

2026 AMB West Community Fund Grant Guidelines

The mission of the AMB West Community Fund is to enhance the quality of life for residents of Montana, particularly in Park and Gallatin Counties, as well as Indigenous communities across the state. Established in 2001, the Fund has awarded more than \$12.5 million in grants.

The AMB West Community Fund is led by associates from AMB West and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in Montana. AMB West includes Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch, Paradise Valley Ranch and Auster at Dome Mountain. At AMB West, our team is committed to delivering exceptional and meaningful guest service, and we strive to uphold these principles by being supportive and engaged members of 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 develop priorities, 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

After learning about the existing landscape of programs and identifying areas of need and opportunity through data and conversations with community stakeholders, the Fund has identified two priority areas for 2026: nurturing childhood and supporting thriving youth. Application requirements, preferences and priorities are outlined in the following sections and links.

Application Requirements

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 shifts 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 systemic needs and/or opportunities, and implement sustainable solutions that connect resources across sectors.

Capital projects are considered on a limited basis. Please contact us before submitting a capital proposal.

Preferences

Within the two priority areas listed above, 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 under-resourced communities, particularly those elevating youth voices.
- Enhance or replicate successful existing programs that serve the community to help build toward the future and amplify impact.
- Incorporate an evidence-based, data-supported approach and utilize data in the decision-making processes.
- Elevate and support parent/caregiver or mentor engagement.
- Provide K-12 staff, teachers, and administration support and training.
- Incorporate critical needs like food security and stable housing that are fundamental to the success of support and development programs.
- Provide community resource navigation or access through partnerships.
- Identify root issues and work to resolve them to foster systemic change and community vitality.

2026 Funding Priorities

Nurturing Childhood

Early childhood is the foundation of our community's future. The Fund seeks to support organizations that expand access to quality childcare and early childhood experiences, fostering preventative and upstream approaches. These experiences provide children, aged zero to five, with opportunities to prepare them for successful lifelong development. The Fund is particularly interested in projects that promote healthy parent-child relationships and connection to community resources.

Thriving Youth

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

The Fund seeks to support creative initiatives that help youth discover and develop their talents, attributes and passions; set goals; connect with pathways and support opportunities to achieve their aspirations; and build life skills to reach independence and achieve their goals.

Unfortunately, many youth experience anxiety and depression, making it challenging to thrive. The Fund will consider projects that aim to connect youth to positive, dependable relationships, such as opportunities that foster mentorship relationships with senior citizens or encourage youth activities that promote connection and reduce the risk of suicide. Other projects may focus on early risk detection and intervention through improved coordination of services, access to crisis management or educational opportunities for community members to foster positive mental health or respond 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, enabling them to make more informed decisions about our natural landscapes in the future, but the outdoors also 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 2026 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 2026 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 the 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. MT Monday, February 2, 2026.

You will receive a notification regarding the status of your application by February 20, 2026.

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