



# COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION  
DRIVE, ROOM 102A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 4/7/2026

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

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

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

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Supervisorial District(s):** First

**Title:**

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

**Recommended Action:**

- A) Approve Community Investment Fund grant awards and authorize the County Executive, or designee, to execute an agreement with the following entities: Made in Santa Rosa Education Foundation, \$2,500; Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, \$1,000; Council on Aging Services for Seniors, \$2,500; Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association Inc., \$3,000; Sonoma Community Center, \$3,000; Sonoma Botanical Garden, \$3,000; Rural California Broadcasting Corporation (Northern California Public Media), \$1,000; Community Equity Foundation Inc., \$500; Kid Scoop News, \$1,000; Sonoma Applied Villages Services, \$1,500; Children's Museum of Sonoma County, \$1,000; Museum of Sonoma County, \$1,000; Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation, \$2,000; Sonoma Immigrant Services, \$3,000; and La Luz Center, \$2,000.
- 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.
- C) Make a finding that the proposed expenditures are necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the County pursuant to Government Code Section 26227.

(First District)

**Executive Summary:**

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

The First District has reviewed the applications and recommends the following FY 25-26 grant awards:

- 1.) Made in Santa Rosa Education Foundation to support the Early Literacy Enrichment Program (ELITE), grant award of \$2,500.
- 2.) Luther Burbank Center for the Arts to support the Mariachi Cantares de mi Tierra and Ballet Folklorico events, grant award of \$1,000.
- 3.) Council on Aging Services for Seniors to support the Latino Memory Café- Community Based Workshops for older Adults living with Dementia and their family Caregivers, grant award of \$2,500.

- 4.) Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association Inc., to support the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Celebration, grant award of \$3,000.
- 5.) Sonoma Community Center to support the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Trashion Fashion Season, grant award of \$3,000.
- 6.) Sonoma Botanical Garden to support the annual exhibit and workshops, grant award of \$3,000.
- 7.) Rural California Broadcasting Corporation (Northern California Public Media) to support the Stars of Food & Wine Awards event, grant award of \$1,000.
- 8.) Community Equity Foundation Inc. to support the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual African Soul Festival, grant award of \$500.
- 9.) Kids Scoop News to support the distribution of their monthly, in-hand newsreader, grant award of \$1,000.
- 10.) Sonoma Applied Villages Services to support The Block program- weekly art project for temporary/permanent homeless shelters, grant award of \$1,500. □
- 11.) Children’s Museum of Sonoma County to support the “Access for All” initiative that offers steeply discounted admission for families on government assisted programs, grant award of \$1,000. □
- 12.) Museum of Sonoma County to support the Second Saturday inclusive program that opens their doors to all at no cost, grant award of \$1,000. □
- 13.) Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation to support the Larson Park Grand Opening and Community Celebration, grant award of \$2,000.
- 14.) Sonoma Immigrant Services to support the annual Citizenship Celebration, grant award of \$3,000.
- 15.) La Luz Center to support the annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, grant award of \$2,000.

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.ca.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.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 26227, the Board of Supervisors may fund programs deemed by the Board to be necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the county, including but not limited to, the areas of health, law enforcement, public safety, rehabilitation, welfare, education, and legal services. Staff is recommending that the Board find that the 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:**

10/28/2025 and 1/6/2026 - Awarded FY 25-26 Local Events, Organizations, District Priorities Grants

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 25-26 Adopted</b>	<b>FY 26-27 Projected</b>	<b>FY 27-28 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses	\$28,000		
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>		
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance	\$28,000		
Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$28,000</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:**

None