Community Foundation
for Monterey County

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Here for Good

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GRANTMAKING FRAMEWORK

In January 2011, the Community Foundation for Monterey County's Board of Directors adopted a bold new strategic plan that embraces a countywide vision of ***Healthy, Safe and Vibrant Communities.*** With this vision as our guide, the Community Foundation's new grants program focuses on the people and places of Monterey County, highlighting impact and seeking measurable results. The Community Foundation's Impact Grants will address critical issues and opportunities in four primary areas that advance the Foundation's mission and vision for Monterey County. Under each program area, we have defined specific funding priorities that build upon our past grantmaking and initiatives, and are based on an analysis of local needs, assets and opportunities for achieving strategic results. We expect that our grantmaking priorities will evolve in response to emerging issues.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

- — Building Blocks
- — Basic Needs
- — Wellness

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

- — Community Engagement
- — Economic Opportunity
- — Healthy Places and Spaces

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES

- — Experiences
- — Creativity
- — Heritage

STEWARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- — Environmental Engagement
- — Animal Welfare

OUR APPROACH

In order to achieve the greatest possible impact, six principles guide our grantmaking approach:

PARTNERSHIP We approach grantmaking as a partnership with the organizations we support in achieving positive community change.

COUNTYWIDE VIEW We are responsive to the special characteristics and unique needs of the diverse locales and people that make up Monterey County.

FOCUS ON PREVENTION We believe that investing in upstream approaches (prevention and early intervention) holds the greatest promise for our vision of healthy, safe and vibrant communities throughout Monterey County.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT We trust the wisdom and power of cohesive, organized communities to create lasting change, and we invest in strategies that nurture strong alliances, partnerships and collaborations for the broadest possible impact.

LEVERAGE We seek to leverage the Foundation's grants and look for opportunities where our funding can serve as a catalyst for co-investment in solving complex community issues.

SYNERGY We encourage interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate elements such as arts and cultural programming, environmental stewardship, literacy and inter-generational work.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Monterey County's children and youth are valued and prepared for success. People of all ages live healthy and independent lives and have access to basic health and human services.

BUILDING BLOCKS **We support programs that help children and youth reach their full potential.**

Interest Areas:

- Early childhood education and family literacy projects that optimize the development of children (ages 0-5) so they enter school ready to learn
- Building a pipeline of integrated academic, community and family supports to help youth (grades K-12) graduate from high school prepared for success
- Youth recreation and sports programs that promote character-building, leadership and life skills development
- Parent education and engagement efforts to promote healthy family environments and to nurture positive youth development

BASIC NEEDS **We fund services that address the basic living needs of Monterey County's most vulnerable and underserved individuals and families.**

The **Futer Grant Program for Essential Human Services** is a special grants program offered in 2012 to strengthen the continuum of direct, safety net services in Monterey County. This one-time, three-year capacity building grant program will help high-performing safety-net service providers build sustainable business models for the future. Up to ten organizations will be selected to receive grants of $50,000 per year for three years (2012-2014) for a total grant of $150,000 to stabilize operations and support organizational development. Specific guidelines and application materials for the Futer Grant Program are available at www.cfmco.org.

WELLNESS **We invest in prevention and early intervention services that improve the health and well-being of individuals and families.**

Interest Areas:

- Community health promotion and prevention programs that keep people healthy and delay or eliminate the necessity for treatment
- Independent living resources for older adults, people living with disabilities, foster youth and other special needs populations
- Programs that teach self-advocacy skills and provide guidance in navigating the health and human services system to secure needed resources

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

Communities throughout Monterey County are cohesive, safe and prosperous places where people work together to build and sustain community assets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **We support community-building activities that empower individuals and communities to act on their own behalf and that create opportunities for local problem-solving.**

Interest Areas:

- Empowering residents to lead positive change in their communities
- Nurturing youth leadership and involvement in community building
- Supporting citizenship programs and other immigrant services
- Promoting volunteerism, civic participation and leadership development

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY **We invest in activities that increase opportunities for the economic security and advancement of low-income residents.**

Interest Areas:

- Basic adult literacy and English language acquisition
- Financial education and asset building, including homeownership and foreclosure prevention programs
- Technological (digital) literacy and access to computers/equipment
- Entrepreneurism and small business development support
- Access to employment readiness support, basic skills training and other high-need employment resources

HEALTHY PLACES AND SPACES **We support strategies to enhance community environments so that all residents have safe, welcoming and accessible places and spaces to live, work and play.**

Interest Areas:

- Neighborhood revitalization and beautification
- Improvements to make neighborhood parks and public spaces family-friendly and inviting for exercise and recreation
- Access to fresh, affordable and nutritious food choices
- Strategies to leverage access to schools, libraries and other community facilities as accessible gathering spaces
- Emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM (NGP) Another way we strengthen communities is through NGP grants of up to $4,000 to grassroots neighborhood groups and voluntary associations. These groups come together to benefit their community in a variety of ways including arts and cultural programs, youth recreation, parent education, neighborhood improvement and community health promotion. The program also provides training and information sharing opportunities to support the development of leadership and organizational skills. Guidelines and application for Neighborhood Grants are available at www.cfmco.org/NGP.

