



Community Challenge Grants Information Session

July – August 2025



Agenda

- **Background**
- **Program**
- **Eligibility and Program Requirements**
- **How to Apply**
- **Q&A**

Background

Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Abatement Fund/Program

- Established in 1990
- Rules and Regulations revised in 2025

Research and Listening

- 4 focus groups
- Listening tour with City staff from 7 different departments
- 18 months managing the program



FY26 CCG Program

CCG provides City funding for community-led, neighborhood improvements.

We recognize our communities' **interdependence** and **collective strength** and fund neighborhood beautification projects that foster **resilience, safety, and belonging** in San Francisco.



Burnside+ Mural and Tiled Staircase

FY26 CCG Program

Program A: Infrastructure

Supports physical improvements to public spaces.



Program B: Activation

Supports activities that bring people together and foster community use.

Beautification must be a visible component of activation projects.



FY26 CCG Program

Program A: Infrastructure	Program B: Activation
Supports physical improvements to public spaces.	Supports activities that bring people together and foster community use. <i>Beautification must be a visible component of activation projects.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sidewalk gardens and median enhancements• Participation in the Shared Spaces program• Public art (e.g., murals, tiled stairways, new media installations, decorative crosswalks)• Seating, lighting, or other street amenities• Outdoor enhancements on accessible private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Street clean-ups and graffiti removal• Ongoing greening and maintenance, such as gardening, weeding, trail upkeep, and trash removal• Block parties, night markets, and walking tours• Youth training or apprenticeships related to beautification.

FY26 CCG Program

Projects may include both infrastructure and activation elements. Choose the program area that reflects where more than 50 percent of your proposed budget will be spent.

Example:

If your budget includes \$20,000 to build garden beds (Infrastructure) and **\$30,000** to run a youth gardening program at the site (Activation), your project falls under Program Area B: Activation.

