

2025 GRANT GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE BIG SUR FUND, IN MEMORY OF WESTON CALL

Founded in 2020, the Big Sur Fund (BSF), in memory of Weston Call was created to provide residents, businesses, and visitors an opportunity to pool their giving and bring positive change to communities in Big Sur. The fund also responds to disasters through the Big Sur Disaster Relief Fund.

For more information about the Weston Call Fund, visit cfmco.org/BigSur

BSF GRANTS

Each year, the BSF determines where its available grant support can be placed for greatest impact on the Big Sur community. Using these grantmaking guidelines, the BSF Advisory Council, made up of community volunteers, will carefully review grant applications and recommend a slate of grants once a year to the CFMC board, which has final authority for grant decisions.

2025 GRANTMAKING PROGRAM AREAS AND PRIORITIES

The Big Sur Fund seeks to support nonprofit organizations that have the leadership and capacity to provide essential community resources and services in Big Sur (defined as Mal Paso Creek south to the County line). The fund supports work in:

- **Health, Fire & Safety:** Create additional funding for essential health and safety needs through Big Sur nonprofits.
- **Education, Arts & Culture:** Support educational, cultural and historical programs that enrich the community.
- **Community Stewardship & Sustainable Tourism:** Aid destination stewardship efforts and encourage responsible tourism practices.
- **Partnerships & Services:** Create and enhance community partnerships and support nonprofits delivering direct services in Big Sur.

GRANT AWARD

A total of \$30,000 will be available for grantmaking in 2025. Grants are expected to range from \$1,000 - \$5,000. The total grant amount, number and size of grants awarded may vary depending on the Advisory Council's assessment of a proposed project's impact to Big Sur. Grant recipients will be expected to use all funds and provide a written evaluation of the project within 12 months from the grant date.

WHAT GRANT FUNDS MAY SUPPORT

Funding will be considered for the following types of requests:

- **Program Support:** For the expansion or refinement of existing programs, or new programs with demonstrated potential for impact and sustainability
- **Operating Support:** Unrestricted grants to organizations with a proven track record of community benefit in Big Sur
- **Capital Support:** For costs associated with buildings and/or facilities located in Big Sur

ELIGIBILITY

Grant requests will only be considered for projects and programs serving Big Sur communities, defined in this case as Mal Paso Creek south to the County line. BSF grants are open to

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
- Public programs, such as school activities and programs not included in normal curricula, parks, public health, etc.
- Organizations and collaboratives that are not legally incorporated—for these, CFMC requires an agreement with a “Fiscal Sponsor” defined as a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization accountable for financial management of the grant
- Organizations may only submit one application. However, if an organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for a collaborative or unincorporated group, they can also apply for a grant to benefit their organization

WHAT GRANT FUNDS MAY SUPPORT

- Pre-development or construction costs for facility construction or renovation
- Matching grants to leverage other funding
- Developmental costs for new programs
- Equipment, materials and/or facilities expenses that directly benefit participants or are an identifiable part of a project

WHAT GRANT FUNDS WILL NOT SUPPORT

- Projects that discriminate or with political or partisan purposes
- Religious activities or services that are non-secular and/or promote a religious doctrine
- Funding to schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services
- Individual sports teams
- Annual fundraising campaigns or events
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
- Payment of debt or legal settlements
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date
- Attendance at conferences for staff or volunteers
- Research projects
- Grants to provide college or other educational scholarships to individuals
- Grants to provide financial assistance directly to individuals

Visit cfmco.org/BigSurGrants for more information on how to apply online.

Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) does not prohibit the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with its application-based grant requests. If grantseekers use AI tools to prepare their grant proposals, CFMC encourages the following:

- The grantseeker to proofread the proposal/report before submission;
- The incorporation of the organization's voice; and
- Including local data and information to personalize and support their statements.

Grant requests to the Big Sur Fund are due **by 5:00 pm, August 1, 2025**, or earlier. Funding decisions will be announced in October.

For questions, please contact Daniela Cervantes, Community Impact and Equity Officer, at 831.375.9712 x133 or danielac@cfmco.org