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES

Arts and culture add vitality and meaning to community life where residents and visitors enjoy diverse artistic and cultural opportunities and where historic resources are preserved for generations to come.

EXPERIENCES **We foster activities and programs that broaden, diversify and deepen participation in the arts, especially among youth, multicultural and other new audiences.**

Interest Areas:

- Access to art education and high-quality cultural experiences for youth
- Expanding the capacities of art and cultural organizations to reach new audiences and in underserved areas
- Community-building efforts that use the arts to promote cultural expression, build community pride and bridge cultural divides

CREATIVITY **We invest in efforts to create relevant, quality artistic and cultural experiences for our county's residents and visitors.**

Interest Areas:

- Supporting innovative, aspirational programs that showcase Monterey County as a destination for arts and culture
- Developing bilingual, bicultural and multicultural programming

HERITAGE **We fund activities that preserve and celebrate Monterey County's rich and diverse history.**

Interest Areas:

- Efforts to preserve, restore and interpret historic places, structures and artifacts that are significant to Monterey County's history
- Educational programs that cultivate interest, understanding and pride in the history and cultures of our region

Note: Most of the Community Foundation's historical preservation funding is made possible via the **Thomas Doud, Sr. and Anita M. Doud Fund**, which was designated "…to preserve, protect, and interpret the history, art, architecture and culture of the City of Monterey." If you have questions regarding the Doud Fund or your historic preservation project, please call Julie Drezner at 831.375.9712, x112.

STEWARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Monterey County residents engage actively as stewards of our natural environments and for the welfare of animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT **We support programs that educate and involve local residents in protecting and preserving our natural resources and that increase community involvement in conservation and sustaining healthy ecosystems.**

Interest Areas:

- Environmental education and hands-on experiences for youth that inspire responsible stewardship of our natural resources (e.g. food systems, watershed, energy use, biodiversity and inter-dependence, climate change, etc.)
- Activities that help sustain healthy ecosystems and other efforts to ensure a healthy Monterey County for current and future generations (e.g. habitat restoration, efficient energy use, recycling, park/beach clean-ups, etc.)

ANIMAL WELFARE **We support animal welfare programs that promote the responsible and humane treatment of companion animals.**

Interest Areas:

- Prevention programs that address pet overpopulation, abuse, neglect and homelessness
- Programs that support vulnerable people (e.g. seniors, disabled) in keeping their companion animals at home

OTHER CFMC COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMS

In addition to the Community Impact Fund, the CFMC accepts applications to the following grantmaking resources. For more information about these and other CFMC community programs, visit our website.

OPPORTUNITY GRANTS Applications are accepted year round for grants up to $5,000 to support organizational effectiveness projects, emerging organizations and ventures, urgent needs and other time-sensitive efforts where a small amount of money will make a significant difference.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM Grants up to $4,000 are provided to grassroots neighborhood groups and voluntary associations that come together to benefit their community in a variety of ways including arts and cultural programs, youth recreation, parent education, neighborhood improvement and community health promotion. Applications are due the first Friday in March.

WOMEN'S FUND OF MONTEREY COUNTY A field of interest fund supported by multiple donors, the Women's Fund makes grants to advance economic prosperity for women and the future and power of girls in Monterey County. Applications are due the first Friday in March.

ROBERT & VIRGINIA STANTON FUND Grants may be made to human service and arts organizations preferred in the Stanton Guidelines; proposals from other similar organizations in Monterey County may also be considered. Priority is given to one-time special or capital projects, rather than funding on-going operating support. Applications are due the first Friday in July.

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COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT GUIDELINES

Community Impact Grants are made from the numerous unrestricted and field of interest funds established by donors over the years. Approximately $2 million will be available for impact grants. Grant awards are expected to range from $10,000 to $50,000. Grants greater than $50,000 may be considered for larger and collaborative ventures, but are the exception.

These grants focus on work aligned with one or more of the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC)'s priorities described in our grantmaking framework. In selecting grantees, we seek to invest in community organizations that share our goals and demonstrate the potential to accomplish meaningful results. We are particularly interested in supporting innovation, collaboration and effective approaches that address critical community challenges, underserved populations and service gaps. Funded organizations will have evidence of strong community support, capable leadership, and deep knowledge of and involvement in the communities they serve.

