and manage the safekeeping of each fund and the intent of the donor. Further, our rate of investment return is among the highest across our peer community foundations. Please contact us if you are interested in establishing a charitable fund, within or outside of these goals.

**I am interested in supporting these goals. How can I donate or establish a fund to join this vision?** Terrific, we know many donor partners who are already excited about the work HAF/WRCF is embarking on with these goals. Please contact Gina Zottola at [gzottola@wildriverscf.org](mailto:gzottola@wildriverscf.org).