

2025 AMB West Community Fund Grant Guidelines

Through community-driven strategic philanthropy, the AMB West Community Fund (the Fund) is committed to catalyzing and nurturing grassroots and systemic change to help build a thriving future for all Montanans. We listen to organizations and individuals closest to the challenges who 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 through a 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 over \$10 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 two priority areas for 2025: 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 Family 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 by supporting the community. Throughout the year, our associates give back to the communities in which they live and work – through volunteerism, personal giving and grants made to nonprofit organizations by the AMB West Community Fund. AMB West associates help to identify and cultivate funding opportunities, 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 coordination 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 with specific indicator targets. For example, pilot or grassroots 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 before submitting a capital proposal.

Preferences

Within the two priority areas listed below, the Fund will give preference to projects and organizations that:

- Provide or enhance services in rural areas with limited resources and services.
- Meaningfully engage diverse voices and empower marginalized communities, particularly those elevating youth voices.
- Serve high-risk and vulnerable populations in Park and Gallatin Counties and Indigenous communities across Montana, focusing 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 and utilize data in the decision-making processes.
- Promote social-emotional learning and trauma-informed approaches.
- Elevate and support parent/caregiver or mentor engagement.
- Staff, teacher, and administration support and training.
- Pilot programs exploring innovation by proof of concept.

2025 Funding Priorities

Nurturing Childhood

Early childhood is the foundation of our community's future. The Fund seeks organizations expanding access to quality childcare and early childhood experience to support preventative and upstream approaches. It provides children—zero to five—with opportunities to prepare them for successful lifelong development. The Fund is especially interested in projects promoting healthy parent-child relationships, connection to community resources, and 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 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.

Unfortunately, many youth experience anxiety and depression, making it challenging to thrive. The Fund will consider projects aiming to connect youth to positive, dependable relationships, like opportunities that foster mentorship relationships with senior citizens or that encourage youth activities promoting youth vitality and diminishing 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 that cultivate 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 provides a unique healing space to promote well-being.

How to Apply

Requirements for Consideration

The IRS must classify organizations as 501(c)(3).

- Programs must provide enhancement to (not replace) public support.
- Programs must be secular in nature and adhere to a nondiscrimination policy.
- Programs/projects must fall within the 2025 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 2025 Grant Application: [Click here](#)

Invitation Code: MTCOMMFUND

Applicants must submit a video within the application:

Application Video Details

Videos should highlight information about the program/project for which funding is requested and briefly describe the organization. They should be no more than three minutes long. They can be produced with a smartphone and do not need to be professional. Videos will be viewed by the AMB West Community Fund Advisory Committee and used as a tool to determine community investments. From the video, viewers should be able to understand the organization's mission and the main points of your funding request.

Please answer the following questions in the submitted videos:

- Brief description of Organization.
- 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)?

Applications and videos must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Monday, February 3, 2025.

You will receive a notification regarding the status of your application by March 3, 2025.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant should direct programmatic questions to Tawnya Rupe Mraz at tawnya.rupe@ambff.org, and CyberGrants and grant process questions to Abby Lawson at abigail.lawson@ambff.org.