



Now Accepting Applications: Spring 2025 OVNF Grant Opportunity
Strengthening Independent Journalism Across Ventura County

The **Ojai Valley News Foundation (OVNF)** is excited to announce its **Spring 2025 Grant Cycle**, supporting independently owned, adjudicated newspapers serving Ventura County. A total of **\$15,000 in grant funding** is available, with awards issued **on or before May 31, 2025**.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2025

Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis as applications are approved.

Who Should Apply?

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Independently owned and operated newspapers
- Located in and serving Ventura County
- Adjudicated for legal publication

How to Apply

Eligible newspapers may submit **up to three one-page proposals** (one page per funding request). Submissions may be sent by **mail or email** and must include:

- Company and newspaper name
- Owner/publisher name and full contact information
- A description of how the requested funds will be used
- A link to or copy of your newspaper



Send Applications To:

Ojai Valley News Foundation

via email: LW@VenturaMusicFestival.org

Or by Mail to:

OVNF Grants

C/O Lalé Welsh, OVNF Board Chairperson.

111 W. Topa Topa St. Ojai, CA 93023

Available Grant Categories

1. Local or Investigative Reporting Grant – Up to \$3,000

Support for hiring freelancers or independent contractors to produce 3–6 in-depth local news or investigative stories. Designed to fund approximately 100–150 hours of reporting and writing.

2. Technology Upgrade Grant – Up to \$2,500

Funding for hardware or software purchases to enhance your newsroom’s capacity to produce and deliver local news efficiently.

3. Emergency Information Special Section – Up to \$5,000

Funding to create a 4–8 page insert focused on fire preparedness and emergency response.

Proposals should include:

- List of intended sources
- Estimated audience reach (print and digital)
- A brief marketing and distribution plan

Grant Recipient Commitments

All grantees are expected to:



- Acknowledge OVNF sponsorship in all grant-supported content
- Share OVNF donation information on their website throughout 2025
- Publish a short announcement (100–300 words) about the grant award
- Submit a one-page final report, including links or copies of funded content, by **December 15, 2025**

Let's work together to keep local journalism thriving in Ventura County.

Note: The Ojai Valley News Foundation will be working under a new name, The Ventura County News Foundation.

##

We respectfully ask that you review the following legal requirements, and return a signed copy prior to receipt of funds. This can be submitted with your application to save time.

**Ojai Valley News Foundation
Grant Agreement – Terms of Compliance and Fund Reimbursement**

This Grant Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the **Ojai Valley News Foundation** ("OVNF") and the grant recipient ("Grantee") whose name and details are included in the award notification letter.

By accepting this grant, Grantee agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Use of Grant Funds



Grantee agrees to use grant funds solely for the purpose(s) outlined in the approved grant application submitted to OVNF. Any deviation from the approved use must receive prior written consent from OVNF.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements

Grantee shall comply with the following obligations:

- Properly acknowledge OVNF as a sponsor in any and all content, materials, and products funded through the grant;
- Display OVNF donation information prominently on the newspaper's website throughout the 2025 calendar year;
- Publish a brief press release (100–300 words) announcing the grant award;
- Submit a final report by **December 15, 2025**, including links or copies of all funded content or deliverables.

3. Right to Audit

OVNF reserves the right to request reasonable documentation substantiating how grant funds were expended. Grantee agrees to provide such documentation upon request within 30 calendar days.

4. Misuse of Funds and Breach

In the event that OVNF, in its sole discretion, determines that:

- Funds were not used in accordance with the approved application;
- The Grantee failed to complete the required reporting or obligations;
- Any part of the grant was used for unauthorized or unrelated purposes;
- Fraud, misrepresentation, or gross negligence occurred in connection with the grant;

then OVNF may, at its discretion, issue a **Notice of Breach** requiring the Grantee to return all or a portion of the funds awarded.

5. Return of Funds



Upon receiving a Notice of Breach, the Grantee shall return the specified funds to OVNF within **45 days** unless otherwise agreed in writing. Failure to do so may result in legal action to recover the funds, and Grantee may be ineligible for future funding.

6. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Any disputes arising under this Agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts located in Ventura County, California.

7. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between OVNF and the Grantee with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes all prior agreements or communications, whether oral or written.

Accepted and Agreed:

Grantee Name: _____
Organization/Newspaper: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Ojai Valley News Foundation Representative:
Name/Title: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____



