



**CRITERIA FOR 2026 JULIE HAYES “RISING STAR”**  
**\$10,000**  
**PERFORMING ARTS GRANT**

**APPLICANT CRITERIA**

The program will fund the following types of activities:

Performing Arts ~ dance, music, opera, theatre, musical theatre, stagecraft, costume/makeup.

**Serving the Community of Gilroy, California**

**GRANT AMOUNT: \$10,000**

**2025-26 TIMELINE**

*Upcoming grant round: The grant deadline is December 12, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PST.*

*Application reviews and grantee announcements will take place in March 2026. We suggest that you email [grants@gilroyfoundation.org](mailto:grants@gilroyfoundation.org) to ensure its arrival.*

**GRANT NOTIFICATION/DISTRIBUTION**

March 2026

**ELIGIBILITY**

In reviewing and authorizing grants, the Foundation gives preference to projects of the following types, whether undertaken by existing agencies or by new agencies.

- Organizations must serve South Santa Clara County/specifically Gilroy and the surrounding area or San Martin and Morgan Hill.
- Organizations must have a 501(c)(3) designation or have a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)(3) designation.
- Organizations must not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, religious affiliation, age gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, or any other protected status.
- Organizations with religious affiliations will be considered for funding only if the project for which they seek support addresses the needs of the wider community without regard to religious beliefs.

**FUNDING EXEMPTIONS**

Funding will not be provided for:

Capital Improvements

Budget shortfalls or fundraising events

Previously planned or long-term campaigns

Funding gaps due to organizational emergencies, such as office vandalism, resignation of an executive director or sudden loss of funding

*The application is streamlined to reduce time spent on applying and processing. The grant review process will be expedited and only one application may be submitted per organization.*