



2026 Community Grants Scoring Criteria - Collaboration

1. Collaboration Origin and Rationale: 5 points

- Is it clear how and why the collaboration came about and is it grounded in shared vision, creativity, or necessity?
- Do the partners have a compelling reason to address the issue collectively rather than individually?

5-4	Origin compelling, collaboration is well-justified and essential
3-2	Origin somewhat clear, collaboration makes sense but limited detail
1	Origin unclear, little evidence collaboration is needed

2. Reach and Audiences Served: 5 points

- Are the primary audiences or communities clearly identified?
- Are estimates of residents/visitors realistic and well-aligned with the project's scope and does the reach reflect the added value of working collaboratively?

5-4	Audiences and reach are clear, credible, and appropriate to the collaborative effort
3-2	Audiences identified, reach somewhat defined but lacks context
1	Audiences/reach unclear, unrealistic, or missing

3. Community Need and Project Response: 5 points

- Is the community issue/need clearly identified and is the response appropriate and potentially impactful?
- Does the collaboration's approach show why working together creates stronger results?

5-4	Issue/need is compelling, response is strong and clearly enhanced by collaboration
3-2	Issue/need identified, response adequate but not clearly collaborative
1	Issue/need unclear or weakly tied to collaboration

4. Impact and Measurement: 5 points

- Does the collaboration describe how impact will be assessed and are methods/metrics appropriate and feasible for a multi-partner effort?
- Do they provide examples/data (if ongoing) or clear plans (if new)?

5-4	Strong plan with meaningful metrics and evidence of collective impact
3-2	Some plan or limited examples, not clearly tied to collaboration
1	No clear plan for measuring collaborative impact

5. Community Connection and Ecosystem Role: 5 points

- Does the collaboration strengthen the fabric of the community in ways a single organization could not?
- Does it demonstrate shared leadership, coordination, or cross-sector partnership and does it align with community-wide strategies or goals?

5-4	Strong, clear examples of community role and contribution, collective approach is essential
3-2	Some collaboration/coordination demonstrated
1	Limited or no evidence of community-wide contribution

6. Financial Feasibility: 5 points

- Is the budget realistic for the scope of the project and are resources and partner contributions clearly identified?
- If there are risks or uncertainties, are they acknowledged with a plan to address them?

5-4	Budget realistic, well-supported, and demonstrates strong partner investment
3-2	Budget adequate but limited context or unclear partner roles
1	Major concerns, budget unrealistic or unclear