ELIGIBILITY Community Impact Grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and public agencies serving Monterey County residents. Organizations and collaboratives that are not legally incorporated may partner with a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization which will serve as the Fiscal Sponsor for the proposed grant. The Fiscal Sponsor must agree to be accountable to the CFMC for the programmatic and financial outcomes of the grant and have a signed agreement with the sponsored group verifying the terms of the arrangement. Fiscal Sponsors may submit more than one application on behalf of different sponsored groups and/or their own organization. All organizations applying for a grant should be current on reporting obligations for past CFMC general endowment (competitive) grants. Individuals are not funded through this program.

Only one Community Impact Grant per organization will be awarded annually, unless the grant is to a Fiscal Sponsor or for a multi-organization collaborative project.

TYPES OF SUPPORT Healthy, safe and vibrant communities require a range of strategies. Therefore, grants are considered for one or a combination of the following types of support:

- **PROGRAM** The CFMC is most interested in supporting sustainable programs that have the potential for realizing meaningful results on community priorities. Programs are encouraged that reflect fresh, entrepreneurial approaches and that are based on research, experience and best practices in the field. Funding is provided for the expansion or refinement of existing programs as well as seed grants for new programs that show promise for efficacy and sustainability. Grants to programs with a successful track record are also considered. In reviewing proposals for new or existing programs, the CFMC looks for clarity of outcomes (desired results), effective approaches, and viable plans for maintaining ongoing projects.

- **NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS** High priority is given to collaborative strategies that build leadership and social networks for achieving broader systems change and/or that strengthen the effectiveness of community organizations. This may include networks of organizations, learning communities or coalitions engaging multiple stakeholders around a common goal. Also of interest are nonprofit alliances aimed at increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of service providers through group business ventures and other strategic restructuring such as administrative consolidations or mergers of two or more organizations. Services that support efficiencies, capacity building and cost effectiveness in the nonprofit sector, such as incubation and fiscal sponsorship, will also be considered.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** The CFMC recognizes great value in developing the internal capacities of nonprofit organizations to increase their effectiveness and community impact. Proposals are welcome to support major organizational development efforts (non-recurring activities intended to develop the internal capacity and infrastructure of organizations). Funded projects might include: strategic planning, agency restructuring, fund development planning, moving to new business models, reaching out to new audiences, or conducting needs assessments or community engagement activities. Organizations proposing a capacity-building grant should address how the project strengthens the organization and how it will enhance its mission and the community served.

- **CAPITAL SUPPORT** The CFMC supports capital costs when those capital improvements have the potential to advance greater social benefit. Capital support will be considered for pre-development expenses and/or for construction costs (after the agency has raised at least half of the goal). Receipt of a grant for pre-development costs does not preclude an agency from also applying for a one-time grant for capital project costs (for the same project) at a later date.

- **OPERATING SUPPORT** Under limited circumstances, the CFMC may provide unrestricted operating grants to organizations that have a proven track record of community benefit in Monterey County. Organizations must have a base of operations in Monterey County, have a positive and stable history, and have received a CFMC grant within the last three years. Operating support grants are most often provided in conjunction with organizational development efforts to provide bridge funding while new revenue sources and internal enhancements are undertaken. Funding for the start-up of new organizations is also considered.

EXCLUSIONS Grant funds cannot be used for the following types of activities:

1. Religious activities/organizations that are non-secular and/or promote a religious doctrine
2. Academic research
3. Funding to schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services
4. Annual fundraising campaigns or events
5. Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds
6. Payment of debt or legal settlements
7. Political or partisan purposes
8. Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date

DURATION OF GRANTS Community Impact Grants typically cover a period of one year; however, organizations awarded a grant may reapply up to three years for the same purpose. Funding in the second and third year is contingent on successful completion of the previous year's goals and progress on sustainability plans. Multi-year proposals may be considered for larger collaborative or nonprofit sector initiatives, but are the exception.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS CALENDAR

Deadline	Program Area	Decision
February *(1st Friday)*	**INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE** ***(Building Blocks, Basic Needs, Wellness)***	June
August *(1st Friday)*	**STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES** ***(Community Engagement, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Places and Spaces)***	December
August *(1st Friday)*	**CELEBRATING OUR CULTURES** ***(Experiences, Creativity, Heritage)***	December
August *(1st Friday)*	**STEWARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT** ***(Environmental Engagement, Animal Welfare)***	December

SUBMITTING A GRANT PROPOSAL Before applying for a grant, please carefully review the CFMC's grantmaking priorities and guidelines. Our program staff is available to answer your questions about the interest areas and application procedures. Please call 831.375.9712 or visit **www.cfmco.org** for application materials, staff contact information and a complete schedule of all of our grant opportunities.