



2026 CFGV Community Grants Guidelines for Single Year Applicants

Overview

Community Grants offers General Operating support to nonprofit organizations, and Project support to selected others. Grant dollars are intended for direct impact on Gunnison County and its residents.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for Community Grants (note: first-time applicants, faith-based applicants, and collaboration applicants *must* contact CFGV staff before beginning their application; failure to do so will result in a lower score; see Docking of Scores):

- All 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
 - If you are a fiscal sponsor for another group, you may also submit an application for your own organization's operations
- Public entities/programs (such as Gunnison Watershed School District, Gunnison County, Western Colorado University, etc.)
 - May apply for funds to undertake or expand projects that serve the public at large; programs and events must be available to the broader community
- Collaborative groups
 - May apply for Project support to address a significant need that members cannot do on their own; Group members may still apply for General Operating or other Project support for their own needs

The following applications will not be reviewed:

- Applications that were not submitted by 11:59 pm on May 15th
- Applications that propose something that CFGV does not fund (e.g. something denominational)
- 501(c)(3) nonprofits that are not in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State or are on the IRS revocation list
- 501(c)(3) nonprofits that request project support, or government/faith groups that request general operating support

What You Will Apply For

Each entity is allowed to apply only for the following:

- All 501(c)(3) nonprofits (including those in a fiscal sponsorship arrangement) must apply for General Operating support for the period July 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofits based elsewhere must apply for General Operating support for their **Gunnison County operations only**
- Faith-based groups, public entities, and collaborations must apply for Project support.
 - Public entities may only seek funding for *budget-enhancing* activities; because terminology varies widely, we encourage Groups such as Gunnison County applicants to contact staff before they apply

Amount of Request

The maximum Community Grant award amount is currently \$7,000; we discourage applicants from requesting any amount greater than that. Following are additional restrictions:

- For General Operating support applicants, your request may not be more than 50% of your total cash operating budget
- For Project support applicants, your request should not be more than 50% of your cash project budget

Application Resources

A sample application is available on the CFGV Community Grants page, along with a list of Required Uploads, Guidelines, Scoring Rubric, and other resources. We urge you to review all of these materials prior to starting your application so you are aware of what is being requested from you.

Deadline and Review Process

The online application deadline is 11:59 pm on May 15, 2026. There are no extensions. Applications that have not been submitted by the deadline will not be considered.

Staff will first review your application to ensure that it is eligible before it is sent to the Grant Review Committee; staff will also apply score docking during internal review (see below). Refer to the Scoring Rubric to see how the Committee will score each application.

You will learn whether you are funded around July 1, 2026.

Docking of Scores

Below is a list of what causes applications to be docked points, which results in a lower score and is factored into decisions that are made by the Review Committee:

- One point each for an upload that is required but incomplete, such as a budget-to-actual that only includes expenses (or revenue) or doesn't include both budget AND actuals, a balance sheet that shows only assets (but not liabilities), etc.
- One point each for an incorrect or out-of-date (i.e. not current on May 15) Certificate of Good Standing and/or Certificate of Registration
 - Refer to [Understanding Certificates of Registration and Good Standing](#)
 - If an organization isn't required to register with the Secretary of State as a charity and chooses not to file an exemption (which we recommend they do), they MUST upload a document explaining that they are exempt and have chosen not to file an exemption; uploading the Certificate of Good Standing, or anything other than an explanation, in place of the Certificate of Registration will result in being docked one point
- One point if the applicant submitted a late report for a previous grant
- One point for new applicants, faith-based applicants, and collaboration applicants that fail to consult with staff prior to writing the application

Application Assistance

CFGV will be offering an orientation to the application, updates for the year, the application portal, and more on February 18, 2026. A recording of the orientation will be made available after the session.

If you have additional questions, please contact Alicia Corliss at alicia@cfgv.org or 970-641-8837.