

Willamette University Community Action Fund for Equity and Sustainability (CAFES)

Funding Precedents for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

This document outlines additional funding restrictions established by the CAFES Committee for the 2025-2026 school year. These restrictions supplement the existing CAFES principles and application process, which remain unchanged. The additional restrictions outlined here are reviewed on a yearly basis and may be adjusted to reflect the committee's evolving priorities and available resources.

I. General Funding Principles

The following principles are the same as CAFES has always upheld and continue to guide all funding decisions:

- Projects must align with the CAFES mission to advance equity, sustainability, and climate action within the Willamette University community.
- Longevity, long-term maintenance, and sustainability.
- Level of support from and engagement of relevant students, faculty, and staff.
- Benefit to the Willamette campus community.
- Effective use of funds.
- Demonstration of commitment to the project through extensive planning.

These principles remain in effect as usual. The funding restrictions below are specific to the 2025-2026 academic year, established in response to annual budget considerations.

II. Additional Funding Restrictions for 2025-2026

To maximize impact with our current budget, the following restrictions apply this year:

1. **No Food or Catering Costs**
CAFES will not fund food, beverages, or catering for any project or event.
 - This ensures funds are prioritized for direct project outcomes.
2. **No Student Leadership Awards or General Compensation for Applicants**
CAFES will not fund student leadership awards or any compensation for applicants.
 - CAFES prioritizes resources for expenses that have a direct and measurable impact on project outcomes. Leadership awards do not align with this priority, as they do not constitute essential project costs or contribute directly to the success of the initiative.
3. **Long-term Project Materials**
CAFES may fund materials and equipment if they are essential and will remain in use beyond the project or event.

- Preference will be given to reusable, shareable, or repurposable items, as these extend the impact of funding and promote sustainability.

III. Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Eligible:

- General and necessary project materials with justification (e.g., art supplies, compost bins, signage, speaker fees)
- Educational resources (e.g., printing, outreach materials)

Ineligible:

- Food, drinks, and catering
- Student leadership awards or compensation for general involvement
- Personal items or gifts
- Lodging and vehicle expenses

IV. Additional Application Considerations

- These restrictions are reviewed annually and may be adjusted depending on the needs of specific projects. The list provided here reflects the general restrictions for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Applicants are highly encouraged to meet with the proposal consultant to confirm eligibility, ask questions, and strengthen their applications.
- We encourage a thorough review of our website to identify any other potential funding sources on campus that could partially support your project.
- Before requesting new items, please check what resources are already available on the Willamette campus. For example, WITS or Facilities may already have the equipment or materials you need. CAFES prioritizes sustainability and responsible budgeting, so applicants should use existing resources whenever possible rather than purchasing new materials unnecessarily.