



GRANT GUIDELINES Opportunity Grants

ABOUT

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) embraces a countywide vision of **Healthy, Safe and Vibrant communities**. The CFMC's grant programs focus on the people and places of Monterey County, California, highlighting impact and seeking specific goals and measurable results. Opportunity grants can be an entry point for emerging organizations and organizations that do not meet the criteria for Community Impact and other grants.

Grant Awards

Opportunity grants typically range between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Approximately \$400,000 total is available annually. Opportunity grants have a 12-month grant period. Grant proposals will be reviewed three times per year in March, July and November. Strong proposals will take scheduled activities and timing into consideration when submitting Opportunity grant requests.

Apply by

February 29

June 30

October 31

Receive a Decision by

the end of April

the end of August

the end of December

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. The CFMC encourages proposals that:

- Describe a community need, with data, that substantiates the request.
- Include a realistic budget with other secured/pending income and demonstrated community support, e.g., volunteers and financial donations.
- Are well-planned, have the necessary financial and human resources for implementation and ongoing success, and leverage other resources.
- 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.

FUNDING INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES

Opportunity grants address critical issues and community needs that advance the CFMC's mission and vision for Monterey County. Based on data of local needs, aspirations and assets/CFMC's fund restrictions, we invite proposals exemplifying the following.

- ✓ Effective strategies that focus on opportunity / achievement gaps to increase equity and expand access to services and programs, as requested and informed by local residents.
- ✓ Provide access for services to more Monterey County residents by reducing barriers and obstacles.
- ✓ Upstream, preventive approaches that address underlying causes.
- ✓ Embrace and advance diversity, equity, inclusion through lived experience and informed data.

Opportunity grants will continue to consider time-sensitive needs in addition to ongoing, recurring expenses.

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.
- Organizations are eligible to receive one Opportunity grant per calendar year. Only one grant application per grant cycle will be considered. Organizations that do not submit a successful proposal in the first two review cycles of the year may reapply later in the same calendar year after receiving feedback from staff and submitting a revised grant request.

*Fiscal Sponsorships: Efforts that are not legally incorporated may partner with a tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the proposed grant. The fiscal sponsor must agree to be accountable to the CFMC for the programmatic and financial outcomes of the grant and have a signed agreement with the sponsored group verifying the terms of the arrangement. **Please contact us if your organization does not have its nonprofit status and plans to apply in conjunction with a fiscal sponsor.**

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 one-time events
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
- Capital campaigns
- Payment of debt or legal settlements
- Political or partisan purposes
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date.

While schools, faith-based organizations (for secular programs) and public agencies are eligible to apply for a grant from the Community Foundation, due to our limited funds, grants are infrequently awarded to such organizations. It is highly recommended that you speak with staff before submitting a grant application to discuss your proposal idea and fit with our guidelines and interests.

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.

[Opportunity grant proposals](#) are reviewed throughout the year in three cycles, due by the end of February, June and October.

Prospective grantseekers are **highly** encouraged to call and speak with a staff person regarding questions and/or proposal ideas. Please contact us at 831.375.9712 or 754.5880: Esther Figueroa, x107, estherf@cfmco.org or Janet Shing, x137, janet@cfmco.org.