



CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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2026-2027 GRANT GUIDELINES

Mission and Goals of the Fund

The UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund (the Fund) invests in projects and programs that establish new or existing partnerships between UC Berkeley and Berkeley community entities that improve the quality of life for people who live or work in Berkeley. The Fund seeks partnerships and collaborations that are designed to match the University's expertise and service with community wisdom and leadership. Eligibility is limited to projects and programs that have at least one community partner and one UC Berkeley partner. An ideal campus/community partnership gives students, faculty and staff an opportunity to bring the University's public service mission to life in community projects that further social justice and racial equity. Projects that benefit specific neighborhoods or groups of Berkeleyans are preferred.

While the change strategies used by prospective grantees can be varied, the ideal community-campus partnership will have a viable plan to address a critical community need in one of the following thematic arenas:

- Arts, Culture and Placemaking
- Community Health and Community Safety
- Economic Development and Economic Empowerment
- Education and Youth Development
- Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience
- Leadership Development and Civic Engagement

Partnership Fund Objectives

Grant applications will be evaluated according to the following Partnership Fund objectives. Successful projects must:

- Enhance the quality of life for those who live in Berkeley. For example, projects that address the needs of specific groups that face systemic barriers; or projects that improve specific neighborhoods that are disconnected from economic or social opportunity.
- Be well-designed and have clear objectives, a viable implementation plan, realistic budget, and the organizational capacity to achieve the project objectives (alternatively, see the Planning Grant section for partnerships in earlier stages).
- Establish or strengthen collaboration between the Berkeley community and the University; ideally projects will increase the likelihood of a *sustainable* partnership between the Community Partner and the University Partner.

- Further the University's public mission by facilitating student, staff and/or faculty ability to implement public-benefit research and community service projects.
- Align with and further the priorities and objectives of locally-developed and equity-driven policies and initiatives that were developed with extensive community participation. For example, education-based proposals that align with the focal populations and objectives of [Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership](#) will be given priority. The Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership (YEP, formerly known as Berkeley's 2020 Vision) is a citywide initiative that strives for African American/Black and Latinx young people who live and/or go to school in Berkeley to thrive academically, physically, and emotionally. Arts, culture and placemaking grants should align with the [City of Berkeley Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2027 Update](#)'s commitment to cultural equity. The Plan was developed with extensive citizen participation, and provides an essential tool for the design and implementation of public policies that promote arts and culture. See information about these and other relevant equity-driven documents below.

Direct Benefit to Berkeley Residents:

As noted, the fund has a preference for projects that benefit specific groups and/or neighborhoods in Berkeley. All projects and activities must benefit Berkeley residents. All Partnership monies must directly benefit Berkeley residents. Preference will be given to equity-driven projects that align with or further initiatives developed with extensive community engagement (see examples below).

Thematic Arenas:

Applicants can draw on a variety of community change strategies, however we encourage the partners to organize project activities that further objectives that local community leaders and organizations are pursuing. Applicants are encouraged to focus project activities in one of the following thematic arenas.

Note: the examples of activities below each thematic arena are intended to demonstrate the kinds of activities projects can undertake but are not exhaustive — your activities might be unique to your partnership.

- **Arts, Culture and Placemaking:** Proposals aligned with this theme seek to help the Berkeley community engage with a wide range of artistic, musical and cultural styles and practices. Projects or programs could include supporting or developing public art installations, performances, training and workshops for community residents who do not typically have access to the arts. Placemaking, or artist-led enhancement of the character and quality of a place, is a form of arts-based community development that capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration and potential. (To learn more, check out the National Endowment for the Arts description of [Creative Placemaking](#); and this description that includes [Placekeeping](#).) Proposals for projects that align with equity-based priorities are ideal. For example, projects that center a commitment to cultural equity by supporting art by and for people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality; or projects that further existing arts and culture initiatives developed with extensive community engagement, including the [City of Berkeley Arts and Culture Plan 2018-2027 Update](#)'s commitment to cultural equity. For proposals that might need approval from the City's

Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, review the [City of Berkeley Guidelines for Community-Initiated Public Art Proposal](#).

