



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GUNNISON VALLEY

2026 Community Grants Orientation

February 18, 2026

2023-25 SNAPSHOT



	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
# of applications	56	52	49
# funded	42	39	37
Multiyear Grants			
Invited	8	5	3
In Second Year	5	3	9
General Operating	32	22	16
Project	7	7	7
Collaboration	3	2	2
Total \$ Awarded	\$225,000	\$200,000	\$174,687



2026 APPLICATION RESOURCES

CFGV Community Grants Webpage:
<https://cfgv.org/nonprofits/cfgv-competitive-grant-cycle>

RESOURCES AND TEMPLATES

- **2026 Orientation Recording**
- **Financial Policies & Procedures Template**
- **Understanding Internal Controls for Financial Policies**
- **Understanding Certificates of Registration and Good Standing**
- **Instructions for Setting Up User accounts in SMAApply**
- **Financial Summary Template**

2026 CFGV COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION MATERIALS

- **Guidelines - Single Year Grantees**
- **Guidelines - Multiyear Grantees**
- **Required Uploads for All Applicants**
- **Applications (Word) (*for reference only!*)**
- **Scoring Criteria**

2026 TOWN OF MT. CRESTED BUTTE COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION MATERIALS

- **Guidelines**
- **Application (Word) (*for reference only!*)**
- **Scoring Criteria**





PORTAL/APPLICATION TIPS

Be sure you're logged in as your organization or you won't be able to apply!

CFGV Grant & Scholarship Programs Programs My Applications Alicia Corliss

Alicia Corliss

CFGV COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GUNNISON VALLEY

2026 Community Grants Application & Report

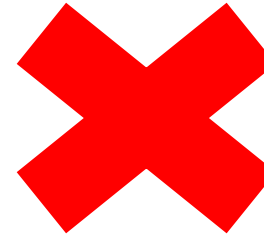
Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV) Community Grants - an annual competitive grant cycle - is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofits in good standing, government entities, faith-based organizations, and collaborative groups servicing the residents of Gunnison County, Colorado.

If you are a first-time applicant, a faith-based organization, a collaboration, or have questions about whether or not you qualify, you must contact the CFGV staff before beginning an application.

Open to Organizations can apply.

Opens Feb 11 2026 10:00 AM (MST)

Deadline May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)



Switch accounts by using the dropdown menu on the lefthand side of the screen.

CFGV's Grant & Scholarship Programs Programs My Applications Alicia Corliss

Alicia Corliss

Alicia Corliss

Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley

CFGV Grant & Scholarship Programs Programs My Applications Alicia Corliss

Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley Manage organization

CFGV COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GUNNISON VALLEY

2026 Community Grants Application & Report

Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV) Community Grants - an annual competitive grant cycle - is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofits in good standing, government entities, faith-based organizations, and collaborative groups servicing the residents of Gunnison County, Colorado.

If you are a first-time applicant, a faith-based organization, a collaboration, or have questions about whether or not you qualify, you must contact the CFGV staff before beginning an application.

If you received Community Grants funding in 2025 you MUST submit a grant report in

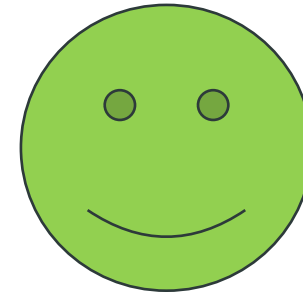
See my application

APPLY

Open to Organizations can apply.

Opens Feb 11 2026 10:00 AM (MST)

Deadline May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)



Once you're logged in as your organization, you'll see the green APPLY button.



MORE PORTAL/APPLICATION TIPS

Choose Application Type

IMPORTANT: What you choose here will determine how you interact with the rest of the application, so be sure you choose the right type! Once you submit your response, you cannot go back and change it.

What type of organization/entity is applying?

