



2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE SIEMBRA LATINOS FUND

Founded in 2017, the Siembra Latinos Fund (SLF) is a special purpose fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. It was created as a unique vehicle to bring positive change to Latino communities in Monterey County.

For more information about the Siembra Latinos Fund, visit cfmco.org/siembra

SLF GRANTS

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

2026 GRANTMAKING PROGRAM AREAS AND PRIORITIES:

The Siembra Latinos Fund is focused on making an impact on Economic Mobility. For this reason, the fund seeks proposals in the areas of:

- **Leadership Development:** Foster Latino leadership, community engagement that encourages participation in decision making, and create opportunities for Latinos.
- **Work Experience:** Gain an internship, grow professional networks, and increase core skills (problem solving, critical thinking, operation systems, data analysis and more).
- **Education:** English/Language Arts and Math on-grade proficiencies, especially at the 4th, 5th and 6th grade levels.

GRANT AWARD:

A total of \$25,000 is available for grantmaking. Grants are expected to range from \$2,500 - \$5,000. The number and size of grants awarded may vary depending on the Advisory Council's assessment of the proposals. Grant recipients will be expected to use all funds and provide a written evaluation of the project within 12 months of the grant date.

WHAT GRANT FUNDS MAY SUPPORT:

Funding will be considered for the following types of requests:

- **Program support:** for the expansion or refinement of existing programs, new programs that show the promise of impact and sustainability, and support for emergency or special circumstances. (e.g., wages, equipment)
- **Operating support:** unrestricted grants to organizations that have a proven track record of community benefit.

ELIGIBILITY:

SLF grants are open to

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
- Public programs (schools, 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.

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 a 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/SiembraGrants 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 Siembra Latinos Fund are due **by 11:59 p.m., August 7, 2026, or earlier**. Funding decisions will be announced in October.

For questions, please contact Daniela Cervantes, Community Impact and Equity Officer, danielac@cfmco.org, 831.375.9712 or 754.5880 x133.