



Women's Fund Grant Guidelines

The Women's Fund is dedicated to empowering women to come together with a shared vision creating a lasting impact in the lives of all women and girls in San Benito County.

Timeline:

Period Opens:	Monday, May 18, 2026
Application Deadline:	Monday, June 22, 2026
Decisions Announced:	Monday, July 27, 2026
Funding Deadline:	Thursday, December 31, 2026

The Women's Fund of the Community Foundation for San Benito County is pleased to announce that grants will be awarded up to \$10,000 (per grant award) in the areas of:

- Mental Health
- Poverty Prevention
- Domestic Violence Prevention

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations serving San Benito County that provide a service in one or more of the focus areas listed above are eligible to apply for a Women's Fund Grant.

Emphasis: Placed on the following values and criteria:

- Projects or services which respond to a **demonstrated need** within San Benito County
- Programs that **directly** serve women and girls in San Benito County
- **Collaboration and coordination** of service delivery
- Financial **leveraging** opportunities from other funders and individuals
- Clear, concise **plan for project evaluation and outcome measurement**
- Organizational or program **sustainability**
- Demonstrated and significant **financial need**
- **Avoids duplication** of services

Exclusions: In general, Women's Fund of CFFSBC will NOT fund the following:

- Organizations that **discriminate** based on age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, race or religion.
- Programs that benefit a **specific individual**
- Fraternal or service organizations, unless in support of programs benefiting the entire community
- Salaries or operating expenses of schools, government departments and agencies or related organizations
- Organizations that spend more than 25% of their revenue on management, overhead and/or fundraising costs
- **Fundraising** events (i.e. annual campaigns, walk-a-thons, tournaments, fashion shows, etc.)
- Private foundations or fundraising organizations
- Organizations and programs designed to support **political activities**

- Organizations **outside San Benito County** unless for programs benefiting residents within San Benito County
- **Pay off** existing **obligations** or enable funding of reserve accounts
- **Endowment funds**
- Scholarships, fellowships, travel grants and academic, technical, or specialized research

Additional Practical Exclusions:

- Programs that are **completed** or nearly completed
- Applications for grant amounts that far **exceed a reasonable proportion** to the applicant's financial scale
- Organizations that are **not** run or **governed by a responsible group** of at least four people
- **Routine funding** that others can or will do
- **Failure to** provide follow-up reports or **comply** with requirements of **prior grants**

Application Process:

All applicants are requested to submit an online *2026 Program Grant Application*. To submit a grant proposal, organizations are invited to register as grant-seekers through our online application platform, "[APPLY CFFSBC 2026 Program Grant](#)". This online platform allows your organization to view grant opportunities, review application requirements prior to applying, and submit a completed application.

Grant application information can be located on our website: givesanbenito.org/grant-seekers

The Review Process:

All Applications accepted will be reviewed by Foundation staff, Women's Fund Advisory, and the Community Foundation Grants Committee where they will be thoroughly examined and evaluated. Receipt of application will be acknowledged by email. Applicants may be contacted by staff and Committee members for additional information. After completing all reviews, applications will be evaluated by the Women's Fund Advisory and Foundation Grants Committee, which will establish and approve funding levels and any appropriate terms and conditions. Award or regret letters will then be mailed to all organizations submitting grant applications.

Funding Requirements:

Women's Fund grant awards must be spent 12 months after grant award date, otherwise grant awards will expire. Grant extensions may be considered and must be requested and approved in writing by the Community Foundation.

Follow-Up Requirements:

All grantee organizations are required to provide a Grant Impact Report summarizing how the grant funds were used and the outcomes realized, as well as an assessment of the impact of the project on their organization and the community. This report includes a final financial report for the project. The deadline for this report will be determined based on the expected project completion date and will be specified in the Grant Award Letter. In some cases, when the project length runs more than six months and/or from one calendar year into another, an Interim Progress Report may be required.

Grantees are required to acknowledge the Community Foundation Women's Fund as a grant funder and use the Women's Fund logo in materials prepared for public distribution such as official stationery, newsletters, websites, program brochures, fundraising and marketing materials, annual reports and press releases. Phrases such as "funded in part by the Women's Fund at the Community Foundation for San Benito County" are encouraged. Please forward copies and examples of such materials to the Community Foundation.

Fulfillment of all the conditions of any prior grant awards, including Grant Impact Reports, is required to be eligible for future grant consideration. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in non-acceptance of future applications.

For any questions about the application process, please contact the Community Foundation Epicenter Manager, Blake Miller, at 831-630-1924 or bmiller@givesanbenito.org.

For any questions regarding eligibility, please contact the Community Foundation CEO, Cassandra Kartashov, at 831-630-1924 or ckartashov@givesanbenito.org.