



**2026 GRANT GUIDELINES**  
**Restricted to named and invited agencies for 2026**  
**The Robert and Virginia Stanton Endowment**

**ABOUT THE STANTON ENDOWMENT**

Virginia Young Stanton left a \$3.5 million bequest to establish this fund in her name and her husband's. The fund was established in 1994 as the Robert and Virginia Stanton Endowment.



Mrs. Stanton moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1924 as the party and entertainment editor of *House Beautiful*. Her energy and compassion led her to volunteer for the Monterey Museum of Art, the American Red Cross, and the Community Hospital Auxiliary. She was a member of the Monterey Council of the National trust for Historic Preservation, and had a special interest in Casa Amesti; her husband, the distinguished architect Robert Stanton, was a founding member of the Old Capital Club, based in that historic adobe. In 1983, after Robert's passing, she established an endowment at the Community Foundation for awards to outstanding local architects. Mrs. Stanton named some favorite agencies or types of projects for annual consideration in order of priority; others may also be funded at the discretion of the Community Foundation for Monterey County

(CFMC) Board and the Stanton Committee.

**STANTON ENDOWMENT GUIDELINES**

Stanton Endowment grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations serving Monterey County residents. This fund gives priority to the agencies and programs of special interest to Virginia and Robert Stanton **and in 2026, consideration will be restricted to these and invited agencies only.** These include:

- The Stanton Center (formerly known as the Allen Knight Maritime Museum)
- The repair, maintenance and capital improvements of public buildings designed by Robert Stanton, especially the King City High School Auditorium and the Monterey County Court House in Salinas
- The Monterey History and Art Association
- The Monterey County Symphony Association
- The Monterey Museum of Art
- The American Red Cross of the Central Coast (formerly known as the Carmel Chapter of the American Red Cross)
- The Salvation Army - Monterey Peninsula Corps

## STANTON ENDOWMENT GRANTS CALENDAR

Grant proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, July 10, 2026 or earlier using our online grant application. For 2026, approved proposals are funded in November.

## STANTON ENDOWMENT PRIORITIES

The Stanton Endowment Grant Committee generally gives priority to one-time special or capital projects, rather than funding ongoing operating support. The CFMC supports capital costs (buildings and facilities) when those capital improvements have the potential to advance greater social benefit. Capital support will be considered for predevelopment expenses and/or for construction costs after the agency has raised at least half of the goal. Applicants are eligible for two capital-related grants: one for predevelopment expenses and one for construction costs.

The Stanton Endowment Grant Committee will consider the public benefits likely to occur as a result of the proposed activities, as well as other details of the proposals such as cost effectiveness, past record of achievement, and fit with the general guidelines and purposes of the Community Foundation and the Stanton Endowment.

The CFMC **does not** award Stanton Endowment grants to support:

- Individuals, through academic scholarships, fellowships, stipends, travel awards, or the like (however, subsidies to reduce program costs for a group of low-income participants are sometimes called “scholarships” but are eligible)
- Religious activities
- Academic research (however, mission-related applied research such as feasibility studies or needs assessments are eligible)
- Salaries and other operating expenses of schools and public agencies.
- Annual campaigns or special events
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
- Payment of debt, even for expenditures that would otherwise fall within the guidelines
- Reimbursement for expenditures made prior to the scheduled grant check date
- Agencies that have unresolved, non-consensual liens

## BEFORE YOU APPLY

To be eligible for funding, organizations must be current on reporting obligations for past CFMC grants.

Stanton Endowment grant applicants should use the Community Foundation’s [online grant application](#).

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.

A list of recent Stanton Endowment grants may be found on our website. Please feel free to contact Michael Castro, Director of Community Initiatives and Partnerships, at [michaelc@cfmco.org](mailto:michaelc@cfmco.org) or 831.884.5727 if you have questions.