



2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE NORTHERN MONTEREY COUNTY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2016, the Northern Monterey County Foundation (NMCF) 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 North Monterey County.

The NMCF provides grants to nonprofit organizations that benefit the following communities: Aromas, Bolsa Knolls, Boronda, Castroville, Elkhorn, Las Lomas, Moss Landing, Oak Hills, Pajaro, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, Santa Rita.

For more information about the Northern Monterey County Foundation, visit cfmco.org/NMCF

NMCF GRANTS

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

2026 GRANTMAKING PROGRAM AREAS AND PRIORITIES:

The NMCF seeks to support nonprofit organizations that have the leadership and capacity to provide important community resources and services in Northern Monterey County communities. Preference is given to locally based organizations that have less access to other sources of support, and where a small grant can make a meaningful difference. The Fund prioritizes grant requests that address:

- **Health and Human Services:** Programs that assist individuals (all ages) and families, with basic living needs, efforts that improve health outcomes and emotional well-being; and
- **Children and Youth:** Out-of-school (preK-12) academic support, youth development and enrichment programs, and youth-led programs that increase skills

GRANT AWARD

A total of \$50,000 will be available for grantmaking in 2026. Grants are expected to range from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The number and size of grants awarded may vary depending on the Advisory Council's assessment of a proposed project's impact on Northern Monterey County 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 Northern Monterey County area. NMCF 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
- 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 serves as a fiscal sponsor for a collaborative or unincorporated group, it may also apply for a grant to benefit its 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
- 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

Visit cfmco.org/NMCFGrants 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 North Monterey County Fund 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