

FY26 CPPS FAQ for Applicants

What is CPPS?

Community Projects, Programs, and Services, or CPPS, is a grant program that allows Councilmembers to award funding directly to nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and City departments for projects, programs, or services that benefit the city's neighborhoods and communities.

Who can apply for CPPS?

Tax-exempt or nonprofit organizations and public agencies for projects, programs, or services that serve a lawful public purpose to benefit the City's neighborhoods and communities and that can also meet the requirements of [Council Policy 100-06](#).

How much CPPS funding is available?

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes a \$900,000 allocation for CPPS. Funding is split evenly among the nine council offices, granting each Councilmember \$100,000 in discretionary CPPS budget. Funding requests and awards must be no less than \$1,500, and the median award last fiscal year was \$3,000.

When can I apply for CPPS?

The CPPS application will be open from **July 7, 2025, to August 7, 2025**, and will be available on our [webpage](#).

What are the application requirements?

- Hold a tax-exempt or nonprofit status with the [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#).
 - Possess an official tax-exempt determination letter.
- Be in good standing with the [California Secretary of State \(SOS\)](#).
- Be in good standing with the [California Attorney General \(AG\)](#).
 - Some entities may be exempted by the AG.
- Be financially solvent.
 - Provide an annual return, such as an IRS Form 990 (may be substituted for newer nonprofits).
- Be able to disclose all sources of organizational funding.
- Be able to adequately describe the project, program, or service and how it provides a public benefit to San Diego.

Can I apply for multiple projects?

Yes, an eligible applicant may submit as many applications as they would like. We ask that applicants submit individual applications for each unique project, but projects that are closely connected or part of a series may be consolidated in one application.

Can I request funding from multiple Councilmembers?

Yes, applicants will have the option to request funds from as many Councilmembers as they'd like within the application. An applicant may request funds from as few as one Councilmember or as many as all nine for a project.

What are the permissible uses of CPPS funds?

1. Capital improvements performed on *private* property.
 - a. Facilities must be open to the public and not require membership.
 - b. Capital improvement projects cannot be performed on *public* property.
 - c. Projects with a total cost of above \$15,000 involving alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work and with a total cost of above \$25,000 involving new construction work will be subject to prevailing wage laws.
 - i. The contractor performing the work must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) if applicable.
 - ii. Compliance with prevailing wage law involves several additional regulations.
2. The purchase, installation, repair, or maintenance of equipment, materials, goods, or supplies, including those in support of technology or educational services.
 - a. You cannot purchase surveillance technology, such as security cameras.
 - b. Expenses must not be part of a public works project.
3. The staging of social, environmental, educational, cultural, or recreational community programming or events.
 - a. Ticketed events are allowed if they are open to the public.
4. The purchase of food or beverages *only if they are provided to individuals or families in need*.
 - a. For example, a food bank or homeless shelter may purchase food or beverages for their clients, but you cannot use funds to purchase food and beverages for an event like a block party.
5. In support of ongoing operational expenses.

Eligible expenses are **only** those closely related to Section 2 of the application as enclosed in the final, signed funding agreement. Please be sure to include all anticipated expenses or expense categories in the application. We recommend being as broad and specific as possible in the "Use of City Funds" section of the application.

What are the *impermissible* uses of CPPS funds?

CPPS funds **cannot** be used for any purpose prohibited by laws governing the use of public funds, including private, political, religious, or fundraising purposes or activities.

- The hosting or attendance of a fundraising gala is **not** a permissible use of CPPS funds.
- Applicants that focus in one of these areas may still receive funds if the relevant programming does not explicitly involve those categories. For example, a church may receive a CPPS award for a project that does not include an explicitly religious component.

What are some examples of projects that have been funded?

- Mama's Kitchen: Medically Tailored Meal Service
- San Diego Unified School District: Memorial Plaque at Valencia Park Elementary
- Persian Cultural Center: Nowruz Persian New Year
- Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce: IT and Software Support / Street Banners
- Somali Bantu Association of America: Youth Program Director

These are just a few of the hundreds of diverse projects that have been awarded CPPS funds. Grantees have received funding for everything from community events to payroll expenses. All prior funding awards are available to view on the [CPPS webpage](#).

How can I give myself the best opportunity for success?

CPPS awards are made at the discretion of each Councilmember and their office – our team is not involved in funding decisions. We encourage applicants with questions regarding funding priorities to contact the council offices that they plan to request funding from.

When will awards be announced?

We expect to announce the grant awards by the end of **October 2025**, though dates are subject to change.

When will I receive funding?

Grant funds are disbursed to grantees in good standing once the award is approved by the full City Council and the funding agreement is signed by all parties. We expect this process to be complete in **March 2025**, though dates are subject to change.