



Monterey County Fire Relief Fund GRANT GUIDELINES

Revised August 2026

ABOUT

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) established the Monterey County Fire Relief Fund to respond to a range of needs in Monterey County resulting from various fires. Grants from this special purpose fund will support nonprofit organizations assisting with relief efforts for individuals, organizations affected by the fire, recovery and rebuilding efforts. The grant guidelines are subject to change to be flexible and responsive to needs as they arise.

GRANT CRITERIA

At this time, grants from the fund will focus on relief and recovery efforts and will be considered for the following types of activities:

RELIEF EFFORTS

Funds may be provided to organizations providing immediate direct relief to individuals in **Monterey County** impacted from the **Timber** fire.

Some possible activities might include:

1. Support for emergency shelter
2. Support for evacuees and residents (food, housing and immediate needs)
3. Financial assistance to those evacuated, and/or to those displaced or affected by the closure of businesses/employment
4. Efforts to support firefighters (equipment, etc.)

RECOVERY EFFORTS

Funds may be provided to organizations providing programming in **Monterey County** for communities impacted from the fire.

Some possible activities might include:

1. Assist nonprofit organizations with program support and related impacts due to the wildfires and evacuations.
(Ex: program or service interruptions or relocation and reopening due to evacuations in the affected areas, equipment and other supplies due to evacuations and fire damage in the affected areas).
2. Programming to address the related-mental health impact.

REBUILDING EFFORTS

Due to the size and scope of the fires, we expect the rebuilding efforts to be long-term.

Some possible activities might include:

1. Assistance to individuals who lost property (items not covered by insurance)
2. Environmental projects to replant and rebuild burn scar areas
3. Preparedness projects to help the community build disaster resilience.

SELECTING GRANTS

We expect the needs generated by the fire will exceed the available funds. Applications will be reviewed by CFMC staff for approval by the CFMC President/CEO. Applications and approved grants will be communicated to CFMC affiliate fund leaders from the Big Sur Disaster Relief Fund regarding areas affected by the Timber Fire (Big Sur).

GRANT AWARDS

We expect grants to range in size from \$2,000 to \$30,000. Organizations may apply for more than one grant during the calendar year, as this fund is intended to be responsive to the ongoing needs of the community.

Eligibility:

- Grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and other public agencies serving the community affected by the Timber Fire that began in Monterey County in August 9, 2026.
- Businesses and individuals are not eligible at this 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
- Unincorporated groups
- Fiscally sponsored groups

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.

SUBMITTING A GRANT PROPOSAL

1. Review the grant application guidelines: (this document)
2. If invited to apply for a grant, you will be provided an access code to use through the CFMC's [online grants manager](#).

Monterey County Fire Relief Fund grant applications may be submitted at any time while funds are still available. Grantmaking decisions will typically be made as soon as possible after receipt of the proposal. Organizations that are awarded a Monterey County Fire Relief Fund grant are encouraged to stay in close contact with the CFMC on the progress of their efforts. A final grant report will not be required.

CONTACT

If you have questions about the Monterey County Fire Relief Fund grantmaking process after reviewing the guidelines and application instructions, please contact Janet Shing, Vice President of Community Impact, janet@cfmco.org or 831.884.5737.

Please visit our website at www.cfmco.org for information.