

Thriving Communities Grant - 2025 Award Round

Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Eligibility Check

Thriving Communities Grant Overview

Changes have been made to this document—please read it through in its entirety.

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Food Bank’s (CFB) Thriving Communities Grant fund is to support initiatives 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, 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 CFB’s mission to build healthy, hunger-free communities.

Eligibility: Funding is open to organizations and groups **with operating budgets under \$1 million** conducting projects in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, that fall into one of these 3 categories:

- An organization, church, school, or tribal organization **with 501c3 nonprofit status**
- A mutual aid group, collective, or community group **that is fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit**
- ***A group working to benefit their community that does not have its own 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor**

*If an applicant group does not have 501c3 status or an 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.

Award Amounts Offered:

- Up to \$5,000: Less extensive application and reporting process.
- Up to \$20,000: For an individual organization applicant.
- Up to \$50,000: For collaborations of 2 or more organizations. Collaborative projects bring together various stakeholders as part of the proposed project, and the proposal must include Letters of Commitment detailing the roles and responsibilities of each collaborating organization.

Funding Priority and Limitations: CFB was fortunate to bring in additional Covid-related funding to re-grant in support of our partners over the last several years. With Covid-era funding rapidly dwindling across the nonprofit sector, our granting budget for the 2025 award round is less than the previous 4 years, but still significantly higher than before 2020.

The highest priority projects will involve one or more of the following components:

- Strengthening the local food system
- Providing community education related to health, access to services, growing food, nutrition, job training, economic opportunities, and/or cultural preservation of historically underinvested communities
- Supporting emergency food distribution efforts such as infrastructure improvements, organizational capacity building, and improved and dignified service delivery

The strongest applications will address at least 1 high priority above and:

- Clearly state the specific community need, project goals, and desired impact
- Specifically say what components of the project are led by or center the people or community it's meant to benefit
- Strongly show how the project's benefits will continue even after the initial investment

CFB will also consider the overall distribution of funds across our 5-county service area in both urban and rural communities.

*****Important note on food/consumable supply requests***:**

Due to reduced funding, the Thriving Communities Grant will limit funding for food purchases and single-use supplies. If unique circumstances mean food or other single-use supplies are critical to your project's mission, you may request up to 10% of the budget for these items. Please note that the Thriving Communities Grant's purpose seeks to support longer-term investments in the community.

Providing food to partners through low or no-cost streams is a separate and key piece of CFB's efforts. As stewards of CFB's resources, we work to leverage donations and bulk buying power to source large amounts of quality food at reduced rates not available at stores or for smaller purchasers.

If food is your primary need: Rather than the Thriving Communities Grant, we encourage you to explore opportunities to become a formal food distribution partner with CFB. Click [HERE](#) to fill out a Partner Interest Form.

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 annually.
- Funding decisions communicated via email to submission applicant by mid-March.
- *Checks will be mailed to awardees by the end of April.

*If an awardee received a grant in the previous grant round, the check will be mailed after they have confirmed full spending of the previous award on their Final Report submission and submitted their Grant Agreement for the new award to Grant Interface.

- Your project should be completed within a year, but if needed, you can request an extension.

Reporting:

- For awards \$5,000 and under: Upon project completion, provide photos and a brief description of project result.
- For awards greater than \$5,000: Upon end of grant year, provide brief report of project activities, challenges, and impact.
- All awardees are invited 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*

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*

Single 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 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 the budget template for itemizing each planned expense for your proposed project. If you need help, please email partnergrants@communityfoodbank.org

File Size Limit: 5 MB

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 do not have an IRS 501(c)3 determination, 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 document or PDF because this platform is only able to save one upload per question.

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