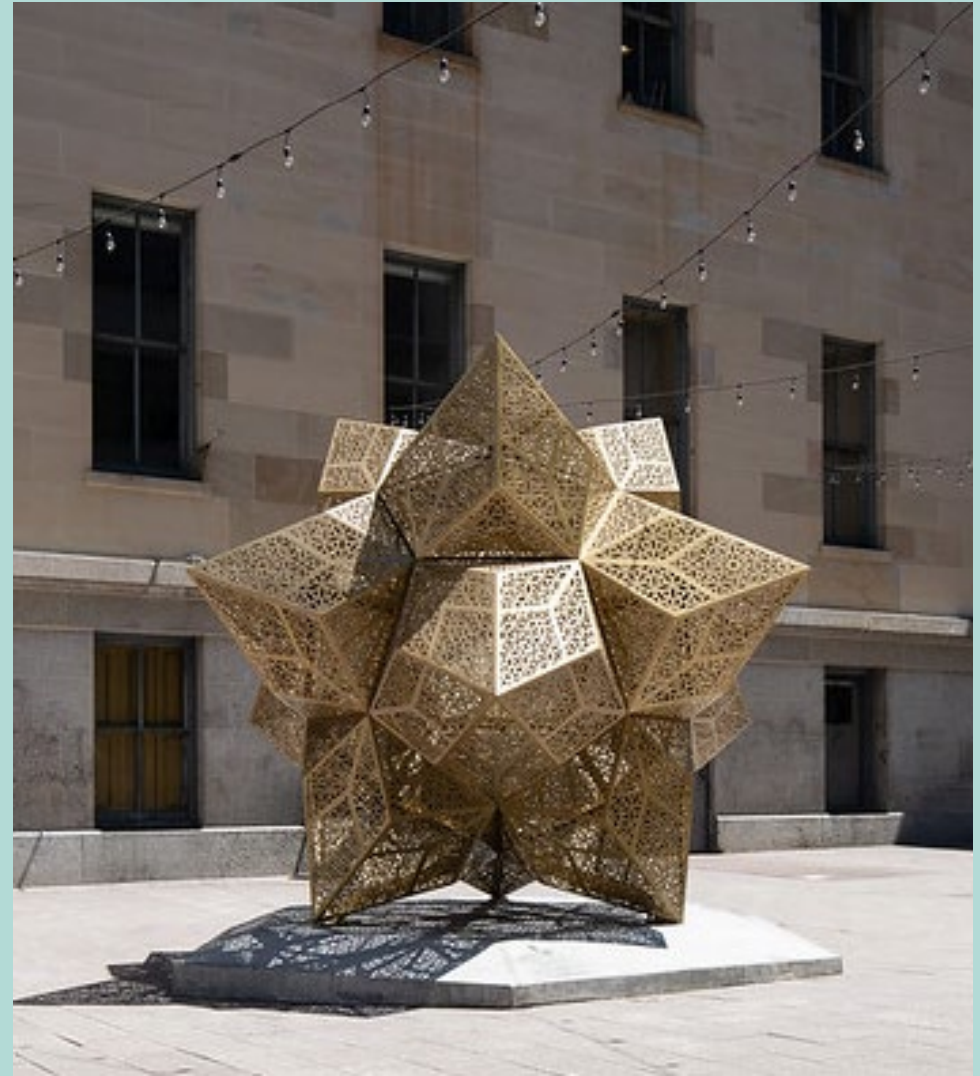


Enterprise for Youth Climate Career Corps

Ineligible Projects

Projects that require a **Love Our Neighborhoods Tier 3** permit (unless comprised of multiple Tier 2 projects) or a **Major Encroachment Permit**, or similar requests that are not in the public right of way, are not eligible.

- New stairways or retaining walls
- Sculptures
- Fog catchers
- Major landscaping (e.g., re-grading hillsides)
- String lights that cross commercial corridors



SF Arts Commission's Project: Aurum in Mint Plaza

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Virginia Garden Walk and Mural

Love Our Neighborhoods

- The Love Our Neighborhoods program creates an easier way to build, create and install projects that activate and enliven the public right of way.
- Lower fees than previous permitting programs
- A dedicated program analyst who acts as the primary point of contact
- A more streamlined and transparent process



<https://www.sfpublicworkstv.org/love-our-neighborhoods>

FY26 CCG Program

- Grant awards must range from **\$50,000 to \$150,000** (outside of range is ineligible).
- Grants are anticipated to begin **January 1, 2026**.
 - Standard term: Up to 18 months
 - Extended term: Up to 24 months for projects requiring a Love Our Neighborhoods Tier 2 permit or similar scope



Lighting safety project in Civic Center

Eligibility & Program Requirements

- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or work with a qualifying fiscal sponsor
- The applicant or key project staff must have successfully completed projects of similar size and scope or work with a qualifying fiscal sponsor.
- The proposed project must be located within the City and County of San Francisco.
- In good standing with:
 - California Franchise Tax Board.
 - California Secretary of State.
 - California Attorney General's Registry of Charities and Fundraisers.
 - Not suspended or debarred by the City



Eligibility & Program Requirements

- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or work with a qualifying fiscal sponsor

- IRS determination letter on or before 10/9/23

OR

- Have 25% of the grant request as cash assets

\$150,000 (1 application) x .25= \$37,500

\$600,000 (4 applications for \$150k each) x .25= \$150,000



Eligibility & Program Requirements

- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or work with a qualifying fiscal sponsor
- The applicant or key project staff must have successfully completed projects of similar size and scope or work with a qualifying fiscal sponsor.
- The proposed project must be located within the City and County of San Francisco.
 - Signed Property Owner/Tenant letter (Appendix C1, C2, or C3)



[Place on Letterhead]

Date:

Summary of the project: [provided by applicant]

Location of the project: [provided by applicant]

I am the property owner, representative of the property owner, or representative of the City agency with jurisdiction over the property on which the proposed Community Challenge Grants (CCG) project would take place. Based on my initial review of the proposed CCG project including the applicant's summary of the project, proposed budget, and proposed work plan, this project may move forward in the CCG proposal process. Signing this letter does not preclude or replace any permit and approval process that may be required for the project and is not a guarantee that the project will move forward if CCG selects the project for funding through its application process.