- **Community Health and Community Safety:** Public health oriented proposals aligned with this theme will seek to make Berkeley a healthier, more equitable, safer and more welcoming community. For example, projects and programs that address the health of Berkeley specific populations or seek to reduce disparate health outcomes by addressing social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic conditions, environmental quality and the quality of the built environment. Public health focused projects and programs could address a range of issues, including but not limited to: access to healthy foods, gaps in access to emergency preparedness, biking and pedestrian safety; community safety projects could range for engaging marginalized populations in efforts to reimagine public safety, addressing the root causes of gun violence or domestic violence, community conflict resolution, community led restorative justice and crime prevention programs, or addressing built environment conditions that create vulnerability, for example increasing street lighting and vegetation management in neighborhoods that experience higher levels of crime.
- **Economic Development and Economic Empowerment:** Projects and programs aligned with this theme could support local economic development with a focus on local residents or local businesses. For example, through workforce training programs that prepare youth and adults to secure middle skills jobs in industry sectors that provide living wage jobs with ample opportunities to move up a viable career ladder are also valued. Or, by increasing the capacity of small, independent, and/or minority-owned firms; non-profit or cultural organizations; business membership groups or industry associations; and early stage technology startups contributing to the local innovation ecosystem. Other economic development strategies will be considered, including: research, studies, marketing and other collaborative initiatives and partnerships that bolster the local and green economy, encourage job creation, or undertake equity-oriented targeted hiring strategies.
- **Education and Youth Development:** Proposals aligned with this theme will seek to improve educational outcomes for young people who live and/or go to school in Berkeley, particularly those experiencing poverty who historically have faced obstacles in K-12, workforce training and higher education. Projects or programs could involve mentoring activities, coaching and other after-school programs, writing workshops, adult literacy programs and classroom or community presentations and events. Proposals that align with the objectives of [Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership](#) will be given priority. The Berkeley Youth Equity Partnership (YEP, formerly known as Berkeley's 2020 Vision) is a citywide initiative that strives for African American/Black and Latinx young people who live and/or go to school in Berkeley to thrive academically, physically, and emotionally. Proposals that focus on youth development should prioritize the needs of youth of color, immigrant and/or foster youth. Program interventions could involve mentoring activities, coaching, early childhood and after-school programs, career technical education pathway programs.
- **Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience:** Proposals aligned with this theme aim to protect, preserve and restore Berkeley's natural environment, address climate adaptation and resilience, and support the use of renewable resources, with a focus on Berkeley populations or neighborhoods that face the greatest challenges. Proposals should align with local priorities found in sustainability and climate initiatives developed with extensive community engagement,

namely, the City of Berkeley's [Climate Action Plan 2020 Update](#) and [Resilience Strategy](#); and UC Berkeley's [Sustainability Plan](#). Another useful tool are the [Equity Guardrails](#) found in the City's Existing Buildings Electrification Strategy. Projects or programs could focus on issues linked to energy-efficiency and renewable energy, water conservation/reuse, zero-waste programs, sustainable business operations, zero-carbon transportation, and/or climate justice and community resilience efforts. Applicants are also encouraged to refer to the [University of California's Justice Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(JEDI\) Centered Resilience Framework](#), a climate resilience planning framework that seeks to address existing inequities that make some communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

- **Leadership Development and Civic Engagement:** Proposals aligned with this theme aim to build the capacity of grassroots leaders to participate in, and set the direction of, neighborhood improvement strategies that impact their lives. While the Fund grants cannot be used to engage in lobbying, a wide range of civic engagement projects will be considered that prepare youth and adults to take leadership in a variety of public sector organizations and institutions. For example, internships and fellowships (in the offices of city officials and public agencies) that give participants an opportunity to get first-hand experience with public discourse and decision-making process; opportunities to contribute to community engagement and consultations, policy research, developing proposals for policy and program solutions; and community-driven leadership development and community organizing projects that give participants an opportunity to learn from and support resident led neighborhood improvement projects.