- 501(c)(3) with headquarters in Gunnison County
- 501(c)(3) with headquarters OUTSIDE Gunnison County
- Fiscal Sponsor applying on behalf of a Group
- Government Entity (Gunnison County, Gunnison Watershed School District, Western Colorado University, etc.)
- Faith-Based Organization
- Collaboration of Organizations/Groups

SAVE & CONTINUE EDITING

MARK AS COMPLETE

Based on what you choose here, the application will give you the corresponding application form, so be sure you choose correctly before you **MARK AS COMPLETE!**

The screenshot shows a task list on the left and a detailed view of the 'Choose Application Type' task on the right. A red arrow points from the 'MARK AS COMPLETE' button in the first image to the 'Get Started - Choose Application Type' task in the second image. Another red arrow points from the '501(c)(3) with headquarters in Gunnison County' option in the first image to the selected option in the detailed view.

Back to application

2026 Community Grants Application ...

CFGV

ID: 7207327930

- Get Started - Choose Application Type
- Application for 501c3 in Gunnison County
- Additional Upload #1
- Additional Upload #2
- Town of Mt. Crested Butte Community Grant Application (optional)

1 of 4 required tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 11 2026 12:25 PM (MST)

REVIEW SUBMIT

Deadline: May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)

Get Started - Choose Application Type

Completed Feb 11 2026 12:25 PM (MST)

Choose Application Type

Application Type

IMPORTANT: What you choose here will determine how you interact with the rest of the application, so be sure you choose the right type! Once you submit your response, you cannot go back and change it.

What type of organization is applying?

501(c)(3) with headquarters in Gunnison County



WHO CAN APPLY AND WHAT THEY CAN APPLY FOR



501(c)(3) Organizations

Fiscal Sponsors on behalf of a Group

Apply for General Operating Support

Faith-Based Organizations

Government Entities

Collaborations

Apply for Project Support





NEW THIS YEAR

- **Application has been completely reworked**
- **Each organization/entity type has its own application form**
- **Required uploads are embedded in the application form**
- **Additional Uploads are separate but still required**
- **Town of Mt. Crested Butte application is separate and optional**

WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE

0 of 1 tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 11 2026 12:24 PM (MST)

REVIEW **SUBMIT**

Deadline: May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)

Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley

Alicia Cortliss
alicia@cfgv.org
View & edit

Add Member or Team

2026 Community Grants Applica... [Preview](#)

CFGV
Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley ID: 7207327930

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Your tasks

Get Started - Choose Application Type

Once you create and name your application, you will see this

Back to application

2026 Community Grants Application...
CFGV
ID: 7207327930

Get Started - Choose Application Type

Application for 501c3 in Gunnison County

Additional Upload #1

Additional Upload #2

Town of Mt. Crested Butte Community Grant Application (optional)

1 of 4 required tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 11 2026 12:25 PM (MST)

REVIEW **SUBMIT**

Deadline: May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)

Get Started - Choose Application Type
Completed Feb 11 2026 12:25 PM (MST)

Choose Application Type

Application Type

IMPORTANT: What you choose here will determine how you interact with the rest of the application, so be sure you choose the right type! Once you submit your response, you cannot go back and change it.

What type of organization is applying?

501(c)(3) with headquarters in Gunnison County

Once you select Application Type, you will see this



RESTRUCTURED NARRATIVE THIS YEAR

- **Share your mission statement and briefly describe your organization's core initiatives and activities. (Max. 150 words)**
- **Describe your primary audiences or communities served. (Max. 100 words)**
- **What critical community issues or needs does your organization address and how do you respond to them? (Max. 150 words)**
- **How do you assess your impact? Include the methods, metrics, and (when possible) specific examples or data that illustrate the difference your organization makes (Max. 200 words)**
- **How does your organization strengthen the fabric of our community and help ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive? Consider collaboration, leadership, coordination, and community-wide strategies. (Max. 200 words)**



NOT NEW BUT WANT TO COVER



Financial Summary

(General Operating applications only)

- **Completed by staff and added to application**
- **Helps reviewers better understand financials**
- **Reviewers encouraged to still look at financials**
- **Use financial explanation field wisely!**



