



Thriving Communities GRANT

The information below is intended to provide important details about the Thriving Communities Grant to potential applicants. Please read through before applying. Thank you!

Purpose:

The Thriving Communities Grant from the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB) seeks to support organizations and projects working to build thriving, healthy communities.

Grant awards support projects that strengthen the local food system, provide community education, and/or support emergency food distribution efforts. Funding may be used for a wide range of activities, including infrastructure, training, education, advocacy, pilot programs, evaluation, and more.

Eligible applicants:

- ✓ Are working in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, and/or Santa Cruz Counties.
- ✓ Have not received 3 or more Thriving Communities Grants since the 2022 award round.
- ✓ Are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, tribal entities, schools, churches, and mutual aid/community collectives.
Groups without 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor may request sponsorship through CFB's Avanzando LLC on the grant application. Space is limited, and requests will be reviewed based on need and funding barriers. If approved, a 5% sponsorship fee will be deducted from the grant and should be included in the total for your project budget.
- ✓ Are operating with an annual budget under \$1 million.
Groups that have 501(c)(3) status through formal association with a larger tax-exempt organization (e.g., a university, school district, church network, or national nonprofit) may not qualify. To be eligible, the organization named on the IRS Determination letter must have a budget under \$1 million annually.

Priority Funding:

The Thriving Communities Grant funds projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Strengthen the local food system.
- Provide community education related to health, access to services, food production and nutrition.
- Support emergency food distribution efforts, including infrastructure improvements, capacity building, and dignified service delivery.

The strongest applications will:

- Clearly state the specific community need, project goals, and desired impact.
- Identify how project beneficiaries are involved in project design and implementation.
- Outline how the project's benefits will continue after the initial investment.

Feeding America data illustrates that rural areas typically experience higher levels of food insecurity. Recognizing this, funding priority will be given to projects outside of the Tucson metro area.

Funding restriction – food and other consumable supplies:

The Thriving Communities Grant limits funding for food purchases and single-use supplies because we have other programs specifically designed to connect our community with food. Providing food to partners through low or no-cost streams is a separate and key piece of CFB's work. As stewards of community resources, CFB leverages donations and bulk buying power to source large amounts of quality food for food distribution partners at reduced rates not available in stores or small volume purchases.

If food is your primary need: We encourage you to explore opportunities to become a formal food distribution partner with CFB. [Click HERE](#) to fill out a Partner Interest Form or email fst@communityfoodbank.org with inquiries.

We understand that some food or other single-use supplies may be critical to a project's success. In these cases, **applicants can request up to 10% of the budget for such items.**

Timeline:

Accepting applications on [Grant Interface](#) from 9:00 am on the second Wednesday of October – 6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of December.

- By the end of March, funding decisions will be communicated via email to the person who submitted.
- By the end of April, checks will be mailed to awardees.*

*If an awardee received a grant in the previous grant round, the check will be mailed after they have finished spending all the previous grant funds, submitted the Final Report, and submitted the Grant Agreement for the new grant award. All submissions must be completed through Grant Interface.

- Grant projects should be completed within a year. Grantees may request an extension if needed.



Funding Amounts:

- **Up to \$20,000** for individual applicants.
- **Up to \$50,000** for two or more distinct groups formally collaborating and submitting Letters of Commitment.

Reporting:

- **For awards \$5,000 and under:**
At project completion, provide photos and a brief description of project result.
- **For awards greater than \$5,000:** At the end of the grant year, provide a brief report of project activities, challenges, and impact.
- **All awardees are encouraged to acknowledge Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona funding in project promotion.**

