

ATTACHMENT B

RACIAL EQUITY GRANT OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

2026 GUIDELINES & APPLICATION



This program is funded and supported by the County of Santa Barbara and administered in collaboration with The Fund for Santa Barbara. The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$275,000 to support the current cycle.

About the Racial Equity Grant Program of the County of Santa Barbara

FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA: *Advancing progressive change by strengthening movements for economic, environmental, political, racial, and social justice.*

The Fund for Santa Barbara (est. 1980) is a non-traditional community foundation that supports organizations and groups working for progressive social change in Santa Barbara County. The FUND is dedicated to helping find solutions to current and emerging social problems and issues that challenge our society as a whole. We understand that social conditions improve most dramatically when those who have been denied power and justice lead on their own behalf to confront, challenge, and change the conditions that have denied them access to justice and equity.

Grant Program Mission: To invest in and strengthen organizations that address anti-racism through systems change strategies in Santa Barbara County. This Program aims to effect the culture, policy, and systems change necessary to advance racial equity and justice, and reverse the legacy of slavery and effects of racism in Santa Barbara County.

Grant Program History: The Racial Equity Grant Program of The County of Santa Barbara County (REFCSB) is an initiative that came directly from grassroots organizing by Black femme leaders in Santa Barbara County who demanded that the County of Santa Barbara invest in the Black community in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the ongoing racial justice movement. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (“the County”) passed a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, made a commitment to racial justice, and pledged \$500,000 to begin to address equity issues in the county. Roughly half of the funds were allocated to internal/institutional County equity development with the remaining funds to be distributed through the Fund for Santa Barbara’s (“The FUND”) participatory grantmaking process in collaboration with The County of Santa Barbara. The FUND has a long history through its grant making program of supporting historically marginalized communities to be full participants in our community’s social, civic, and economic life. This Program aims to build capacity, expand, and/or stabilize historically marginalized organizations in Santa Barbara County.

Since establishing the grant program, the County has allocated \$275,000 annually to support it.

Proposal application available at fundforsantabarbara.org/grantee-portal

FUNDING STRATEGY

The purpose of the REF is to provide organizational capacity assistance to:

1. Strengthen the ecosystem of diverse, anti-racism organizations in our community that share a common goal to address the cultural and systemic effects of racism.
 2. Increase active participation of historically marginalized communities to influence civic matters that impact our community at large.
 3. Develop the pipeline to uplift historically marginalized leaders to positions of decision-making and influence.
 4. Increase and sustain investment to strengthen organizations led by historically marginalized leaders who have lacked access to capital.
 5. Address and work to change systemic negative narratives about the legacy of slavery in the community.
 6. Establish and advance organizational capacity in organizations led by historically marginalized leaders in the following areas:
 - a. Leadership development
 - b. Advocacy, policy change, legal analysis, and research
 - c. Strategic communications
 - d. Alliance and coalition building
 - e. Organizational development
 - f. Community engagement and organizing
 - g. Innovation and continuous learning
 - h. Develop organizational and programmatic objectives, conduct evaluation, and assess outcomes.
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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Must be a historically marginalized organization in Santa Barbara County
 - a. i.e. Serving communities directly harmed by racist policies and marginalized by systemic racism
2. Must include as a core mission of the organization the goal of addressing systemic racism
3. Projects must take place in Santa Barbara County
4. Must have a Tax ID Number, Employer Identification Number (EIN), or a fiscal sponsor
5. Must have an organizational bank account (or a fiscal sponsor)

GUIDELINES

The FUND defines social change as change that addresses the systemic, root causes of social (economic, environmental, political, and racial) inequalities in an effort to alleviate those inequalities but also the underlying conditions and circumstances that cause and sustain them.

THE FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA IS UNABASHEDLY PROGRESSIVE AND IS LOOKING TO SUPPORT PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS THE SYSTEMIC ROOT CAUSES OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES. WE SUPPORT PROJECTS WITH A STRONG SYSTEMIC CHANGE COMPONENT.

GUIDELINES

- Actively support anti-discrimination based on race, sex/gender, age, religion, language spoken, or immigration status;
- Actively support communities marginalized by power structures to engage in dialogue and actions that seek to counter social injustice;
- Actively work to improve the rights of workers and their families whose living conditions have been marginalized;
- Promote the cultural life of underserved communities and support the activities of cultural workers;
- Promote self-determination and leadership development in low income and disenfranchised communities;
- Promote Global peace and organize locally for just policies;
- Work on building coalitions to enhance improving environmental justice and address climate change, especially organizing a constituency usually without access to decision-makers
- Engage in collaborative action and coalition-building to strengthen movement ecosystems; Work against community violence and actively support recovery and restorative justice activities and initiatives;
- Operate in a democratic manner, responsive to and directed by the constituency being served.

PRIORITIES

- Guidelines: Does this project have the potential to create or advance social, economic, political, and/or environmental change? Please refer to FUND Guidelines.
- Priorities: Are there elements of Community Organizing, Advocacy, Direct Action, Base-building, Coalition-Building, or Legal Strategy?*
- Access to Funding: Does this project lack access to funding? Would the project go forward without support from the Fund?
- Critical Timing/Need: Does the organization have the capacity to reach their social change goals? Are the key players familiar with other organizations in the same field to further the goal of movement building?
- Impact of Funds: How clear is the budget outline? How well does the budget support the project's social change goals? Will funding help start-up the organization, stabilize the organization, and/or leverage other funding sources?
- Regional Equity: Will this project help the Grant Making Committee achieve its objective of providing equity in funding throughout Santa Barbara County?

