Vernon CommUNITY Fund

Notice of Available Funding

The Vernon CommUNITY Fund (VCF) is pleased to announce the availability of funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27. Potential applicants are encouraged to reach out to the VCF management team at VCF@cityofvernonca.gov for instructions on how to apply. The following information appears on the web site at www.vernoncommunityfund.org along with more details about the history of the fund, eligibility requirements, and other specifics regarding the application process.

Background

Founded in 1905 as the first exclusively industrial city in the Southwestern United States the City of Vernon is an industrial city of 5.2 square miles located several miles to the southeast of Downtown Los Angeles in Southern California. Vernon currently houses more than 1,800 businesses that employ approximately 50,000 people and serves as a vital economic engine in the region. Vernon maintains strong philanthropic ties with the neighboring communities where much of its workforce lives, providing significant financial support for direct services.

The VCF contributes to the health, well-being and quality of life in surrounding communities. The Fund is administered by a diverse group of appointed volunteers serving as the Grant Committee which reviews and approves applications from community and faith-based organizations as well as local governments.

VCF Mission

The Vernon CommUNITY Fund provides charitable contributions to community-based organizations and governmental agencies in support of efforts to improve the quality of life, strengthen families and affirm Vernon's ties with neighboring communities in pursuit of bright futures.

Goals:

- To strengthen and support nonprofit organizations that benefit residents and neighborhoods
- To encourage and inspire positive social development in Vernon and neighboring communities
- To support and assist organizations that expand opportunities for training and development of residents for potential employment in businesses located in Vernon and surrounding communities
- To promote positive social development of children, youth, families and senior residents in Vernon and surrounding areas
- To promote effective and responsible leadership at every level of society

Values:

- Shared responsibility for the well-being of Vernon's neighbors now and into the future
- Integrity and accountability for fair decisions using high ethical standards
- Unity of purpose and commitment to succeed in fulfilling the Fund's mission

Funding Guidelines

The VCF considers general operating and project funding for nonprofit organizations that help support programs that promote community advancement through youth development, legal services, housing, the arts, education, workforce training, addressing food insecurity, and more.

For fiscal year 2026-27, the VCF Grant Committee will prioritize grant applications from organizations which offer the following services:

- Legal aid
- Workforce Development
- Youth support

Smaller organizations who offer these services operate with budgets less than $3 million dollars, and administrative costs not exceeding 12% are encouraged to apply for funding this grant cycle.

Eligibility and Application Process

Direct service grants are provided to organizations located in the area served by the VCF, or whose services directly benefit residents in the Vernon Area (which includes the cities of Bell, Commerce, Huntington Park, Maywood, Vernon, and the areas known as East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights). Please review full eligibility requirements at www.vernoncommunityfund.org before applying to the VCF.

VCF applications for FY 2026–27 will be accepted until Friday, September 18, 2026.

The City of Vernon will distribute approximately $230,000 for VCF direct service grants in FY 2026-27, and awards are anticipated to be within the range of $15,000 - $20,000 per organization.

Applicants who meet the requirements will be notified by a grants manager for further review of the application.

FY 2026-27 Timeline

Tuesday, July 14	Release of Notice of Fund Availability
Wednesday, August 5	VCF Grant Workshop
Friday, September 18	Deadline to submit grant applications
Wednesday, November 18	Regular VCF Grant Committee meeting – Grant awards determined

For additional information, please contact VCF@cityofvernonca.gov or call (323) 293-7074.