

THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANT, FALL 2022 – FAQs

The Community Food Bank (CFB) works not only to ensure people have access to safe and nutritious food today, but also strives to change the underlying conditions that cause food insecurity and poverty. We do this work in collaboration with a strong network of partners – and we are committed to sharing our resources!

The purpose of CFB's Thriving Communities Grant is to support organizations, collectives, and mutual aid groups in addressing various aspects of food security, community health, social justice, and the root causes of hunger. The grant can fund a wide array of projects, including infrastructure, supplies, training, community organizing, educational projects, pilot projects, evaluation efforts, and more. The primary goal of this funding is to build community, address disparities with dignity, and change the conditions that cause food insecurity and poverty in line with our mission to build healthy, hunger-free communities.

We hope this FAQ guide, as well as other resources on our website, will be useful as you consider applying to our 2022 Thriving Communities Grant round.

Who is eligible to apply for a Thriving Communities Grant? Does my organization have to be an official CFB partner?

You don't have to be an official CFB partner to apply! We are excited to fund both organizations we already know and work with, as well as folks we haven't worked with before!

Funding is open to organizations and groups conducting projects in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, AZ that are either:

- a.)** A 501(c)3 non-profit, church, school, mutual aid, collective, or tribal organization
- b.)** An organization, mutual aid group, collective, or tribal organization that is fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)3 non-profit
- c.)** An organization working for community benefit that is not formally incorporated with non-profit tax status and does not have a fiscal sponsor. If an applicant group does not have an EIN/tax ID # or existing fiscal sponsor, they may apply for CFB's Avanzando LLC to be a fiscal sponsor. However, due to limited capacity, fiscal sponsorship through Avanzando is not guaranteed. Fiscal sponsorship requests will be evaluated on the requesting groups' needs and barriers to funding.

Can for-profit entities apply for this grant, or do they need to apply in collaboration with a nonprofit?

We currently don't have the ability to fund for-profit businesses who apply by themselves. However, we have funded successful *collaborations* between for-profit entities and non-profits

or collectives. A feasible proposal of this nature must explicitly demonstrate the project's benefit to the community, and the main grant applicant must be a not-for-profit entity.

My organization does not work with food. Can I be considered for a grant?

As a Food Bank we recognize there are many disparities impacting the overall health and wellness of southern Arizona. We prioritize projects that support a thriving, equitable community. Examples could include projects that:

- Advance racial equity
- Increase organizational capacity to engage in justice work
- Increase social cohesion and social connection (breaks social isolation)
- Increase access to healthy, culturally appropriate food
- Increase economic opportunity

How many grants will be awarded for this year's grant round?

We plan to provide about \$1.2M in total awards for the 2022 grant round. We anticipate granting about 35 single-year awards of up to \$20,000 each for individual organization projects and up to \$60,000 each for collaborative projects.

Does my project goal need to be short term or long term?

It could be long term, short term, or a combination of both. It is important that an applicant is very clear about what issue they are working to address, who the project is meant to benefit and what impact it will have in their community. If awarded, project funds from the Thriving Communities Grant should be spent within 1 year of award receipt.

In assessing potential community impact of a project, how does CFB define "community"? For example, we are a behavioral health agency that serves over 3,000 clients, and they need help. Since we only serve a targeted clientele, would we still be eligible for a grant?

'Community' is a fluid term that can refer to *any* group of persons, and any place within our service area. As long as your proposal clearly and explicitly outlines your project's benefits to community members - and how those benefits will be realized and measured - it will be competitive! Some ways former applicants have defined community include: students; individuals facing homelessness; refugees; senior citizens; activists; residents of X neighborhood or persons within an agency's service area; a tribal community; women entrepreneurs; local growers; LGBTQ+ youth.

What constitutes a collaborative project?

A collaborative project is one involving the active participation of two or more distinct organizations/collectives in which each party has a clear role. As part of the application process for a collaborative grant, we ask for a Letter of Intent from each participating entity, describing their role in the project. Collaborating entities do not have to be located in the same geographic area and don't have to be similar types of organizations – they must only demonstrate how their roles complement one another to fulfill the project's overarching goal.

If our organization has separate programs, can we apply for more than one grant for more than one project, or can we only apply for one grant as an organization?

While one organization technically *could* submit multiple applications, in most cases we recommend coordinating internally to submit one application for your organization, as we are unlikely to fund multiple proposals submitted by the same organization. Your proposal can involve multiple components as long as the goals are clear.

If I plan to buy a piece of equipment with grant funds, does the equipment have to be new, or can it be used but in good working condition?

We trust our partners to determine for themselves what is needed and what will work best for them; the important thing with equipment purchases is to tie them in a concrete and explicit way to the goals of your project and illustrate their potential impact.

If there is overlap between projects or grant applications, do you connect organizations that are working on similar issues?

There have been times when we have identified organizations working on similar issues; on occasion, we have connected them. As we strive to increase the resiliency, reach, and diversity of our partner network, we will keep our eyes out for opportunities to build more of these connections in our community.

Do you require that applicants submit their organizational budgets in addition to a grant application?

We require only a very simple *project* budget. We do not require an organization's total budget, annual expenses, profit and loss statements, etc.

My organization received a CFB grant in a prior grant round and, in realizing our project, we've identified additional financial need. Can we apply for this next round of Thriving Communities grants?

Absolutely! In a case like this, it is definitely relevant to share what you accomplished with past funding, what you've learned through the process, and how this relates to any additional funding you're seeking.

What is the timeline for this grant round?

Applications will be accepted via submission on Grant Interface from October 11th to the evening of December 12th. The application portal will close at 6:00pm on Monday, December 12th, 2022.

Grant award notification: First week of March, 2023

Fund distribution: by April 30th, 2023

What if I get hung up during the application process or want to share my progress with others in my organization before I submit it?

Whatever portions of the application have been completed will be saved in Grant Interface, and you can share what you've done with others in your organization at any point. You don't need to complete your application in one sitting. Use the "collaborate" button on the top right of your draft application to invite others in your org to have editing access.

If you have any additional questions or issues while filling out the application, please reach out to us at partnergrants@communityfoodbank.org.