WE DO NOT FUND

- Political campaigns that support a candidate or a political party;
- Private (vs. public) interests;
 - Public interests refer to the well-being of the general population and the community as a whole. Private interests focus on the individual.
- Direct labor organizing;
- Direct support to individuals;
- Building improvements;
- Capital ventures, i.e. machines, vehicles, etc.;
- Equipment, i.e. office equipment, tools, etc;
- Projects located outside of Santa Barbara County.
- **REFCSB funding cannot be used for lobbying, legal strategy or 501(c)4 work

FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA

2025-26 Racial Equity Grant Cycle Calendar

When	What	Where
Sep 23, 2025	County Board of Supervisors Funding Allocation Vote	
Sep 26, 2025	Request for Proposals (RFP) Opens	
Dec 8, 2025	RFP Closes	Submittable
Dec 19 – Jan 16	Grant Making Committee Reviews Applications	
Jan 17, 2026	Screening Meeting	Location: TBD
Jan 26, 2026	Fund for Santa Barbara Board of Directors Approves Funding Recommendations	FSB Santa Barbara Office
Jan 26, 2026 <i>week of</i>	BOS Receives Funding Recommendations	FUND Staff to County Staff
March 3, 2026	Funding Recommendations presented to County Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors
April 4, 2026	Public Announcement of Awards	Grantee Calls
April 2026	Funding Awards Disbursed	
Mar 2027	Funding Term Ends	

Proposals will be accepted during the RFP window.

- I. The maximum grant request is up to \$100,000 for 12 months.
- II. All proposals will be initially screened by The FUND to determine completeness and eligibility.
- III. Incomplete proposals or ineligible applicants will not be considered. FUND staff may contact applicants to request additional information as needed.
- IV. Grant Making Committee funding recommendations will be shared with the County Board of Supervisors.
- V. The Fund for Santa Barbara Board of Directors will approve funding recommendations.
- VI. County Board of Supervisors will make final approval of funding recommendations.

RACIAL EQUITY GRANT OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA APPLICATION



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General Information

Date: _____

Name of Organization or
Fiscal Sponsor: _____

Provide a name for your grant request _____

Has this request received FSB Funding in the past?

☐

No

☐

Yes

Date of last grant: _____

Requested Amount (not to exceed \$100,000): \$ _____

Brief statement of what the funds will
pay for (in third person): _____

Issue Area(s): _____

Strategy(ies): _____

Constituency(ies) _____

Geography(ies): _____

Make Check Payable to: _____

Organization Address: _____
Street (where grant agreement and check should be mailed) Apt/Ste/Unit #

City State Zip

Tax Exempt Status

☐

501(c)3

☐

501(c)4

☐

Unincorporated

Tax ID #/ EIN: _____

Total Organizational Budget: _____

Project Budget Period

Fiscal Year

From: _____ To: _____ From: _____ To: _____
MM/YYYY MM/YYYY MM/YYYY MM/YYYY

Group/Organizational bank account?

If yes, what Financial Institution?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Contact Information

First Name

Last Name

Title

Email

Phone #

Website

Disclaimer and Signatures

We certify that the information in this proposal is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge and is submitted with the Board of Directors/Governing Body's full knowledge and endorsement.

Name of Board President or Authorized Representative

Phone

Email of Representative

Do not sign

Do not sign

Signature of Representative

Date

Name of Submitter or 2nd Representative

Phone

Email of Representative

Do not sign

Do not sign

Signature of Representative

Date

APPLICATION PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. **Organizational History and Mission**
2. **Keeping in mind the Racial Equity Grant Program's priorities as stated in the Guidelines, how is your organization addressing systemic racism?**
3. **Describe how the funds will be used to enhance and address the root causes of issue(s) directly impacting historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities capacity?**
4. **Tell us if and how you are working with other organizations and how you would describe your relationship? (cooperating, collaborating, etc.)**
5. **Describe your organizational structure and governance. How are decisions made and priorities set for your group? How is your constituency involved in the decision-making process for your project?**
6. **What are your main objectives and the anticipated outcomes and how will you evaluate the effectiveness or impact of the project within your proposed timeline?**
7. **What resources, aside from funding, does your organization have access to? What resources, aside from funding, does your organization need? (i.e. volunteers, donated space / equipment, discounts, etc.)**
8. **If full funding is not available, what is / are your organization's highest budget priorities (i.e. can't do without)?**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income and Expense Summary for Proposed Project Only

Income

Source of Funds	Amount	Received/Pending
<i>Fund for Santa Barbara</i>	\$	<i>Pending</i>
*Total Income	\$	

*(Must match total expenses below)

Please note this is a cash only budget (i.e. do not include in-kind donations)

Expenses

Expense Category / Item	Notes / Explanation	Total Expense Amount	Amount Requested From The FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA
	*Total Expenses	\$	\$

*(Must match total income above)

Please provide detailed notes for each expense category (e.g. if staff position: hrs x rate x length of time.)

Past Funding Sources for this project (i.e. grants, events & other fundraising activities). Please include dates & amounts:
