

# AMB West Community Fund Grant Guidelines

Known by guests for their caring and attentive service, the associates of AMB West work to earn that same reputation in the local community. Throughout the year, our associates give back to the communities in which they live and work—through their physical involvement, personal philanthropy, and grants made to nonprofit organizations by the AMB West Community Fund. AMB West Associates review grant proposals, attend site visits, and provide recommendations for investments made by the AMB West Community Fund. Associates strive to incorporate the Blank Family of Businesses Core Values in all aspects of their community giving:

- Give Back to Others
- Include Everyone
- Innovate Continuously
- Lead by Example
- Listen and Respond
- Put People First

The mission of the AMB West Community Fund is to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Montana, particularly in Park and Gallatin Counties. Established in 2001, the Fund has awarded more than \$4.6 million in grants. After assessing the landscape of existing programs and areas of need through conversations with community stakeholders, the Fund has evolved and identified four areas of focus for 2019: early childhood development, youth empowerment and development, community wellness and youth suicide prevention. Application requirements, preferences, and priorities are outlined in the following sections and links.

## Application Requirements

The AMB West Community Fund supports creative approaches and innovative programs that improve outcomes for children and families in Park and Gallatin Counties. The Fund will only consider supporting organizations that can demonstrate the ability to foster community cooperation and collaboration. Nonprofit organizations focused on advocacy or policy changes are eligible to apply and must demonstrate how their activities hold promise for large-scale systemic change.

All applications should 1) identify the problem being addressed, 2) proposed efforts and 3) expected outcomes (for children, families or communities). Applicants should articulate the logical connection between the problem identified, the proposed solution and the anticipated outcomes. Additionally, proposals should describe an evaluation plan that is aligned with the stage of the proposed project. For example, newer projects should track service goals and sustainability, whereas established programs should track progress toward outcomes. Further, applicants should describe how they will reflect on evaluation findings to improve performance and share results with the community to promote collaborative peer learning.

Traditionally the Fund's grants have been one year in duration and awarded through a competitive process. However, the AMB West Community Fund will consider funding for multi-year projects that are of exceptionally high quality, address a significant need, and are building a supportive foundation to provide sustaining, healing work to community members.

## **Preferences**

Within the priority areas outlined above, AMB West will give preference to projects that:

- Provide or enhance services in rural areas where resources and services are limited
- Serve high-need populations in Park County
- Enhance existing programs that serve the community to help them build toward the future and amplify their impact
- Demonstrate that they are supported by the community and/or are supported by data and will incorporate data in their decision-making processes
- Elevate mentor and/or guardian engagement

## **2019 Priorities**

### **Early Childhood Development**

The Fund will award grants to organizations providing children, birth to five, with quality opportunities that will prepare them for successful lifelong development. The Fund is especially interested in projects that promote healthy parent-child relationships, as well as social and emotional skills among parents and children.

### **Youth Empowerment and Development**

The Fund seeks creative nonprofit efforts to improve youth development and nurture young leaders. The Fund is especially interested in programs that empower youth and cultivate young stewards of land and wildlife through education, challenges of physical activity, wilderness experiences, and outdoor adventure. This includes programs that introduce youth and their families to area natural resources. Proposals that incorporate youth service-learning will receive preference.

### **Happiness and Health Through Wellness**

Recognizing that lifestyle changes can yield dramatic positive results for the mind and body, the Fund will launch a wellness grantmaking program in 2019. Nonprofit organizations serving community members of all ages are eligible to apply for funding to create or enhance existing services supporting the development of wellness and fostering resilience. The Fund will consider proposals integrating wellness programs in a variety of settings, including but not limited to mental health services, juvenile justice services, schools, and family counseling. Some approaches may include practices such as yoga, meditation, outdoor recreation, and nutritional education. The Fund will consider funding for programs that address acute care needs as well as long-term strategies to enhance physical and mental well-being. The Fund is especially interested in creative approaches that integrate wellness programming with outdoor immersions in local natural settings. Further, the Fund has an interest in self-care proposals that

promote wellness amongst individuals such as counselors, social workers, teachers, nonprofit leaders, and others whom are serving our most vulnerable community members. (Note: The Fund will not consider requests for medical or scholarly research on wellness.)

