



Community Foundation for San Benito County 2026 Program Grants Guidelines

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is dedicated to building a stronger community and enhancing the quality of life in San Benito County through the support of philanthropic activities.

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

Grant Award Amounts: The maximum grant per approved request will be \$10,000. One grant may be awarded per nonprofit.

The 2026 Program Grant encourages the creation or enhancement of program projects that serve residents of San Benito County. Community Foundation for San Benito County (CFFSBC), will fund projects that include the following values and criteria:

- Foster collaboration with other local nonprofits
- Stimulate local involvement with the community
- Foster inclusivity and participation of diverse segments of San Benito County residents
- Creates a positive impact in areas of demonstrated need within San Benito County
- Addresses significant community issues
- Strengthens organizational capacity and accountability
- Leverages financial opportunities from other funders and individuals
- Boosts management capacity to execute the project to conclusion with effectiveness
- Provides a concise plan for project evaluation and documented sustainability
- Demonstrates significant financial need and avoids duplication of service

In general, CFFSBC will **NOT** fund the following:

- Organizations that discriminate by age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation
- Programs that benefit a specific individual
- Fraternal or service organizations, unless in support of specific programs open to or benefiting the entire community
- Salaries or operating expenses of schools, government departments and agencies or related organizations
- Nonprofit organizations that spend more than 25% of their revenue on management, overhead, or fundraising costs

- Fundraising events such as annual campaigns, walk-a-thons, tournaments, fashion shows, dinners, and auctions
- Private foundations or fundraising organizations
- Organizations and programs designed to support political activities
- Organizations located outside San Benito County unless for a specific program 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
- Programs that are completed or nearly completed
- Applications for grant requests that far exceed a reasonable proportion to the applicant's financial scale
- Routine funding that others can or will do
- Failure to provide follow-up reports or comply with requirements of prior grants

CFFSBC is committed to fairly evaluating all grant requests submitted. To achieve this, the Grants Committee, supported by Foundation staff, reviews and recommends allocation of grant funds. The Grants Committee consists of a diverse and knowledgeable group of volunteer community members representing a broad spectrum of San Benito County.

How to Apply for Grant

All applicants are requested to submit a completed *Program Grant Application*. To submit a grant proposal, organizations are invited to register as grant-seekers through our online application platform, "[Apply CFFSBC](#)". 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 Application Review Process

The Grants Committee shall exercise due diligence by revisiting historical needs and performance to determine the effectiveness of the project and the overall impact on the community or individuals served. Vetting committees will be assigned and meetings scheduled with the organization to review the content of the Grant Application. During these meetings, nonprofit representatives may not include Community Foundation board members or Grants Committee members. After thorough examination and evaluation, Vetting Committees will present their findings to the Grants Committee with recommendations. A majority vote by the Grants Committee shall determine each grant award, and the committee will establish and approve funding levels and any appropriate terms and conditions. The Committee will provide an award or regret letter; typically, this communication will be an e-mail from the Blake Miller

Follow-Up Requirements

All grant awardees are required to provide an *Impact Grant Report* which includes a summary of the project, the outcomes realized, and an assessment of the project's impact on the organization and the community. This report is due within 30 days of completion of the project and should include a final financial report and photographs.

In some cases, when the project length runs more than six months or from one calendar year into another, a *Grant Interim Progress Report* may be required.

The Grants Committee may schedule a follow-up review with the grant awardees to properly understand the use, impact, and effectiveness of the grant.

Marketing

Grant awardees are required to acknowledge the Community Foundation as a grant funder and use our logo in materials prepared for public distribution such as official stationery, newsletters, websites, program brochures, fundraising and marketing materials, and annual reports. The Community Foundation will provide a high-resolution file of our logo.

NOTE: Please do not list the Community Foundation as a Sponsor. Use words similar to “Funded in part by the Program Grant from the Community Foundation for San Benito County”.

Grant awardees are required to prepare a Press Release and distribute it to *Mission Village Voice*, *BenitoLink*, and *Free Lance*. Please forward copies and examples of such materials to the Community Foundation.

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.