For more information on many of the previously funded partnerships and their projects, please visit the [Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund webpage](#).

Berkeley's Commitment to Serving the Public Good: Equity, Inclusion and Diversity:

The Fund is aligned with and seeks to further Berkeley's commitment to serving the public good which is outlined here: [Pathway to Excellence, Berkeley's Strategic Plan for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity](#). This plan "renews the campus's commitment to California, and to the world, to provide fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all. This is a commitment that lies at the heart of Berkeley's mission as a public university, and is a continuation of the campus's longtime role in advancing principles and policies for a democratic society. California's uniquely diverse demographics, combined with Berkeley's authentic desire to serve and learn from every sector of society, offers the University a chance to craft new models of institutional change. Our goal is to transform UC Berkeley into an equitable and inclusive academy of the highest caliber — one that fully honors the diversity of our students, faculty and staff, expands possibilities for those from underserved backgrounds and communities, and creates new fields of inquiry, knowledge, and exploration, with global reach and implications."

Land Acknowledgement

The Fund recognizes that Berkeley sits on the territory of Xučyun, the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo Ohlone, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Ohlone people. We recognize that every member of the Berkeley community has, and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this

land, since the institution's founding in 1868. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university's relationship to Native peoples. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold University of California, Berkeley, more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples. An alternate spelling of Xučyun is Huchiun. Read more on the [Centers for Educational Justice & Community Engagement website](#).

Eligibility

Applicants:

Applicants, projects and/or programs must be based in the City of Berkeley and benefit Berkeley residents. The collaborative project, program or initiative that is proposed must include the active participation and partnership of at least one community and UC Berkeley partner.

Applicants must *either* be tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations *or* arrange for an eligible 501(c)(3) organization to serve as a fiscal sponsor. In the latter case, written confirmation by the 501(c)(3) organization of its willingness to act as fiscal agent is required.

Permits:

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate the capacity to secure any required permits and other such approvals from the City of Berkeley for projects that affect the city's infrastructure or take place on city property. If such permits and approvals are not secured by the application due date, applicants must submit a Partnership Letter from the relevant City Department indicating support and that required permits are likely to be granted. The release of grant funding is contingent on securing the required approvals by the grant disbursement date.

Partnerships:

The Fund seeks to fund projects that foster, encourage and enhance significant partnership and collaboration between the university and the community. All projects and programs must include significant collaboration and partnership between at least one eligible community-based partner and one eligible university partner.

- Eligible community partners include but are not limited to:
 - Neighborhood, civic and merchant associations
 - Primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools
 - Community-based organizations, such as social service and faith-based organizations
 - Local governmental departments, agencies and commissions
- Eligible university partners include:
 - UC Berkeley departments and/or faculty
 - Non-academic campus departments and/or staff
 - Students and/or student organizations (at least one staff or faculty advisor is required to work in support of student-led partnerships)

Applicants should begin identifying and contacting potential partners early in their planning process to ensure at least one campus and community partner is secured prior to submission of the proposal.

Assistance in connecting with potential university partners will be provided by the UC Berkeley's Office of Local Government and Community Relations (GCR).

Tribal partners and meaningful planning and decision-making processes

The Fund is committed to fostering a deeper understanding of and honoring tribal sovereignty. For any project for which a "community partner" includes Indigenous leader(s), organization(s), and/or Tribe(s); for any project that proposes to work with, represent, or include perspectives of Indigenous peoples; or for any project that may impact Indigenous communities' rights; especially those of California Native peoples and East Bay Ohlone communities, the project proposal must clearly demonstrate how Indigenous leader(s), organization(s), and/or Tribe(s) are *meaningfully involved in planning and decision making processes from the project's inception*.

