

Community Focus Statement G: Reinforce the sense of “community”.

Action Statement G.5: Partner with appropriate agencies in pursuing grant and other financing opportunities to fund local improvement projects.

G.5

Benchmark: Finance infrastructure and facility improvements through grant funding or special district fees.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on the projects proposed



Capital improvement grants could help maintain roads, along with many other public facilities. Photo source: Michael Baker International

In order to fund improvement projects in the Joshua Tree community, all avenues of grant funding should be explored. Grants are available from the federal and state governments and from a variety of private foundations or corporations. Grants could be secured to fund infrastructure improvements, facility construction, or education programs, depending on community desires.

Receiving grants is a good way to build an organization’s visibility and credibility, and once the Joshua Tree community receives one grant, others are likely to follow. Community members should identify projects they are interested in pursuing and then complete research on potential grant funding. Focus should be placed on the proposed project’s or program’s strategic plan, vision, and

mission. Many grants have specific stipulations on what the money could be used for, and there could be time limits or other conditions for their use. Joshua Tree may want to designate a community member volunteer as a grant writer or seek the help of a professional grant writer in partnership with the County of San Bernardino.

In addition, another source of funding is through local dollars. The Joshua Tree CSA currently is a special district for parks and recreation services. Expanding its role through formation of other special districts to fund projects would allow the community to assess property owners to raise capital for programs and services.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Reach out to community members with nonprofit or grant writing experience to create a grant writing committee and assist in securing funding for the community.	Champion	Year 1	1178BGrants.gov 1179B https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html
2. Offer services to community groups working on facility and infrastructure needs	Grant writing committee	Year 1	1180BSociety for Nonprofits 1181B https://www.snpo.org/funding/grants.php
3. Complete research and match projects with applicable grants.	Grant writing committee	Annually	1182BUS Government Grants
4. Apply for applicable grants.	Grant writing committee	Annually	1183B https://www.grants.gov
5. If the grants are received, begin project initiation. If the grant is not awarded, request a debrief meeting with the grant foundation to understand why it was not awarded and what could be improved upon next time.	Grant writing committee, with County support	Annually	1184BSan Bernardino County Special Districts 1185B http://www.specialdistricts.org/
6. Optional funding is through a special district.	Joshua Tree CSA, Special Districts Department	Annually	Academy for Grassroots Organizations http://www.academygo.com/