



## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 1/6/2026

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**Department or Agency Name(s):** Board of Supervisors

**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Supervisor James Gore, 707-565-2241

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Supervisory District(s):** Fourth

**Title:**

Disbursement of Fiscal Year 25-26 Fourth District Community Investment Fund Grant Awards

**Recommended Action:**

- A) Approve Community Investment Fund grant awards and authorize the County Executive, or designee, to execute grant agreements with the following entities: Free to Be, \$1,500; Friends of the Healdsburg Farmers Market, \$500; Infinite Learning and Resource Center, \$500; Lomi School Foundation/Lomi Psychotherapy Clinic, \$500; Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, \$1,500; Micah's Hugs, \$750; People4Parks (Windsor Parks and Recreation Foundation), \$1,000; Petaluma Blacks for Community Development, \$500; Redwood Empire Chinese Association, \$1,000; Rohnert Park Babe Ruth Baseball League (Rohnert Park Cal Ripken), \$200; Santa Rosa Symphony Association, \$1,000; Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership (City of Santa Rosa), \$1,500; School Garden Network Foundation, \$750; and Windsor Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000.
- B) Authorize the County Executive, or designee, to amend these agreements to lengthen the time schedules and make minor modifications to the allowed uses that do not increase the amount awarded under the agreements. (Fourth District)

**Executive Summary:**

The Board established the Local Events, Organizations, and District Priorities category to fund local events that will support businesses, enhance culture, and organizations that provide a benefit to the community, or to award funding to County Departments to fulfill Supervisory District priorities. Events and organizations may make requests throughout the year to one or more Supervisory Districts.

The Fourth District has reviewed the applications and recommends the following grant awards:

- 1. Free to Be for their student workshops and leadership programs, grant award of \$1,500;
- 2. Friends of the Healdsburg Farmers Market for advertising and supplies for the market to help the farmers with the logistics of the new site, grant award of \$500;
- 3. Infinite Learning and Resource Center for the Ciencia Y Cena, grant award of \$500;
- 4. Lomi School Foundation/Lomi Psychotherapy Clinic for Legacy Fund, grant award of \$500;
- 5. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts for free and reduced-cost access to our School Shows and field trips, grant award of \$1,500;
- 6. Micah's Hugs to support life-saving interventions, grant award of \$750;
- 7. People4Parks (Windsor Parks and Recreation Foundation) for the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove, grant award of \$1,000;

8. Petaluma Blacks for Community Development for the 2026 Black History Exhibit, Program, Lectures, Youth trip and other Black History events, grant award of \$500;
9. Redwood Empire Chinese Association for their Chinese New Year Celebration at Finley Center in 2026, grant award of \$1,000;
10. Rohnert Park Babe Ruth Baseball League (Rohnert Park Cal Ripken) for the 11U All Star team, grant award of \$200;
11. Santa Rosa Symphony Association for the Music For Our Schools programming, grant award of \$1,000;
12. Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership (City of Santa Rosa) for the Violence Prevention Seminar, grant award of \$1,500;
13. School Garden Network Foundation for food education programming, grant award of \$750; and
14. Windsor Chamber of Commerce for the Chili Cook off event and Leadership Windsor, grant award of \$1,000.

Activities performed utilizing Community Investment Program funds provide public benefits that serve important community needs under Government Code Section 26227.

**Discussion:**

**Transient Occupancy Tax Funding**

The Sonoma County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT or Hotel Bed Tax) was established in 1965 and is authorized under State Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7280. TOT, a general tax, is currently levied at a rate of 12%, a rate established in 2016 by the voter-approved Measure L. TOT revenue is allocated 25% to the General Fund; 50% to the Community Investment Fund; and 25% to the Measure L Fund.

**Community Investment Fund Program and Policy**

The Community Investment Fund Program, established in 1986 as the Advertising and Promotions Program, allocates a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax to encourage economic development, community engagement, and culture in the County through a variety of grant award and funding avenues. The program provides grants to community-based organizations for a wide range of activities including economic development, community and countywide events, and advertising and promoting the county as a visitor destination with the goal of advancing economic growth through tourism. Additionally, the program provides grants to address impacts on safety due to tourism and to enhance community services throughout the county. The program provides funding to the Regional Parks Department, the Economic Development Collaborative, and additional county activities. Community Investment Funds are allocated per the Community Investment Fund Policy (Policy) (<https://sonomacounty.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/county-administrators-office/community-investment-fund-program/community-investment-program-policy>).

On September 16, 2025, the Board adopted revisions to the Policy, consolidating funding priorities into three funding categories: County Department Funding, District Priorities, and Community Funding. Staff are working on updating the application process to align with the new funding categories. In order to minimize impacts to the community, applications in process will continue to be processed based on the current Policy.

**Revised District Priorities Category**

The revised District Priorities funding category provides funds to events, organizations, and Supervisorial District priorities. Funding may be distributed through grants or assigned to County departments. The funds

available in this category include \$100,000 for each supervisorial district (\$500,000 total) from the Community Investment Fund and 10% of Measure L revenue to be allocated to each supervisorial district proportionate to the amount

of Transient Occupancy Tax collected within the district in the previous fiscal year. Unused funds will be accounted for and available for use in future years. Organizations may make their requests directly to each Supervisorial District.

Funds in this category may be used for activities such as safety improvements, environmental impact mitigation, public safety, and other tourism mitigation activities, such as parking enforcement. Funds may be used for projects that benefit the community, or to support organizations that coordinate community improvements, such as the Municipal Advisory Councils. The Board may award funding to County Departments or to Supervisorial Districts to complete priority projects. Funding may be used to cover salary and benefit costs associated with changed or additional staff, and other costs associated with added staffing such as office space.

Funds will be distributed upon approval of these award(s) by the Board of Supervisors and execution of the Community Investment Fund grant agreement by the entity. The agreement(s) will be executed by the County Executive, or designee. The agreements require the County seal on promotional materials produced using the grant award.

Because a project may require modification as the work/project may not be completed within the fiscal year, an extension of time or modification of allowed uses for the organization to complete the project may be necessary. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Executive, or designee, be authorized to amend the contracts to lengthen the time schedules and make minor modifications to the allowed uses that do not increase the amount awarded under the agreement.

Activities performed utilizing Community Investment Program funds provide public benefits that serve important community needs under Government Code Section 26227.

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Racial Equity:**

**Was this item identified as an opportunity to apply the Racial Equity Toolkit?**

No

**Prior Board Actions:**

11/4/2025: Awarded FY 25-26 Local Events, Organizations, District Priorities Grants

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY25-26 Adopted</b>	<b>FY26-27 Projected</b>	<b>FY27-28 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses	\$12,200		
Additional Appropriation Requested			

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<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,200</b>		
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other	\$12,200		
Use of Fund Balance			
General Fund Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$12,200</b>		

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

Community Investment Funds are included in the FY 25-26 budget.

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Sample Community Investment Fund Grant Agreement

**Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:**

N/A