



2026 Innovation Grants
San Diego Mesa College Foundation

Innovation Grant Fact Sheet

To access submit a proposal: <https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26>

To preview the questions: [https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26 Application Questions](https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26_Application_Questions)

For questions about the grant or grant process, or to schedule Office Hours with the Innovation Grants Program Officer, please contact:

MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu

Through a competitive process, San Diego Mesa College Foundation will award up to \$3,000 in Innovation Grants to the faculty and classified professionals of Mesa College. These grants will support the development and execution of innovative projects that positively impact student success.

Grants will be awarded in January 2026, with a grant term of one year. Preference will be given to projects that did not receive Innovation Grant funding in 2025, and which support activities beyond professional development. For the 2025 grant cycle, you will be required to submit documentation of support from the applicable Dean. A template for this letter is available on the grant information site. It is recommended that you request these letters of support at least 1 week before the submission deadline.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a proposal must:

- Align with the Foundation's core purpose of supporting the goals and achievements of San Diego Mesa College students;
- Align with at least one of Mesa's 2030 strategic goals: Completion; Scholarship; Community; Pathways and Partnerships; and Stewardship (see: <https://bit.ly/Mesa2030Goals>);
- Address a significant challenge faced by Mesa College students or provide impactful opportunities;
- Be submitted by a faculty member or classified professional of San Diego Mesa College;
- Receive support from appropriate Dean;
- Be submitted by the deadline of **Friday, November 7, 2025**.
- Note: The same project is not typically awarded more than one year in a row.

Eligible Expenses

- Supplies for a special project
- Equipment
- Outreach to students or events
- Experiential learning for students

Non-eligible Expenses

- Stipends/salary for staff

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Review Process

Proposals are evaluated by a panel of external reviewers from the Foundation board. Decisions are made based on criteria such as meeting Mesa's 2030 strategic goals, impacting student success, and delivering innovation. This is a competitive process, and unfortunately not all proposals will receive funding.

Grant Term

The grant term runs from January 2026, when award announcements are made, until December 2026. Funds will be disbursed by January 31, 2026. All proposed grant activities, included expenditure of awarded funds, must occur within the grant term.

Timeline

- ***Grant submission deadline: 11:59 pm on Friday, November 7, 2025***
- Anticipated Award Announcements: January 2026
- Grant Term: January 2026 - December 2026

Collaboration, Promotion and Reporting

Grantees are encouraged to collaborate with the San Diego Mesa College Foundation via opportunities to volunteer or receive recognition for support. Additionally, grantees are required to sign an agreement and make a short written or visual report/summary about the impact of the grant after the project is completed. Recipients may be asked to make a presentation to the Foundation Board of Directors.

Application Form

Grants must be submitted via the Application Portal: <https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26>

Any applications received via email will not be considered.

Please prepare your application using the Application Template document, as the Application Portal will not allow you to save your responses. The Application Template is available to download here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26_Application_Questions

You must attach documentation of support from the relevant Dean. Applications without documentation of support will not be considered. A letter of support template is available to download here:

Download: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26_Dean_Letter

You are responsible for soliciting this support. You may use the Proposal Summary form to facilitate your request. Download here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26_Summary_Sheet

It is recommended that you request these letters at least one week before the submission deadline.

Application Tips:

We encourage you to use a Theory of Change model for your grant proposals. If you are unfamiliar with this approach, it is discussed at approximately 0:31:50 in this webinar: <http://bit.ly/3KSY4JC>