



## Explore Whitefish Grant Program - FY 22/23

Explore Whitefish awards funds for two types of grants:

**Community Enhancement Grant:** Funds are awarded for projects/programs/events that demonstrate the ability to strengthen the community of Whitefish and to enhance the visitor/community experience during the shoulder and winter seasons consistent with the [WCVB Annual Marketing Plan](#) while focusing on the Key Pillars of the [Whitefish Sustainable Tourism Management Plan](#) of Community Character, Livability and Community Engagement. Recreation amenity/access improvements will also be an appropriate project for the Community Enhancement grant.

A key component of a successful application to the Community Enhancement Grant is for the applicant to demonstrate the support of the community and tourism partners.

*Open to all Explore Whitefish Member Businesses and Montana non-profit organizations.*

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**Sustainability Grant:** \*New this year\* This program is designed to provide Explore Whitefish business members who collect the Community Sustainability Fund with support for programs and projects which facilitate sustainable business and community practices. Potential programs and projects could include things like recycling and composting, but are certainly not limited to these areas.

A key component of a successful application to the Sustainability Grants program is for the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed project is a business practice that is demonstrated to be both sustainable and beneficial to the community as a whole. Examples include projects that provide waste reduction including sound recycling practices, composting & reuse/repurposing of products used in their business, reduction in energy usage, or reduction in human/wildlife conflict. This is by no means a complete list but a starting point.

Unlike the Community Enhancement Grant, this is a 1:1 matching fund grant program. The applicant match must be "hard" dollars, an actual money investment in the project that has already been secured. The cash match is \$1 (or more) for grantee: \$1 Explore Whitefish (up to \$5,000.) The average grant award is expected to be about \$2,500

*Open to Explore Whitefish Member Businesses who collect the 1% Community Sustainability Funds (CSF) as part of their membership.*

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Applications open: **August 1, 2022**

Applications close: **November 1, 2022**

From the date of award, funded applicants have 1 year to complete the project and expend the funds. For detailed information see actual grant application(s).