

2023 AMB West Community Fund Grant Guidelines

The AMB West Community Fund believes community-driven strategic philanthropy saves lives. We are committed to catalyzing and nurturing both grassroots and systemic change to help build a thriving future for all Montanans. We listen to organizations and individuals who are closest to the challenges, are inspired to help and are deeply invested in solutions that support economic mobility and personal well-being, especially for those most vulnerable. We strive to bridge divides and foster common ground by honoring diverse voices, staying open to shifting perspectives and new ideas, and bringing our neighbors together to connect a sense of shared purpose.

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 and Indigenous communities across the state. Established in 2001, the Fund has awarded more than \$9 million in grants. After assessing the landscape of existing programs and areas of need and opportunity through data and conversations with community stakeholders, the Fund has identified three priority areas for 2023: 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 AMB West and Arthur M. Blank Foundation associates in Montana. The AMB West portfolio of properties includes Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch, Paradise Valley Ranch, and The Ranch at Dome Mountain. At our ranches, our team is focused on meaningful and impactful guest service, and we strive to uphold those standards in the local community. Throughout the year, our associates give back to the communities in which they live and work – through volunteerism, 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 and Indigenous communities across Montana. 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 the organization will track and measure outcomes. For example, newer projects should track service goals and sustainability, whereas established programs should track progress toward long term outcomes.

The AMB West Community Fund will consider funding multi-year projects that are exceptionally high quality, address a systemic need and/or opportunity, 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 below, 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, particularly those elevating youth voice.
- Serve high-risk and vulnerable populations in Park and Gallatin Counties and Indigenous communities across Montana with a focus on access to economic mobility and/or personal well-being.
- Enhance, or replicate successful existing programs that serve the community to help build toward the future and amplify impact.
- Demonstrate strong, diverse community support.
- Incorporate an evidence-based, data-supported approach, as well as utilize data in the decision-making processes.
- Elevate parent/caregiver or mentor engagement.
- Promote social emotional learning and trauma-informed approaches.

2023 Funding Priorities

Community Well-being

AMB West recognizes that building a healthier and happier community, requires fostering a thriving ecosystem of nonprofits. The Fund will support *systemic* initiatives that create a culture of well-being within and amongst nonprofit organizations.

The Fund strives to build upon community development by supporting organizations finding solutions, doing the work, and strengthening lives. These vital organizations are providing proven and innovative pathways toward creating cultures of well-being. 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 (this may relate to systems change). The Fund requests *systemic* approaches to improving the health, well-being, and culture of 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 creating accessible 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 providing children -- birth to five -- with opportunities that will prepare them for successful lifelong development. The Fund is especially interested in projects promoting 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 talents, attributes, and passions; develop goals; 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 engaging and enabling youth and their peers to be advocates for their own well-being and mental health as well as fostering a desire for informed civic engagement will receive preference. Youth voice could take many forms, examples include 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 including demanding work schedules, their own behavioral health challenges (e.g., substance use), mistrust of services, or need for additional skills and support. 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 making it difficult to thrive. The Fund will also consider projects aiming to connect youth to positive, dependable relationships or that encourage youth activities promoting youth vitality and diminished risk for suicide. Other projects may focus on early risk detection and intervention through improved coordination of services and follow-up, access to

crisis management, or education opportunities for community members about appropriate responses to mental health crises.

The Fund is especially interested in programs cultivating youth 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 provide a special healing space to promote well-being.

How to Apply

Requirements for Consideration

The Fund considers secular programs and is focused on programs functioning 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.
- Programs must be secular in nature and adhere to a nondiscriminatory policy.
- Programs/projects must fall within the 2023 Funding Priorities.
- Organizations must demonstrate they are building on community assets and have fostered community cooperation and collaboration.

The Fund does not provide funding for:

- Organizations practicing 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

Grant Application Process

To Submit a 2023 Grant Application [CLICK HERE](#)

Invitation Code: MTCOMMFUND

Applicants will be requested to submit a video within the application:

Application Video Details

Videos should highlight information about the program/project for which funding is requested. 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. Please ensure that 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 from the video

Please answer the following questions in submitted videos:

- What is the problem, challenge and/or community opportunity being addressed?
- What are the proposed efforts/solutions to address above?
- What are the expected outcomes?

- How will your organization coordinate resources or include partnerships 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 Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

You will receive notification regarding the status of your application by March 1, 2023.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant should direct programmatic questions to Tawnya Rupe at tawnyar@ambwest.com, and CyberGrants and grant process questions to grantoperations@ambfo.com.