[DocuSign or ink signature (typed signatures will not be accepted)]

Print Name:

Title:

[If the property is rented, please also include DocuSign or ink signature by the tenant]

Print Name:

Title:

City Contacts below:

San Francisco Recreation and Park: Abigail Maher abigail.maher@sfgov.org or Mei Ling Hui meiling.hui@sfgov.org

San Francisco Public Works: Logan Hehn logan.hehn@sfdpw.org or Jimmer ~~Cassiol~~ Jimmer.Cassiol@sfdpw.org

San Francisco Arts Commission: Ebon Glenn ebon.glenn@sfgov.org

San Francisco Port: Cathy Hickey cathy.hickey@sfport.com

San Francisco Real Estate Division: Lesley Giovannelli lesley.giovannelli@sfgov.org

San Francisco Public Utilities: Use Appendix C2 – Property Owner Letter SFPUC

San Francisco Unified School District: Use Appendix C3 – Property Owner Letter SFUSD



Eligibility & Program Requirements

- **Public Benefit and Access**
 - Does the project provide a clear and substantial public benefit?
 - If located on private property, is the benefit to the property owner incidental?
 - For projects with restricted access, will at least 100 hours of public access per quarter be scheduled and posted one week in advance, both online and onsite?
- **Project Manager** with experience appropriate to the project's scope.
- **Interpretive signage** (Infrastructure Projects) or CCG funding acknowledgement (Activation Projects).
- **5-year Maintenance Plan** (for Infrastructure projects)
- Murals finished w/**anti-graffiti coating**; artists **waive rights** under Visual Artists Rights Act and California Art Preservation Act



Questions

- Please introduce yourself with your full name and the name of the organization you are with (if any)
- I may clarify your question so we transcribe it properly for public posting






How to Apply

Visit: <https://sf.gov/fy26ccg>

- Download the RFP documents
- Review Addenda
- Review Questions and Answers
- Review Updates
- **Online Application at:** <https://forms.fillout.com/t/8oGFKBeboaus>
Max file size: 20MB



Addenda to the RFP

[FY26 CCG Addendum 1](#)

Revises Section 4.1 Minimum Qualifications Screening to fix a typo regarding the cash assets required if an applicant's IRS determination letter was issued after October 9, 2023.

Question and Answer Documents

[CCG RFP Questions and Answers](#)

Responses to questions about FY26 CCG RFP

Updates

The following updates or changes have been published in this webpage:

7/28/25 (9:00 AM): Online Form: Updated instructions on Service Objective 2. Added required submitter email address on the submissions page.

Website: **Updated Key Dates** noting weekly posting of answers to questions. Added 7/28/25 **Question and Answer** document.

7/23/25 (12:00 PM): A document named FY26 CCG Addendum 1 has been posted under "Documents." Additional dates have been provided for posting responses to questions.



How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online at <https://forms.fillout.com/t/8oGFKBeboaus> and include all required uploads or the application may be deemed ineligible. **Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted.**

Documents

RFP Documents



[FY26 CCG Solicitation](#)



REFERENCE: Summary of the Request for Proposals



[FY26 CCG Guidebook](#)



REFERENCE: This document contains the full Community Challenge Grants request for proposal details.



[Appendix A - Checklist](#)



REFERENCE: to ensure you have all the items to submit a complete application.



[Appendix B - Application](#)



REFERENCE: to prepare your answers. Responses must be submitted through the online form. Character limits apply.



