



MEMORANDUM

To: CFGB Board
From: Nicole Standridge, Senior Program Officer
Date: May 21, 2026
Re: 2026 Cycle 1 Competitive Grant Recommendations

For the first competitive grant cycle of 2026, the staff and Grant Review and Evaluation Committee (GREC) reviewed proposals under the Community Foundation’s five priorities (Economic Opportunity; Persistent Poverty; Thriving Communities; Regional Cooperation; and Equity and Inclusion)

Per the typical grant cycle process, this cycle included a two-stage process (a brief proposal stage and a full proposal stage with site visits). If eligible, applicants could request a grant in one of the following three categories: Strategic Purpose, General Operating Support, or General Operating Support for Emerging Organizations.

The two general operating categories are the same in substance; they just provide emerging organizations with two opportunities to receive general operating support funding as they grow. Eligible organizations (under \$25,000 revenue) may receive General Operating for Emerging Organizations funding one time only. Eligible organizations (\$25,000 – \$100,000 revenue) may receive General Operating Support funding one time only.

By the January 30th brief proposal deadline, CFGB received a total of 132 eligible proposals. Following staff and GREC review, the GREC selected 77 proposals at its March meeting to advance to the full proposal stage. Following site visits and final review, the GREC recommended 67 grants totaling \$1,678,000 for funding at its April 28th meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is important that Board members declare any conflicts of interest regarding grant applicants and that Board members recuse themselves accordingly. Please review the conflict-of-interest form in front of you and check for any conflicts. If you have a conflict, please: 1) Step out of the room before any discussion on the proposal or applicant; 2) abstain from the final vote on all grants.

As your form notes, conflict of interest includes you or a family member (spouse, sibling, children, grandchildren, ancestors) being employed at, serving on the board of, having a contract or other business interest in an organization. It does not include being a donor to an organization.

DOLLARS AVAILABLE

\$1,276,000 was available in CFGB Unrestricted Funds and other available funds as of the April 28, 2026, GREC meeting.

RECOMMENDED GRANTS

The attached grant description document describes the proposals recommended by the GREC at its April 2026 meeting. The GREC recommends 67 grants totaling \$1,678,000 to the CFGB Board for funding from 2026 Cycle 1 available dollars. As of the April GREC meeting, the gap between recommended grants and dollars available was \$402,000. The Philanthropic Services team is seeking additional donor support through Giving Together to fill the gap; the CFGB Board may choose to use future year dollars (2027 and 2028) if the gap is not filled.

The summary of recommended grants by priority is as follows:

Priority: Creating Economic Opportunity for All – 5 grants totaling \$199,000

Priority: Fostering Equity and Inclusion – 12 grants totaling \$194,000

Priority: Overcoming Persistent Poverty – 12 grants totaling \$288,000

Priority: Driving Regional Cooperation – 1 grant totaling \$12,000

Priority: Nurturing Thriving Communities – 37 grants totaling \$985,000

GREC AND STAFF INFORMATION

As of 2026 Cycle 1, the CFGB Grant Review and Evaluation Committee (GREC) members are:

- Catherine Meehan, Committee Chair
- Gail Bayer
- Mechelle Wilder*
- Lissa Tyson*
- TaShauna Goldsby*
- Cindy Brown*
- Susie Abbott*
- Cathy Bradford*
- David Woodruff*
- Dr. Monique Witherspoon*
- Cinthia Saenz*
- Sid McNeal*
- Michael Sznajderman*
- Lynn Martin*
- Barbara Allen*

*Community volunteer (non-Board) members of the GREC

CFGB staff involved in competitive grant making this cycle include: Gus Heard-Hughes, Senior Vice President, Programs; Nicole Standridge, Senior Program Officer; Robin Sparks, Mental Health Initiative Director; Estela Tirado, Program Officer; Meg Ford, Program Officer