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Contacts:

David Little, NVCF executive vice president, <u>dlittle@nvcf.org</u> or 530-891-1150, ext. 300.

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The Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund at North Valley Community Foundation is accepting applications for a new annual grant program.

The Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Grant Program will be focused on efforts that address health and wellness for youth in Butte County, especially in the Camp Fire footprint. The deadline for organizations to apply is Feb. 28.

"Aaron opened his fund with us almost immediately after the Camp Fire. His care for our community has meant millions of dollars in grants for fire recovery in the six years since then," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "He realizes recovery is long and difficult, so he wants to do more. We hope this new grant program will bring forward innovative ideas to benefit young people in our area."

Rodgers, a Super Bowl-winning quarterback and four-time Most Valuable Player in the NFL, is a Butte County native. He was a partner in the Butte Strong Fund at NVCF. He also helped 159 small, locally owned businesses survive the pandemic lockdowns through the Aaron Rodgers Small-Business COVID-19 Fund at NVCF.

In this newest program, typical grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Grants above that amount may be possible, but applicants must first consult with NVCF Director of Strategic Grantmaking Kim DuFour at kdufour@nvcf.org.

Programs in the Camp Fire burn footprint will be given priority, but because the entire county was impacted by the fire and young people relocated throughout the county, programs outside the burn footprint will be considered.

The grant program seeks to fund innovative projects, not regular ongoing organizational expenses. It hopes to leverage but not duplicate other funding streams. Applications must exhibit how young people will benefit and must show a demonstrated plan to ensure sustainability.

Nonprofit and youth-serving organizations are eligible to apply, including local governments and public schools.

Read more about eligibility rules, selection criteria, grant requirements and apply at nvcf.org/aaron-rodgers-norcal-recovery-fund.