



## Community input is sought about initiative

By Claudia Palma, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 04/16/2008 11:42:51 PM PDT

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EL MONTE - The city's \$10million Community Building Initiative is seeking the community's help.

The initiative, a community project of the California Community Foundation, was launched in July with the goal of improving the quality of life for El Monte residents.

The foundation manages more than \$1 billion in assets and since 1915 has awarded millions of dollars in grants to Los Angeles County communities.

CCF plans to invest about \$1 million a year in El Monte through 2016, using grants, low-interest loans and guarantees, and land trust investments.

Although grants have already started to be awarded, CCF continues to look for ideas and suggestions from residents and community members about where and how the money should be spent.

To that end, a town hall meeting will be held

from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Shirsper Elementary School, 4020 N. Gibson Road. The meeting will focus on the Ramona/Valley area, the city's commercial downtown.

A citywide telephone survey also will be conducted by a private polling firm, in five different languages, to collect information about residents' engagement, input and quality of life issues. More town hall meetings will be scheduled in coming months.

Councilman Art Barrio said the initiative is a positive for El Monte.

"The possibility of doing a project that may have not been feasible before is now possible (because of this initiative)," said Barrios.

For more information, call CCF at (213) 413-4130, TLUC at (213) 613-0800 or visit [www.calfund.org/CBI.php](http://www.calfund.org/CBI.php).

[claudia.palma@sgvn.com](mailto:claudia.palma@sgvn.com)

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