



Application-based Grants Overview

January 2026

Agenda

10:00 CFMC Grant Overview

- [Impact](#)
- [Organizational Development](#)
- [Board Empowerment](#)
- Using our [online grants manager](#)
- Q&A that will benefit the entire group

cfmco.org/ImpactGrants

11:00 How Candid Helps Nonprofits

c. Number of volunteers	# 200
c. Number of employees	# 25
c. Total number of board members	6

Impact

	SMALL	IMPACT
Grant Range (Average)	\$10,000 - \$20,000 (\$18,000)	\$40,000 - \$50,000 (\$45,000)
Due Date by 11:59 p.m.	None but reviewed in three cycles received by Feb. 27, June 30 and Oct. 30	Third Friday in March
Scope & Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves one city or area • Limited size and scope • First-time grant seeker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countywide or working in multiple cities • Services/programs throughout the year • Organizations that demonstrated strong outcomes with past CFMC grants
Review	Staff review	Board Committee review
Decision	End of April, August, December	End of June

Impact

WHAT'S CHANGED IN 2026?

- ✓ Main funding priority is: ***Effective strategies addressing the greatest needs in Monterey County resulting in demonstrable impact.***
- ✓ All Impact proposals due ***by 11:59 p.m.*** of the due date.

Impact

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUBMITTING THE STRONGEST IMPACT PROPOSAL

SELECTING GRANTS

cfmco.org/impact/data-center

- ✓ Recent successful CFMC grants
- ✓ Propose solutions to challenges/systemic barriers that increase equity
- ✓ Demonstrate community support, capable leadership and engagement with the people with whom the organization works
- ✓ Incorporate local data and resident voices
- ✓ Propose relevant, measurable goals

cfmco.org/impactgrants

Organizational Development (OD) Grants

	Funding Interest/ Purpose	Range (average) Annual \$	Application Due Date
Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focused, strategic capacity building projects	\$5k-10k (\$7,265) \$50k	None

Recent OD Grant:

- A human services nonprofit built its **fund development and donor stewardship infrastructure**. OD funds were used to purchase one year of a two-year subscription to DonorSearch. The software enabled staff to use wealth screening tools and giving patterns to identify high potential donors within its current donor database. Staff also learned to develop individualized stewardship plans. Outcomes were reflected in strong success in Monterey County Gives campaign during a time of economic instability and donor giving uncertainty.

Organizational Development (OD)

Strong proposals meet eligibility requirements and

- Demonstrate a **vision for organizational growth**
- Clearly **describe what will be different** about the organization as a result of the project and how success will be measured.
- Include realistic budgets that demonstrate comprehensive support for the project's success.
- Detail a **plan that makes sense** with the necessary financial and human resources for implementation.
- **Leaders take an active role** and are guided by assessment, feedback, learning and improvement.

Board Empowerment Program

“The conversations helped us be more specific, to dig deeper and achieve next steps.” Rick, Wonder Wood Ranch board officer



Timeline

- March – Grants awarded and Zoom orientation for cohort
- April – Action plans identified
- April to January – Monthly coaching with Coral Collective consultants (Allie Ladio and Corinne Enni)
- Dates TBD – two in-person cohort convenings for support and shared learning
- February 2027 – Grant evaluation report due

Participation: Executive Director and Board Chair teams.

Funding: \$5,000 unrestricted grant

Board Empowerment Program

Examples of board projects from the 2025 BEP cohort:



THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR MONTEREY COUNTY RECOGNIZES
Wonder Wood Ranch
for successful completion of the inaugural
BOARD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM 2025



Susie Polnaszek
Susie Polnaszek, Director
Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Reid Norris
Reid Norris, Program Manager
Center for Nonprofit Excellence

- Rebuilding board structures
- Clarifying Board/ED Relationships
- Preparing for Board Recruitment
- Culture in the Board Room
- Strategic Alignment
- Succession Planning (for a founder)

Additional Resources cfmco.org/cne

BoardConnect Reception – Register by 1/21

Fundamentals of Fundraising Training (AFP) - Register by 1/23

Stanford Alumni Consulting Team – Apply by 1/31

Executive Director Breakfast Begins 3/26

Nonprofit GPS [Helpline](#) – national resource
On-demand advice from financial and management consultants.





Grant Opportunities: At-A-Glance

	Funding Interest/ Purpose	Range (average) Annual \$	Application Due Date
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly all areas Ongoing needs, operating support 	\$40k-50k (\$45k) \$1.6+ million	11:59 pm, 3/20/2026
Small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly all areas Estimate grant budget Focused in one city, area or population 	\$10k-20k (\$18k) \$1.2+ million	11:59 pm, 2/27, 6/30 and 10/30/2026
Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused, strategic capacity building projects 	\$5k-10k (\$7,265) \$50k	None
Board Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced board effectiveness Coaching and peer support over 10 months 	\$5k operating	5:00 pm, 1/30/2026

Online Grants Manager

- ✓ Read the **Overview Guide** at cfmco.org/grant-opportunities/apply-for-a-grant/
- ✓ Add “administrator@grantinterface.com” to your email contacts
- ✓ Use the Collaborate function
- ✓ Inform us when your grant contact or mailing address change

 Copy Candid Profile

 Collaborate 

READY TO APPLY?

Please visit our Online Grants Manager.

ONLINE GRANTS MANAGER

Online Grants Manager

A Note on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

CFMC does not prohibit the use of AI with its application-based grant forms. If grantseekers use AI tools to prepare their grant proposals, CFMC encourages the following:

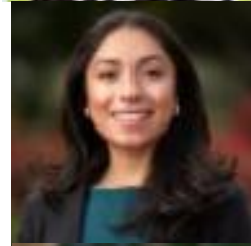
- **Proofreading the proposal/report before submission;**
- **The incorporation of the organization's voice; and**
- **Including local data and information to personalize and support their statements.**

Contact Information

831.375.9712 or 754.5880 cfmco.org/grant-opportunities
cfmco.org/grant-opportunities/apply-for-a-grant



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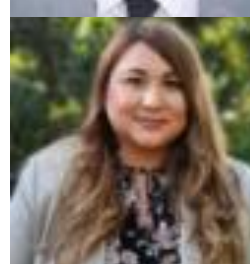
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