

Supporting Our Neighbors Fund GRANT GUIDELINES

November 3, 2025

ABOUT

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) established the Supporting Our Neighbors Fund to assist nonprofit organizations providing support for individuals and families facing urgent needs due to immigration and policy-related concerns. Areas of support that the fund will address include community outreach, legal assistance, community education about immigrant and LGBTQ+ rights, basic needs, and access to mental and physical health services. The grant guidelines are subject to change to be flexible and responsive to needs as they arise.

Updated guidelines include organizations that provide immediate direct relief to individuals in Monterey County experiencing food insecurity due to discontinuation or delay of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other food assistance programs.

GRANT CRITERIA

At this time, grants from the fund will be considered for specific types of activities in Monterey County.

1. Program
 - a. Support for providing meals
 - b. Support for food purchase and preparation
 - c. Financial assistance to those in need of food due to discontinuation or delay of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other food assistance programs.
2. Community Outreach and Education
 - a. Continued community training on Know Your Rights (KYR) and family safety planning
3. Family Support
 - a. Connection to community resources including legal assistance and basic needs
 - b. Mental Wellness
 - i. Training and Technical Assistance for providers
 - ii. Wellness care for providers
 - iii. Training materials
4. Rapid Response Network
 - a. Training of Trainers for Know Your Rights (KYR)
 - b. Training of Trainers and management of Legal Observers
 - c. Maintaining the 24/7 rapid response line
 - d. Supplies and equipment for volunteers
5. Policy and Advocacy
 - a. Support for local, state and federal policy changes related to immigrant and LGBTQ+ rights

SELECTING GRANTS

We understand the needs will exceed the available funds. The Foundation will invite organizations to apply due to limited funding. Applications will be reviewed by CFMC staff for approval by the CFMC President/CEO.

GRANT AWARDS

Generally, grants will range in size from \$10,000 to \$30,000. There may be other grants that are outside this range due to specific programmatic needs, which the foundation will coordinate. Organizations may apply for more than one grant during the calendar year, as this fund is intended to be responsive to the ongoing needs of the community.

Eligibility:

- Grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and other public agencies serving the community and are limited to invitation-only applicants.
- Organizations that would like to be considered to apply should contact CFMC staff.
- Businesses and individuals are not eligible.

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
- Unincorporated groups
- Fiscally sponsored groups

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

1. Organizations invited by CFMC staff to apply for a grant will be provided an access code to submit a grant application through the CFMC's online grant manager.
2. Review the grant application guidelines.
3. Apply through the CFMC's online application portal: www.cfmco.org/apply

Supporting Our Neighbors Fund grant applications can be submitted at any time while funds are available. Grantmaking decisions will typically be made as soon as possible after receipt of a complete application. Organizations that are awarded a grant are encouraged to stay in close contact with the CFMC on the progress of their efforts. A final grant report will not be required.

CONTACT

If you have questions about the Supporting Our Neighbors Fund grantmaking process after reviewing the guidelines and application instructions, please contact Michael Castro, Director of Community Initiatives and Partnerships, michaelc@cfmco.org or 831.375.9712 x 127. *Note: contact by email is preferred.*

Please visit our website at www.cfmco.org/ for information.