In this inaugural year of wellness grantmaking, the Fund will prioritize listening and responding to nonprofit partners and the individuals they serve.

### **Youth Suicide Prevention**

Montana has the highest suicide rate of any state in the US, and Park County has the fourth highest rate among Montana counties. For that reason, the Fund has identified youth suicide prevention in Park County as a priority funding area for 2019.

More information regarding submitting a youth suicide prevention grant will be available on December 3.

## **Upcoming Grant Workshops**

If you are planning to apply for support from the Health and Happiness Through Wellness or Suicide Prevention priority areas, please attend the corresponding workshop.

### **Health and Happiness Workshop**

Location: Shane Lalani Center for the Arts (415 E Lewis Street, Livingston)

Date: December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 4-6pm and a Social Hour following the Workshop

To Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RXXQX2S>

### **Youth Suicide Prevention**

Location: Shane Lalani Center for the Arts (415 E Lewis Street, Livingston)

Date: December 5<sup>th</sup>

Time: 3-5pm and a Social Hour following the Workshop

To Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MS7LFWB>

## **How to Apply to AMB West Community Fund**

### **Criteria for Consideration**

The Fund considers secular programs and focuses on programs that function during out-of-school time. A limited number of in-school programs are considered, provided they involve teacher and administration training, and family engagement. Organizations must offer programming in Park or Gallatin Counties, Montana.

- Organizations must be classified as 501(c)(3) by the IRS
- Programs must provide enhancement to (not replace) public support
- All programs must be secular in nature and adhere to a nondiscriminatory policy

- Projects/programs must fall within the Youth Development, Early Childhood Development, Happiness and Health Through Wellness or Suicide Prevention priority areas ([refer to the “Grant Guidelines” page for details](#))
- Organizations must demonstrate that they have fostered creative community cooperation and collaboration

The Fund does not provide funding for:

- Organizations that practice discrimination on the basis of age, race, national or ethnic origin, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status
- Gifts to individuals
- Dinners, exhibits, conferences, and sports or other events
- Houses of worship (e.g., churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.)
- Political campaigns
- Advertising campaigns
- Organizations identified by the Philanthropic Advisory Service of the Council of Better Business Bureaus as having questionable financial practices
- Organizations outside the United States

## Grant Application Process

To Submit a 2019 Grant Application for **\$20,000 or less** [CLICK HERE](#)

[http://cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants-sb/ao\\_login.login?x\\_gm\\_id=4756&x\\_proposal\\_type\\_id=52138](http://cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants-sb/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=4756&x_proposal_type_id=52138)

*Invitation Code:* AMBWCFSUM

To Submit a 2019 Grant Application for **over \$20,000** [CLICK HERE](#)

[http://cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants-sb/ao\\_login.login?x\\_gm\\_id=4756&x\\_proposal\\_type\\_id=52132](http://cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants-sb/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=4756&x_proposal_type_id=52132)

*Invitation code:* AMBWESTCF

***In addition to a grant application all applicants must submit a video; a link to submit a video will be provided within the grant application.***

### Application Video Details

Submit a video that highlights the project you are requesting funding for. Videos should be no more than 2 minutes long. The video can be produced with a smart phone and does not need to be professional grade. Videos will be viewed by the AMB West Community Fund Advisory Committee and utilized as a tool to determine community investments.

**Applications and videos must be submitted by 5:00pm Friday, February 8, 2018.**

You will receive notification regarding the status of your application by March 1, 2018.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant in Park or Gallatin Counties, Montana, should direct questions to:

Tawnya Rupe Mraz  
AMB West Philanthropies Program Director  
P.O. Box 1219  
Emigrant, MT 59027  
(406) 570-2125  
[trupe.ambfo.com](http://trupe.ambfo.com)