

Thriving Communities Grant - 2026 award round

Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Eligibility Check

Thriving Communities Grant Overview

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 CFB funding in project promotion.

Read Through of Grant Overview*

Choices

I confirm that I read in full and understood the above Grant Overview

Organizational Operating Budget*

If you have tax-exempt status by working in a network under the umbrella of a tax-exempt org (example: A large university, a public school district, a large church, a state-wide/nation-wide org) that "umbrella" org must have an operating budget under \$1 million for you to be eligible to apply.

Please select the one option that applies to your organization's/group's annual operating budget:

Choices

Our total operating budget is LESS than \$1 million annually

Our total operating budget is EQUAL TO or MORE than \$1 million annually

General Project Information

Project Name*

Please share the title of your project.

Character Limit: 100

Primary Project Contact*

Please enter the name, role, email, and phone number for the project's primary contact.

Character Limit: 250

Secondary Project Contact*

Please enter the name, role, email, and phone number for the project's secondary contact.

Character Limit: 250

Individual or Collaborative Project*

Individual projects are carried out by one organization.

Collaborative projects bring together various invested parties as part of the proposed project,

and the proposal must include Letters of Commitment from each collaborating organization.

Choices

Individual

Collaborative

Collaborating Organizations and/or Businesses (if applicable)

Character Limit: 500

Requested Grant Amount*

Individual organization proposals may apply for up to **\$20,000**. Two or more collaborating organizations may apply for up to **\$50,000**.

Character Limit: 20

Project Location*

Is your main project site in Tucson?

Choices

Yes

No

Project Need and Goals

Project Summary*

1. Please summarize your project in 2-3 sentences.

Character Limit: 550

Specific Need*

2. Describe the specific need you are addressing with this project, including the population and the geographic area. Please be as detailed as you can about the beneficiaries of this project.

Character Limit: 3000

Project Goals*

3. Describe the project goals that will address this need. Please be specific about what this project aims to accomplish and how many folks it seeks to benefit.

Character Limit: 2000

Implementation and Evaluation

Implementation Plan*

4. Describe the steps required to implement this project, including a timeline from start to end. For collaborative projects, also indicate the partners' roles in the project.

Character Limit: 3000

Evaluation*

5. How will you incorporate feedback from the people who this project is intended to benefit?

Character Limit: 3000

Impact and Sustainability - Req for proposals over \$5,000

Impact*

6. There are many ways that a project can advance a thriving, equitable community. Please be as specific as possible in sharing how your project addresses one or more of the following:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Advances racial equity
- Increases organizational capacity to engage in justice work
- Increases social cohesion and social connection (breaks social isolation)
- Increases access to healthy, culturally appropriate food
- Increases economic opportunity

Character Limit: 3000

Assets*

7. Please share who you are and what skills and experience you are bringing to the project. Please be specific about the ways that the project is led by or involves people who the project seeks to benefit.

Character Limit: 5000

Project Budget

Project Budget*

Click [HERE](#) to view and use the budget template for itemizing each planned expense for your proposed project.

If you are requesting fiscal sponsorship through Avanzando, please include the fiscal sponsorship fee of 5% in your project budget.

To ensure your file can be read, this section only accepts files from Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel. If you need help, please email partnergrants@communityfoodbank.org

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Operational Budget Cap

Thank you for your interest in the Thriving Communities Grant. Based on your response that your organization/the organization through which you have tax-exempt status has an operating budget of equal to or over \$1M, you are not eligible to apply.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter*

Please attach a copy of your current IRS determination letter indicating 501(c)3, church, school, or tribal status.

If you are fiscally sponsored, please attach a copy of your sponsor's IRS determination letter.

If you do not have an IRS 501(c)3 determination or fiscal sponsor, please attach a note indicating that you need a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsorship through CFB's Avanzando LLC is limited and a request does not guarantee membership in Avanzando. Sponsorship requests will be evaluated based on the group's needs and barriers to funding. Due to limited capacity, applicants needing fiscal sponsorship are encouraged to consider other 501(c)3's as potential fiscal sponsors.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Follow-Up for Fiscally Sponsored Projects ONLY

Please share the name of your Fiscal Sponsor here. If you are requesting fiscal sponsorship from CFB, please write in Avanzando.

Character Limit: 100

Collaborative Project Letters of Commitment

REQUIRED if applying as a Collaborative Project. Please attach a Letter of Commitment from each collaborating organization detailing their role and commitment in the described project using **this template**.

If you have multiple letters, please save them all in one word document or PDF because this platform is only able to save one upload per question. If you are taking a screenshot of the fillable PDF please make sure all of your text is visible.

File Size Limit: 6 MB

Supporting documents or pictures

You may include supporting documents or pictures that relate to your project proposal.

If you have multiple documents, please save all in one document or PDF because this platform is only able to save one upload per question.

File Size Limit: 13 MB