

Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

2026 Grant Guidelines

The Foundation aims to support a thriving, year-round Big Sky community where people can live, work, and build a life across all stages. Grants through this cycle will support nonprofits that strengthen community livability, expand access to essential services, and build long-term resilience in and around Big Sky.

YCCF will host one grant cycle in 2026. All eligible and interested applicants may submit a Letter of Interest. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Eligibility

Eligible organizations serve Gallatin and Madison Counties with a clear and direct benefit to Big Sky residents and the commuting workforce.

Eligible organizations invited to apply for funding include:

- Tax-exempt organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Tax-exempt educational institutions
- State, Tribal, or local government agencies

Funding Priorities

While the Foundation continues to fund across five impact areas, we are increasingly prioritizing efforts that advance housing stability, mental health, and child care access for the Big Sky workforce and residents.

- Arts and Culture: Programs that promote creative expression and cultural connection to foster pride, belonging, and community spirit.
- Education: Opportunities for individuals at every stage of life to access high-quality lifelong learning.
- Environment: Support for a sustainable future through the protection of wildlife and natural resources and the responsible stewardship of land and water for generations to come.
- Health and Wellness: Affordable access to physical and behavioral health services and robust recreational opportunities so individuals and families can thrive.
- Livability: Programs and organizational capacity that uplift individuals and families that live, work, and thrive in the Big Sky region.

Application Calendar

July 9 to August 7: Letter of Interest - open call for eligible applicants

August 28: Invitations issued to selected organizations to submit a full proposal

August 31 - September 25: Grant Application open to invited organizations

September 3, Noon: Grantmaking Overview Webinar

November-December: Award announcements and allocations

Application Process

YCCF will host one grant cycle in 2026. All eligible and interested applicants may submit a Letter of Interest. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Please reach out to your Program Officer with questions.

- Letters of interest will be in the form of an online submission, available on our website under the Apply tab. This is an open call from July 9 to August 7th for eligible organizations. No emailed submissions, please.
- Invitations to apply will be issued by August 28 and will include a direct link to the application. Organizations not selected to proceed with a full application will also be notified.
- The application portal will be open August 31 - September 25th for invited applicants.
- Applicants must create an account with the grant application platform, Submittable.
- Approved grant awards will be disbursed by check.

Decision Making Process and Criteria

- Prior funding does not guarantee an invitation to apply for grants; each cycle is competitive.
- An invitation to apply does not guarantee a grant award.
- Applications are reviewed by Foundation staff and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Decision making criteria will be shared in the invitation email and may include:
 - Clear metrics for impact aligned with community needs and long-term outcomes.
 - Evidence of advancing supply, access, or support within an impact area.
 - Evidence of collaboration and partnership.
 - Fiscal responsibility, including potential to contribute to sustained long-term impact beyond the grant period (where applicable).
 - Commitment to continuous improvement.

Partnership Approach

The Foundation prioritizes working in close partnership with grantees and other community stakeholders. We value:

- Collaboration across organizations and sectors.
- Alignment with broader community efforts and initiatives.
- Willingness to share learnings and adapt over time.

We are here to support you! Please reach out with any questions.

- Ryan Rodriguez, Senior Program Officer
ryan.rodriguez@yellowstoneclub.com
- Tanya Andreasen, Program Officer
tanya.andreasen@yellowstoneclub.com