

## FY27 ACCF Companion FAQ for Applicants

### What is ACCF?

The Arts, Culture, and Community Festivals, or ACCF, City Council funding program is a reimbursement-based grant that allows Councilmembers to award funding directly to private nonprofit organizations for programs, projects, or events that support local arts and culture.

### Who can apply for ACCF?

Tax-exempt or nonprofit organizations that produce programs, projects, or events promoting local arts and culture and that meet the requirements of [Council Policy 100-23](#). Those receiving TOT-funded grants in a *non-arts* related area, such as through the Economic Development Department, are precluded from applying for ACCF funding.

### How much ACCF funding is available?

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget includes a \$450,000 allocation for ACCF. Funding is split evenly among the nine council offices, with \$50,000 allocated to each Councilmember. Funding requests and awards must be no less than \$1,500.

### When can I apply for ACCF?

The ACCF application will be open from **July 7, 2026, to August 7, 2026**, and will be available on our [webpage](#).

### What are the two types of applications?

The **Abbreviated Application** is for organizations that have been awarded a FY27 CCSD or OSP grant. This option allows applicants to request additional funding that would be added to their existing CCSD or OSP agreement, which continues to be administered by the Cultural Affairs Department.

The **Full Application** is for organizations requesting funding for a new project that supports local arts and culture. If awarded, the funding is issued through a new contract between the grantee and the City, managed by Council Administration.

The **full application** requires the submission of supplemental documentation, including the following:

- [Proof of Nonprofit Status \(IRS\)](#)
- [Proof of good standing with the CA Secretary of State](#)
- [Proof of good standing with the CA Attorney General](#)
- IRS Form 990, 990EZ, or 990N

- [Certification for a Drug Free Workplace](#)
- [EOC Workforce Report](#)
- [IRS Form W-9](#)

The **abbreviated application** does not require the submission of any supplemental documentation.

### **Can I apply using both applications?**

Applicants receiving FY27 CCSD or OSP funding must apply using the Abbreviated application only. Applicants not receiving FY27 CCSD or OSP funding may only complete the full application.

### **Can I apply for multiple projects?**

Yes, an eligible applicant may submit multiple applications. We ask that applicants submit individual applications for each unique project, but projects that are closely connected may be consolidated.

### **Can I request funding from multiple Councilmembers?**

Yes, applicants will have the option to request funds from as many Councilmembers as they would like within the application. An applicant may request funds from as few as one Councilmember to as many as all nine.

### **Can I apply for both ACCF and CPPS?**

Yes, applicants may receive both ACCF and CPPS awards with no conflict. Only those receiving TOT-funded grants in a *non-arts* related area, such as through the Economic Development Department, are precluded from applying for ACCF funding.

### **How is ACCF different from CPPS?**

ACCF awards are focused on arts and culture and have a narrower set of eligible activities, whereas CPPS awards are for community projects generally and have a broader set of eligible activities. CPPS awards are paid on an upfront basis, whereas ACCF payments are paid only on a reimbursement-basis.

### **What are the permissible uses of ACCF funds?**

1. **Organizational Support:** Funds may be awarded to provide ongoing operating support for eligible organizations that emphasize the delivery of programs and services that positively impact quality of life and tourism in San Diego.

2. **Project/Event Support:** Funds may be awarded to support community-based events with an emphasis on projects and events which promote neighborhood pride and community reinvestment.

Eligible program expenses will be those closely related to the Project/Program/Service Summary in Section 2 of the approved application, particularly the Use of City Funds section. All expenses must be incurred within the City's Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

#### **What are the *impermissible* uses of ACCF funds?**

ACCF funds cannot be used for purposes that are not provided for by the application as enclosed in the executed funding Agreement. Funds cannot be used for any purpose prohibited by laws governing the use of public funds, including for private, political, religious, or fundraising purposes or activities. Funds also cannot be used for food, beverages, or travel.

#### **What are some examples of projects that have been funded?**

- Barnard PTA: Annual Lunar New Year Festival
- San Diego Parks Foundation: I Love My Park Day
- Black San Diego Empowering Our Community: Jazz in the Garden
- San Diego International Sister Cities Association: World Design Capital Indigenous Forum

These are just a few of the hundreds of diverse projects that have been awarded ACCF funds. All prior funding awards are available to view on our [webpage](#).

#### **How can I give myself the best opportunity for success?**

ACCF awards are made at the discretion of each Councilmember and their office – Council Administration is not involved in funding decisions. We strongly encourage applicants to contact the council offices from which they are requesting funding to better understand their funding priorities. We also ask that you provide prompt responses to any inquiries from our department to ensure an efficient process.

#### **When will the awards be announced?**

We expect to announce FY27 ACCF grant recipients by the end of November 2026, though this may be subject to change.

#### **When would I receive funding if awarded?**

ACCF funding is provided only on a reimbursement basis, and funds are disbursed at the end of the fiscal year once reporting documentation (Request for Reimbursement Payment) is reviewed and approved. Typically, this process would be from May to September of 2027.

ACCF awards are not guaranteed and should be considered tentative until the award is passed by the full City Council and a funding Agreement is signed by all parties. Grantees must also remain in good standing by meeting the following criteria:

1. Remain in good standing as a tax-exempt entity with all relevant agencies:
  - a. [California Secretary of State \(SOS\)](#)
  - b. [California Attorney General \(AG\)](#)
  - c. [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#)
2. Provide timely responses to any inquiries from City staff.

**Important Note:**

Applicants who complete the abbreviated application (CCSD/OSP recipients) and are awarded funding will have their allocation added to their total award through a contract amendment with the Cultural Affairs Department. As such, these awardees should follow the department's reporting requirements. Our department is not involved in these awards once they are approved.

Please remain cognizant of updates on the [ACCF webpage](#) or emails sent from [ACCF@sandiego.gov](mailto:ACCF@sandiego.gov) and your assigned grant coordinator.