General Information	SAMPLE NPO #1		STANDARD	Notes
Years in Operation	18		N/A	More years in operation doesn't guarantee stability but is more likely
Total Operating Budget (expenses)	\$ 495,000		N/A	Budget should fit operations (e.g. all volunteer orgs shouldn't have big budgets, orgs w/employees shouldn't have small budgets)
Approx Reserves (# of months)	5 months		6+ months	Source: Question on Application; Standard: 6+ months = green, 2-5 months = yellow, less than 2 = red
Balance Sheet/Stmt of Financial Position				
Cash (\$ and % of current budget)	\$ 197,806	40.0%	50% of budget	Source: Previous year balance sheet; Standard: 50%+ = green, 20-49.9% = yellow, less than 20% = red
Total Assets	\$ 9,845,393		N/A	Varies based on property, vehicles, tools/implements, etc.
Unrestricted Net Assets (\$ and % of total assets)	\$ 846,999	9%	N/A	Higher percentage of unrestricted net assets is better
Total Liabilities	\$ 84,965		N/A	Liabilities should be relatively low
Debts (\$ and % of total liabilities)	\$ 24,000	28.2%	N/A	Not all debts are bad, but high debt to asset ratios might be
Investments / Endowment	Yes / No		N/A	Having investments or endowments shows forethought and mindfulness of future stability
Budget to Actual/Profit & Loss/Stmt of Activities				
Current Budgeted Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 16,450		No deficit	Source: Current year budget; Standard: \$0+ = green, >0-20% of budget = yellow, greater than 20% budget = red
Previous Yr Budgeted Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,600		No deficit	Source: Previous year budget to actual; Standard: \$0+ = green, >0-20% of budget = yellow, greater than 20% budget = red
Previous Yr Actual Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (850)		No deficit	Source: Previous year/year budget to actual; Standard: \$0+ = green, >0-20% of actual = yellow, greater than 20% actual = red
Approx # of Revenue Sources *	6+		6	More diverse funding means more flexibility and reliability (six isn't necessarily standard, just solid); Source: Current budget and previous year budget to actual
Financial Policies & Procedures				
Specific Document (not scattered in other docs)	No		Yes	Yes = green, Somewhat (partially addresses) = yellow, No (does not address) = red
Defined Roles & Responsibilities	Yes		Yes	Yes = green, Somewhat (partially addresses) = yellow, No (does not address) = red
Separation of Duties	Yes		Yes	Yes = green, Somewhat (partially addresses) = yellow, No (does not address) = red
Handling Cash	Somewhat		Yes	Yes = green, Somewhat (partially addresses) = yellow, No (does not address) = red
Other Considerations				
Audit/Financial Review in Past 3 Yrs	Financial Review		A/FR	Audit/Financial Review = green, No = red
Undergoing Capital/Endowment Campaign	No		N/A	Capital/endowment campaigns can inflate or otherwise distort financials, check the application to see if they include it in financial reports

* Individual contributions; grants from foundations, government, corporations; earned income; memberships; events and sponsorships; investment income; etc.

Financial Explanation Field
(General Operating Applications Only)
Reviewers understand that budgets can fluctuate and that challenges sometimes arise. If there is anything in your financials that may need additional explanation, please share the context here (e.g., deficits, extraordinary expenses, changes in funding sources). This helps reviewers better understand your organization's overall health and resilience. (Max. 250 words)

TOWN OF MT. CB APPLICATION



Grant Request Type

Note: You are applying for exactly what you applied for in the CFGV application. This means that if you applied for a specific project/program in the CFGV application, the project/program in your application for the Mt. Crested Butte IS THE SAME. All 501(c)(3) applicants are requesting general operating support.

Request Amount

Note: Applicants may ask for any amount; however, in 2025, the top grant amount was \$5,500. The application pool will continue to be larger than it has been in the past, which means grants will likely not be larger than they were in 2025.

