



Opportunity GRANT GUIDELINES

ABOUT

Opportunity grants are part of the Community Foundation Monterey County (CFMC)'s competitive grants program, which allows nonprofits serving Monterey County to receive assistance when an urgent, unexpected situation arises or when a small grant is needed to test an innovative idea or capture a promising opportunity. These grants can be an entry point for emerging organizations and new ventures that have not received CFMC funding in the past.

Prospective grant applicants are encouraged to call and speak with a staff person regarding questions and/or proposal ideas. For referral to the appropriate staff member, contact Janet Shing, janet@cfmco.org, 831.375.9712 x137.

OPPORTUNITY GRANT GUIDELINES

Opportunity grants are considered for the following types of activities:

Emerging Organizations or Ventures

Funds may be provided to develop a new, innovative idea or endeavor that would not occur without CFMC's support. Priority is given to emerging organizations or ventures that have strong potential to serve an important community need. Start-ups will occasionally be considered if they are able to demonstrate the ability to sustain the effort. These grants can cover the work of individual organizations or collaboratives as they address a new community issue or a continuing issue in an innovative way.

Some possible activities might include:

- Recently incorporated nonprofit organizations that have been successful as unincorporated organizations
- Neighborhood Grants projects with several years' experience that have demonstrated increasing strength and effectiveness and
- Pilot projects that provide an innovative approach to existing issues.

Urgent and Time-Sensitive Needs

Opportunity Grants for urgent and time-sensitive projects are designed to respond to rapidly changing circumstances in the community. Successful applications will clearly illustrate the changes or needs that have occurred since the organization's last budget was passed and the urgency that requires a response before the fiscal year-end. Funding may cover both program and operational expenses. A loss in revenue or budget shortfall is not an eligible time-sensitive need.

Examples might include

- Efforts to address an unforeseen emergency
- An emergent issue that has evolved in a new way over a short period of time (less than a few months) and

- Other unexpected needs that could not have been planned and budgeted for.

Selecting Grants

The CFMC receives far more grant requests than is possible to fund. Opportunity grants are meant to allow CFMC to be responsive to community needs, with the understanding that Opportunity grants address needs in a specific scenario. The CFMC seeks to fund proposals that:

- Describes the community need, with data if available, that substantiates the request
- Include a brief explanation of the recent circumstances that now allow for the proposed project (why it could not have been planned for or which partners/situations have come together that now make it possible).
- Demonstrates community support, e.g., volunteers and financial donations
- Are well-thought out and have the necessary financial and human resources for implementation and ongoing success. Grant request fits well with the organization's mission and long-term plans for effectiveness.
- Are supported by leadership that is receptive and welcoming to learning and improvement; clients' feedback is sought and program/volunteer assessment is a regular practice.

Grant Awards:

Opportunity grants typically range between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Larger grants (up to \$10,000) may be considered but are the exception. Organizations may apply for more than one grant during the calendar year, as long as each request is for a different type of support (i.e.: Organizational Development, Opportunity, Community Impact, etc.). Priority will be determined based on need and potential impact on the organization and its mission. Opportunities in which matching funds from CFMC will leverage other resources are encouraged.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Opportunity grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and (occasionally) other public agencies serving Monterey County residents.
- All organizations applying for a grant should be current on reporting obligations for past Community Foundation grants of any type.
- Individual organizations within a collaborative applying for a grant may also apply for their own Opportunity grant, as long as it is not for the same project as that of the collaborative.
- Businesses and individuals are not eligible, with the exception of social enterprises associated with a local nonprofit.

Exclusions:

- Activities that are non-secular or promote a religious doctrine
- Academic or medical research
- Funding to schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services
- Annual fundraising campaigns or events
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
- Payment of debt or legal settlements
- Political or partisan purposes
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date

CFMC does not support organizations that discriminate in their employment practices, volunteer opportunities, or delivery of programs and services on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristics protected by law.

Submitting a Grant Proposal:

Opportunity grant proposals are accepted throughout the year, until all funding has been awarded. Decisions on grants will typically be made within eight weeks of receipt of the proposal. Even though there is no application deadline for Opportunity grants, proposals should be submitted at least eight weeks before the start of activities to be covered. Organizations must be current on past grant reporting requirements. This includes final reports for Opportunity, Organizational Development and Community Impact grants, etc. received in the last three years.

For questions regarding Opportunity grants, contact Janet Shing, Director of Grantmaking, janet@cfmco.org or 831.375.9712 x 137.

Please visit our website at www.cfmco.org for the Opportunity grant application, instructions and all materials needed to submit a proposal.