



The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) embraces a countywide vision of **Healthy, Safe and Vibrant communities**. The Impact grants program focuses on the people and places of Monterey County, California, highlighting impact and tangible results.

GRANT AWARDS:

- Impact grants aim to provide unrestricted support, ranging between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year. Approximately \$2,500,000 total will be granted annually.
- Large Impact grant proposals are due online by 11:59 p.m., the third Friday in March, March 20, 2026 or earlier. Note: the CFMC encourages early applications. Smaller requests are accepted through October 30.
- In general, Impact grants will have a 12-month grant period. A limited number of multi-year grants will be considered, by invitation, based on past success.
- Impact grants support activities throughout the year and across Monterey County, CA with concentration in North Monterey County, Salinas Valley and South Monterey County.

Impact grants address critical issues and opportunities that advance the CFMC's mission and vision for Monterey County. Requests focused on one city or one area and from organizations that have not received multiple Impact grants in recent years are encouraged to consider applying for a Small Impact grant or another of our [grant opportunities](#).

	SMALL	IMPACT
Grant Range (Average)	\$10,000 - \$20,000 (\$18,000)	\$20,001 - \$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

FUNDING INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to organizations with positive, stable Impact grant history with CFMC, demonstrating effectiveness resulting in tangible and measurable impact. We invite proposals exemplifying the following (more information is available at cfmco.org/data-center).

- ✓ Effective strategies addressing the greatest needs in Monterey County resulting in demonstrable impact.
- ✓ Incorporating local data and resident voices to advance opportunities for everyone to reach their full potential and thrive.

SELECTING GRANTS

CFMC receives many more requests than it can support. CFMC seeks to support funding requests that:

- Bring solutions to community challenges or systemic barriers that increase equity;
- Articulate vision, effective methods and viable plans for maintaining ongoing efforts; and
- Demonstrate community support, capable leadership and knowledge of, and engagement with the community.

The following are examples of funding requests that CFMC invites.

- Financial education programs that help people budget and increase their savings and credit score.
- Youth development programs that foster skill-building, inquiry, inclusivity and belonging.
- Literacy and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, math integrated with arts) programs that support children's on-grade level proficiencies.
- Civic/community engagement and training programs that ensure all residents can access and participate in efforts important to them, including skills and technology to that increase opportunities to prosper.
- Programs that expand access to basic physical or mental health wellness services, practices and resources.
- Environmental education and climate change programs.
- Programs that increase access to arts, especially multicultural arts education and community-building.
- Historic preservation projects/education that reflect the history and many cultures of our region.
- Effective animal welfare or evidence-based animal therapy programs reaching low-resourced families.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Impact grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and occasionally other public agencies serving Monterey County residents. Unincorporated groups working with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor are asked to review CFMC's suggestions regarding applying for a grant with a fiscal sponsor.
- All organizations applying for a grant should be current on reporting obligations for past Community Impact and Small Opportunity grants.
- Organizations may receive one Impact grant (of any size) per calendar year, not both. Only one Impact grant application will be considered at a time.

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.
- Unincorporated organizations that do not have their own 501(c)3 tax-exemption or similar

While schools, faith-based organizations 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 us before submitting a grant application to discuss your proposal idea and fit with our guidelines. Also, CFMC prioritizes Impact grant applications from organizations headquartered in Monterey County.

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.

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.

Impact grant applications are due **by 11:59 p.m., March 20, 2026, or earlier.**

Questions? Contact us:

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