Request Amount: _____

Narrative

- **How many people impacted by your organization or the project are FULL-TIME residents in the north end of the Gunnison Valley? Estimate if necessary.**
- **How many people impacted by your organization or the project are PART-TIME residents in the north end of the Gunnison Valley? Estimate if necessary.**
- **How many people impacted by your organization or the project are VISITORS to the north end of the Gunnison Valley? Estimate if necessary.**
- **How does your organization's work or the group's project impact the residents of the north end of the Gunnison Valley? (Max. 150 words)**
- **During the grant period (July 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027) will your organization or group be offering services or programs or hosting an event in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte? YES / NO / UNSURE**
- **If you plan to offer services or programs or host events in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, please briefly describe them. (Max. 75 words)**

← Back to application

2026 Community Grants Application...

CFGV

ID: 7207327930

- ✓ Get Started - Choose Application Type
- Application for 501c3 in Gunnison County
- Additional Upload #1
- Additional Upload #2
- **Town of Mt. Crested Butte Community Grant Application (optional)**

1 of 4 required tasks complete

Last edited: Feb 11 2026 12:25 PM (MST)

REVIEW SUBMIT

Deadline: May 15 2026 11:59 PM (MDT)



DEADLINE & AWARD NOTIFICATION

- **The online application deadline is 11:59 pm on May 15th**
- **You will learn whether you are funded around July 1st**
- **Don't forget: if you received a grant in 2025, your report is due April 30th**





REVIEW PROCESS

Step 1 - Internal Review

Staff will first review your application to ensure that it is eligible before it is sent to the Grant Review Committee; staff will also determine score docking.

Below is a list of what causes applications to be docked points:

- 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
- 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

CONTINUING THIS YEAR

Staff will utilize the financial reports that were uploaded to produce a "Financial Summary" to assist reviewers in assessing the overall financial health of the applicant or viability of the project.



REVIEW PROCESS (CONT'D)

Step 2 - Committee Review

The Community Grants Review Committee will independently review applications online and give them initial scores. Then, the Committee will meet on June 22nd to discuss and finalize scores.

Here are the scoring criteria they will use:

- **Clarity of Mission/Purpose and Core Work: 5 points**
- **Clarity of Who is Served: 5 points**
- **Clarity of Community Need and Response: 5 points**
- **Clarity of Impact and Measurement: 5 points**
- **Clarity of Community Connection and Ecosystem Role: 5 points**
- **Financial Viability: 5 points**



REVIEW PROCESS (CONT'D)

Step 3 - Award Allocation



- **Average scores are aggregated and docked points are subtracted.**
- **Applications are then ranked by total final score.**
- **Committee determines if there is a "cutoff" score under which applications will not receive funding.**
- **Committee allocates funding based on rank, often by funding a certain percentage of the requested amount.**



REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Mix of demographics and life experience**
- **Varying degree of understanding of our community and nonprofits**
- **Varying degree of nonprofit financial acumen**
- **Different world views and review/scoring styles**





AWARDING TOWN OF MT. CRESTED BUTTE FUNDING

**Using the final scores determined by the
CFGV Community Grants Review Committee,
CFGV staff will further allocate up to two additional points as follows:**

- **Applicant is headquartered in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, the Town of Crested Butte, or Crested Butte South = 1 point**
 - **Applicant plans to offer services or programs or host an event in the Town of Mt. Crested Butte = 1 point**

**Funding for the Town of Mt. Crested Butte's
Community Grant applications
will be allocated according to the final score.**

Note: Applications that are not recommended for funding by the Community Grants Review Committee will not be eligible for Town of Mt. Crested Butte Community Grant funding.





TIPS FOR A STRONG APPLICATION

- **CFGV does not forbid the use of AI but use it wisely**
 - **Some reviewers are still skeptical while some have fully embraced it; we frame it as a tool that's available**
- **The narrative is the heart and soul of the application**
 - **Financials are important, but your story is more compelling**
- **Utilize your additional uploads to visually complement your narrative**
 - **Annual reports, newsletters, photos, videos work well**
- **Answer questions literally and clearly**
 - **Do not assume anyone knows anything about your organization**
- **Use field for financial explanations wisely**

WHO TO CONTACT FOR SUPPORT

Contact **Alicia Corliss** at
alicia@cfgv.org

or

970-648-0222

We strongly urge you to familiarize yourself with the application and required materials at least one week before the deadline.

CFGV cannot guarantee that we can provide support if you wait until the last minute!





Questions?

Thank you for attending!

