

2022 AMB West Community Fund Grant Guidelines

We believe community-driven strategic philanthropy saves lives. We are committed to catalyzing and nurturing both grassroots and systemic change that together build an equitable future for all Montanans. We listen to organizations and individuals that are closest to the challenges, inspired to help and deeply invested in solutions that foster economic mobility and personal well-being, especially for those most marginalized. We strive to bridge divides and find common ground by honoring diverse voices, staying open to shifting perspectives and new ideas, and bringing our neighbors together with a sense of shared purpose. We are stewards of hope for a thriving Montana.

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 \$8 million in grants. After assessing the landscape of existing programs and areas of need through data and conversations with community stakeholders, the Fund has identified three priority areas for 2022: community well-being, nurturing childhood and thriving youth. Application requirements, preferences and priorities are outlined in the following sections and links.

The AMB West Community Fund is led by our associates. Known by guests for their caring and attentive service, the AMB West team strives for 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 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

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 proposals from organizations that build on community assets and 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 describe 1) the problem being addressed and/or community opportunity, 2) proposed efforts and 3) expected outcomes (for children, families or communities). Applicants should articulate the logical connection between the problem identified and/or opportunity, the proposed solution and the anticipated outcomes. Additionally, proposals should describe how they will track and measure outcomes. For example, newer projects should track service goals and sustainability, whereas established programs should track progress toward outcomes.

The AMB West Community Fund will consider funding multi-year projects that are of exceptionally high quality, address a significant need and implement sustainable solutions that connect resources across sectors.

Capital projects are supported on a limited basis. Please contact us prior to submitting a capital proposal.

Preferences

Within the three priority areas listed above, AMB West will give preference to projects and organizations that:

- Provide or enhance services in rural areas where resources and services are limited
- Meaningfully engage diverse voices and empower marginalized communities
- Serve high-risk and vulnerable populations in Park and Gallatin Counties with a focus on access to economic mobility and/or personal well-being
- Enhance successful existing programs that serve the community to help build toward the future and amplify impact
- Demonstrate community support
- Incorporate an evidence-based, data-supported approach, as well as utilize data in the decision-making processes
- Elevate parent and caregiver and/or mentor engagement
- Promote social emotional learning and trauma-informed approaches

2022 Funding Priorities

Community Well-being

AMB West Philanthropies recognizes that to build a healthier and happier community, we must foster a thriving ecosystem of nonprofits. The Fund will support *systemic* initiatives that create a culture of well-being within non-profit organizations.

The Fund strives to build upon community development that provides both proven and innovative pathways to create cultures of well-being within those vital organizations finding solutions, doing the work and saving lives.

In addition to improving the internal health and well-being of nonprofit organizations, The Fund is especially interested in proposals that increase positive impacts within systems (may relate to systems change). The Fund requests *systemic* approaches to improve the health, well-being and culture for those engaged in the imperative work within our complex systems. Examples of approaches of interest to the Fund include but are not limited to systems such as education, food services, child welfare, family support, incarceration, law enforcement, healthcare, childcare, etc.

The Fund prioritizes proposals that create equitable opportunities and a sense of belonging for all members of our community. Lastly, The Fund requests all proposals be collaborative and include community-woven efforts.

(Note: Under this focus area, the Fund will not consider requests for medical or scholarly research on well-being.)

Nurturing Childhood

Early childhood is the foundation of our community's future. To support preventative and upstream approaches, The Fund seeks organizations expanding access to quality childcare and early childhood experience that provide children -- birth to five -- with opportunities that will prepare them for successful lifelong development. The Fund is especially interested in projects that promote healthy parent-child relationships and connection to community resources as well as social and emotional skills among parents and children.

Thriving Youth

Thriving youth are energized about their future and have a sense of purpose.

The Fund seeks creative nonprofit efforts to help youth discover and develop their talents, attributes and passions; connect to pathways and support networks to achieve their aspirations; and build life skills to reach independence and goals.

To provide effective opportunities for youth, it is imperative that youth voice is incorporated in all aspects including planning, execution and evaluation. Proposals that engage and enable youth and their peers to be advocates for their own well-being and mental health as well foster a desire for informed civic engagement will receive preference. Youth voice could take many forms: creating a youth advisory panel for an existing youth serving organization, training youth in leadership and civic engagement around issues of mental health or suicide prevention, training youth on appropriate responses to mental health crises, or launching a public health campaign to reduce stigma associated with seeking help.

Parents and caregivers play a critical role in supporting the well-being of youth, from engaging in discussions about challenges their children face to facilitating access to resources available through organizations such as schools or mental health providers. However, not all parents are able to fulfill this role due to a variety of factors like demanding work schedules, their own behavioral health challenges (e.g., substance use), mistrust of services, or need for additional skills and supports. The Fund is interested in supporting projects that engage parents/caregivers through outreach or training, enhanced mental health and substance abuse services, or school-parent partnerships. Approaches should include a plan for supporting parents/caregivers of high-risk youth (e.g., economic need, abuse) and decreasing stigma associated with accessing services.

Unfortunately, many youth experience anxiety and depression that make it difficult to thrive. The Fund will also consider projects aiming to connect youth to positive, dependable relationships or provide encouraging youth activities that promote youth vitality and diminish risk for suicide. Other projects may focus on early risk detection and intervention through improved coordination of services and follow-up, provide crisis management, or educate community members about appropriate responses to mental health crises.

The Fund is especially interested in programs that cultivate young land and wildlife stewards through education, physical activity, wilderness experiences, introduction to regional natural resources, and outdoor adventure. These opportunities not only connect youth to the land to make more informed

decisions about our natural landscapes in the future, but the outdoors provides a special healing space to promote well-being.

How to Apply

Requirements 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 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 2022 Funding Priorities
- Organizations must demonstrate that they are building on community assets and have fostered community cooperation and collaboration
- Capital projects are supported on a limited basis. Please contact us prior to submitting a capital proposal

The Fund does not provide funding for:

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

Grant Application Process

To Submit a 2022 Grant Application [CLICK HERE](#)

Invitation Code: 438BMCANH6

In addition to a grant application, all applicants must submit a brief video:

Application Video Details

Submit a video that highlights information about the program/project for which you are requesting funding. The video should be no more than two minutes long. It 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 used as a tool to determine community investments. Be sure the video summarizes your program/project and how the funds will be used. Without reading the application, a viewer should be able to understand the main points of your funding request.

Please answer the following questions in submitted videos:

- The problem, challenge and/or community opportunity being addressed
- Proposed effort/solutions to address above

- Expected outcomes
- How the proposal coordinates resources or included partnership with other organizations/resources (public and private)

[Click here to connect to other organizations supporting youth in Park County](#)

Applications and videos must be submitted by 5:00pm Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

You will receive notification regarding the status of your application by March 1, 2022.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant should direct nurturing childhood and thriving youth programmatic questions to Tawnya Rupe at tawnyar@ambwest.com, community well-being programmatic questions to Natalie Gilbert at natalie.gilbert@ambwest.com, and CyberGrants and grant process questions to Samantha Peirce at samantha.peirce@ambwest.com.