



## 2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FUND FOR CARMEL VALLEY

Founded in 2020, the Community Fund for Carmel Valley (CFCV) is an affiliate fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. It was created as a unique vehicle to bring positive change to the communities of Carmel Valley.

For more information about the Community Fund for Carmel Valley, visit [cfmco.org/CFCV](https://cfmco.org/CFCV)

### CFCV GRANTS

Each year, the CFCV determines where its available grant dollars can be placed for greatest impact on the Carmel Valley communities' highest priority needs. Using these grantmaking guidelines, the CFCV Advisory Council, made up of community volunteers, carefully reviews grant applications and recommends a slate of grants once a year to the CFMC board, which has final authority for grant decisions.

### 2026 GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES

The CFCV seeks to support nonprofit organizations that have the leadership and capacity to provide important community resources and services in the Carmel Valley area (defined as Carmel Valley from Highway 1 to Cahoon Grade, including Cachagua and Jamesburg). The Fund prioritizes grant requests that address:

- **Community Development:** Build community, improve infrastructure and meet local needs
- **Youth & Seniors:** Expand youth and/or senior programming and services
- **Resident Programs:** Support education, cultural and historical programs

Funding will be considered for the following types of expenses:

- **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 Carmel Valley communities

### Special consideration will be given to grant applications addressing

- Organizations currently providing services directly located in Carmel Valley/Cachagua, with ease of access for residents.
- Basic needs of Carmel Valley/Cachagua residents (food/housing security, youth programs, etc.)
- Emergency Prevention and/or Response related to:
  - Fire/Disaster needs (e.g., Neighborhood organizing, education for disaster preparedness, etc.). *Please contact us if you have questions about applying for a fire relief grant.*

### GRANT AWARD

A total of \$32,000 will be available for grantmaking in 2026. Grants are expected to range from \$3,000 - \$4,000. The number and size of grants awarded may vary depending on the Advisory Council's assessment of the proposed project's impact to Carmel Valley communities. Grant recipients will be expected to conduct proposed activities and provide a written evaluation of the project within 12 months from the grant date.

### ELIGIBILITY

Grants will only be considered for projects and programs serving the Carmel Valley area, defined as Carmel Valley from Highway 1 to Cahoon Grade, including Cachagua and Jamesburg. Funds 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
- Faith-based sponsored activities with benefits to the entire community (e.g. a food pantry)
- 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**

- Matching grants to leverage other funding
- Developmental costs for new programs expected to have direct community benefit during the award period
- Personnel expenses that relate to specific program goals
- Equipment, materials and/or facilities expenses that directly benefit participants or are an identifiable part of 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
- Pre-development or construction costs for facility construction or renovation that will not be completed within six months of grant award

Visit [cfmco.org/CFCVGrants](https://cfmco.org/CFCVGrants) 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 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 Community Fund for Carmel Valley are due **by 11:59 pm, August 7, 2026**, 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](mailto:danielac@cfmco.org)