



2017 LEAF Grant Application

Restoration, Conservation & Best Practices

The Santa Barbara Foundation LEAF (Landscapes, Ecosystems, Agriculture, Food Systems) initiative seeks to increase community resiliency by preserving and enhancing the landscapes and systems that sustain nature, human health and our economy. The LEAF strategy includes development of a countywide Food Action Plan and a Conservation Blueprint. In support of the initiative, the foundation is offering grants to help strengthen the local food system, increase agricultural sustainability, and support land conservation, habitat restoration and ecosystem health.

Focus & Priority

The **Restoration, Conservation and Best Practices** grants are to support habitat and ecosystem restoration, land conservation and innovative practices in agriculture, fisheries and resource management or conservation. This component of the LEAF grant program provides funding to ensure momentum for projects already underway, seed or kick-start new efforts, build capacity for future phases of larger projects, take advantage of emerging opportunities, and leverage funds or fulfill local matching grant requirements. Projects may be on public or private lands or include government or private sector partners where there is a clear link for greater community benefit and alignment with a conservation strategy or community-driven planning effort.

In 2017, Restoration, conservation and Best Practices grants will be subject to availability after first priority grants are awarded that align with the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan. It is strongly recommended that Restoration, Conservation and Best Practices grant applications call to discuss their projects in advance of submittal.

2017 Priority: First priority for LEAF grants will be given to **Food Systems** projects that align with one or more of the 16 goals and related strategies of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan (SBFAP). The Plan was released last year and project partners Community Environmental Council, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and the LEAF Initiative are working to grow community capacity in order to create positive change in the local food system. To review the SBFAP please see: sbfoundation.com/leaf. PLEASE SEE SEPARATE GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR LEAF FOOD SYSTEM GRANTS.

Types of Support

Grants are available for:

- Community-based **restoration projects** in wetlands and streams, coastal areas, grasslands, woodlands and other natural areas.
- Early stage investigation or closing costs for **land conservation** efforts.
- Piloting or expanding projects that demonstrate **best practices** in conservation, agriculture, grazing or fisheries.

The strongest projects will:

- Create or expand partnerships, networks and collaborations for greater efficiencies, better delivery of services, or fresh approaches to solve problems or address needs, gaps, or opportunities.
- Incorporate a community involvement, awareness or education element.
- Align with or are part of a larger plan or strategy (internal or external to an organization).

Funding Amounts and Duration

Grant awards up to \$20,000. Application deadlines are July 17 and October 2, 2017. An applicant may submit a proposal in one of the two cycles.

The grant period is up to one year from the award date. A final report is required and is due within 13 months of the grant award, preferably no later than 30 days following the project completion.

Criteria by Project Type

Restoration Project Criteria:

- Projects must have clearly defined goals and outcomes, and a strategy and timeline in place for achieving the stated goals. If the project is part of a larger or longer-term effort, the applicant must demonstrate how the project relates to subsequent work.
- Projects must have (or be close to securing) all permits and landowner approvals/agreements, and be “shovel ready” within the one-year grant cycle beginning from date of award.
- Projects should provide ecological value, aesthetic improvements or appropriately placed public access (trails, pathways, etc.). This may include restoration of habitat for specific species or general habitat types, or for accommodation of passive recreation and education for people.
- Organization and/or project partners demonstrate capacity to manage scale and scope of the project.
- Matching or leveraged funding is recommended. Request amounts should appropriately reflect the scale of the project.

Conservation Project Criteria:

- Projects must have clearly defined strategies and timeline.
- Projects should align with a conservation plan or strategy and be recognized as a valuable component of a longer-term plan or vision. This may include providing permanent (or long-term) protection for lands with high ecological or agriculture value, fulfilling a critical link for species, habitats or ecosystem function, or providing passive and educational access for people. Allowable projects include:
 - Planning, feasibility and study phases for new projects or emerging opportunities for early phases of land acquisition or easements. This may include good-faith deposits to begin landowner negotiations, appraisals or other land use investigations.
 - Closing or completion costs for land acquisition or easement purchase projects.
- The organization and/or project partners demonstrate expertise and capacity in negotiating land deals, and have capacity to manage the scale and scope of the project to fruition

Best Practices Project Criteria:

- Projects must have clearly defined goals and outcomes, and a strategy and timeline in place for achieving the stated goals. If the project is part of a larger or longer-term effort, the applicant must demonstrate how the project relates to future work, including a financial sustainability concept or strategy for scaling up the project.
- Project planning, implementation or investigation/research of best practices or innovative approaches must address a specific challenge or opportunity in achieving sustainable practices for Santa Barbara County agriculture, grazing, fisheries or resource conservation.
- Pilot implementation or facility improvement projects should serve as a model that can be replicated and/or scaled up in the future.
- Projects with collaborative partners will be most competitive for funding.

Grant Limitations

LEAF Grants are not made for:

- Direct purchase of land or easements
- Direct support to government agencies or private landowners (grantees must be a 501(c)(3) organization and serve as the primary project lead agency; public or private entities may be part of a collaboration)
- Permitting and application fees
- General operating support

Please visit the [Community Grants FAQs](#) for a complete list of what the foundation does not fund.

Eligibility Requirements

- Organizations must be certified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or use a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) tax status. **Applications that do not contain a valid EIN (tax ID) number will not be considered.** Organizations using a fiscal agent are asked to include a one-page letter signed by the fiscal agent's executive director signifying the intent to serve as such and describing the relationship between the two groups.
- The foundation accepts applications from public entities such as schools, universities, and libraries through an affiliate or supporting 501(c)(3) organization. Please see the [Community Grants FAQs](#) for additional qualifying information and instructions.
- An agency acting as the fiscal sponsor on behalf of a community collaborative may be eligible to submit proposals on behalf of its own agency needs as well as the needs of the collaborative. Please contact Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investments, at (805) 963-1873 or smain@sbfoundation.org for additional qualifying information and instructions.

Application Process

To download the application, go to sbfoundation.org/leaf and select **LEAF Grants**. Using the **Save As** feature, save the application to your computer. **Please use only the space allotted. Expanding the text boxes on the application form will result in unreadable content.**

The application packet will include the following documents:

- Grant application
- Board of directors roster
- Project budget

Additional materials such as project or site maps or photos may be included as part of your electronic submission.

If you experience technical difficulties downloading the application, please try the following:

1. Click on this link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>
2. Download the latest version of Adobe Reader (click on **Install Now**)
3. Restart your computer

Submittal Procedures

1. Applications are accepted electronically via email.
2. Attach your completed application along with the additional required documents in an email using the **Attach File** feature.
3. Include the name of your organization and the name of the grant program you are applying to in the email subject line. (Example: SBF LEAF Grant Application)
4. Email the materials to: leafgrants@sbfoundation.org.
(NOTE: You will receive an automatic response email when your grant application has been received. This will guarantee that your application has been submitted successfully.)

Important Dates

2017 LEAF Grant Deadlines:
July 17, 2017
October 2, 2017

Contact Information

For questions about the LEAF Grant program and funding eligibility, please contact Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investments, at (805) 963-1873 or smain@sbfoundation.org.