[Appendix C1 - Property Owner Letter](#)





[Appendix C1 - Property Owner Letter](#)

REQUIRED: Use Appendix C1 for general public or private property.

[Appendix C2 - Property Owner Letter SFPUC](#)

REQUIRED: Use Appendix C2 if the property is under San Francisco Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction.

[Appendix C3 - Property Owner Letter SFUSD](#)

REQUIRED: Use Appendix C3 if the property is under San Francisco Unified School District jurisdiction.

[Appendix D - Budget Template](#)

REQUIRED: Please leave the formulas intact. If they do not work, email ccg@sfgov.org. Use only the provided template. See the Definition of Line Categories tab for guidance.

[Appendix E - Work Plan Template](#)

REQUIRED: Outlines tasks, timelines, and responsible parties. Ensure your plan fits within the grant term. For [Love Our Neighborhood Tier 2](#) projects (and those with a similar scope), a longer grant term may be requested.

[Appendix F - City's Standard Agreement](#)

REFERENCE: Outlines the City's standard grant terms. Awardees will enter into a grant agreement substantially in this form, though specific terms may be updated. The version in effect at the time of contracting will apply.



Appendix A: Application Checklist

Applicants may use the RFP Submittal Checklist below to gather items in advance of entering their package to the online application page.

Minimum Qualifications

- ☐ **IRS letter of determination**
 - Verifies 501(c)(3) status

Application Documents

- ☐ **Completed Application** *(entered via online form at <https://forms.fillout.com/t/8oGFKBeboaus>)*
 - Use Appendix B to preview and prepare responses
- ☐ **Fiscal Sponsorship MOU** *(if applicable; Max size 20 MB)*
 - Memorandum of Understanding between applicant and fiscal sponsor
 - Fiscal sponsor must meet eligibility criteria
- ☐ **Property Owner Letter** *(Appendix C1 or C2; Max size 20 MB)*
 - Signed letter approving use of the project site
 - Use Appendix C2 if the project is on SFPUC-managed property
 - Includes project summary and location
- ☐ **Appendix D: Budget Template** *(Excel)*
 - Submit as Excel file
 - Use only the provided template with formulas intact
- ☐ **Appendix E: Work Plan Template** *(Excel)*
 - Submit as Excel file
 - Aligns with the proposed grant term and scope
- ☐ **Financial Statements** *(1 combined PDF; Max size 20 MB)*
 - Profit & Loss Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - If you are on a calendar year, upload January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024; if you are on a fiscal year, upload July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Optional Uploads

- ☐ **Work Samples** *(Combined into 1 PDF. Max size 20 MB)*
 - Up to 10 images and/or 1 video link (max 3 minutes)
- ☐ **Letters of Support** *(combined into 1 PDF. Maximum 3; Max size 20 MB)*
 - From stakeholders with no financial interest in the project



Appendix B: Application Questions

Application Instructions

This document is a reference tool to help you prepare your responses to the FY26 Community Challenge Grants (CCG) online application at <https://forms.fillout.com/t/8oGFKBeboaus>

Application Questions

1. Project Purpose and Community Impact (10 points)

Application Questions:

Describe the community-driven project addressing an issue in the neighborhood (Limit: 6,000 characters)

- What has contributed to the problem and who does it impact?
- How will this project leverage community strengths to intervene?
- How will the project result in neighborhood beautification that fosters resilience, safety, and belonging?

2. Community Involvement Indicators and Performance Measures (10 points)

Application Questions:

Community Involvement Indicators

To demonstrate community leadership and participation in the project, provide numbers for the Community Involvement Indicators. In Comments, describe how the numbers will be achieved (e.g., quarterly neighborhood updates at the corner coffee shop; or volunteers from a senior center; or weekly, two-hour garden days).

Indicator	Definition	Comments (Limit: 300)
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Questions

- Please introduce yourself with your full name and the name of the organization you are with (if any)
- I may clarify your question so we transcribe it properly for public posting