In order to enhance collaboration, reasonable stipends may be awarded to university and/or community partners to secure participation and provide specialized expertise.

Application Process and Guidelines

Application Review and Evaluation

The Fund's Advisory Board, whose members include representatives from the city, community and University, will review applications and select partnerships to receive funding. The Advisory Board may also provide written feedback to some applicants with the goal of creating and strengthening partnerships between the community and the campus.

The Advisory Board will review and score applications using the following criteria: Strength and depth of partnership; support of Fund's mission and goals, including alignment with locally developed equity-driven policies and initiatives; project design and implementation plan; direct benefit to the Berkeley community; organizational experience and capacity to implement the proposed project; budget and ability to leverage additional funds.

Submission Guidelines

Planning Grant and Full Grant applications must be submitted electronically to the Fund **no later than February 6, 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please email completed application to calpartnershipfund@berkeley.edu.

Funding Terms and Restrictions

Award Amount and Duration:

Recently, the range of Fund grants has been between \$5,000 and \$25,000, with most awards between \$10,000 and \$15,000. However, under special but rare circumstances, we will consider grants for larger amounts. Planning grants will receive between \$2000 and \$4000.

For the 2026-2027 grant cycle, approximately \$330,000 will be allocated for distribution. The Fund is not required to fully allocate all available funds during each grant cycle. Unallocated funds will be carried forward for future distribution.

Funding will be allocated on an annual basis. And at this time the Fund is only awarding one-year grants.

Grant timelines will be roughly August 2026 to August 2027. Funding will typically be available after July 1, 2026 to ensure partnerships can begin their work as the fall semester begins.

To avoid dependency on the Fund, projects or programs that re-apply for a consecutive year of funding must demonstrate they are not solely reliant on the partnership grants and that they are effectively leveraging resources from other sources.

Terms and Conditions:

Grant recipients will be required to execute a Terms and Conditions document before funds will be disbursed as well as become an approved [UC Berkeley Vendor](#).

Reporting:

Grants must submit a progress report (due by February 26, 2027) and a final project report (due by September 30, 2027).

Restrictions:

Funding may not be used for the following activities and expenses:

- a. Political programs or activities to support, change, lobby, or otherwise influence legislation and/or ballot measures, elect candidates to public office, or other political issues.
- b. Religious activities; however, religious institutions may apply for funding for nonsectarian projects.
- c. Any organization that discriminates on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or political affiliation. The Fund may support organizations and projects that target groups that have been subject to historical discrimination.
- d. Deficit or emergency funding, debt reduction, loan repayment or retirement, or for project costs incurred before the effective date of the grant.
- e. Purchase or long-term real estate rental(s), lease(s), or sub-lease(s).
- f. Projects that exclusively benefit UC Berkeley faculty, staff, or students. (University faculty, staff and students are eligible, as are community partners, for reasonable stipend amounts for their work on approved projects.)
- g. Purchase of alcoholic beverages.

Recognition and Publicity:

Grant recipients are encouraged to recognize the Fund's support for the project or program in their efforts to promote the project with media and public messaging. Toward this end, the logo of the University of California, Berkeley will be provided by the Fund to grant recipients. We also ask that grant recipients use the following language in promotional materials about the project: "This [project or program] was made possible by the generous support of the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund." Alternative language or images must be approved in writing by the Director of Local Government and Community Relations.

All funded projects or programs will be asked to provide copies of any printed, web-based or other publicity materials. The University of California, Berkeley retains the right to publish information about the Fund and its grant recipients in its own materials. The use of the name and logo of the University of California, Berkeley requires prior written approval.

Questions and Additional Information

If you have questions about the grant program or need assistance with a project idea, contact UC Berkeley's Office of Government and Community Relations by phone at (510) 387- 8639, or via email at calpartnershipfund@berkeley.edu.

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