Caring for Colorado Informational Webinar
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated November 13, 2019

What CFC Will Fund

Does an organization’s work have to address multiple Focus Areas, or can we apply for one Focus Area?

Can we apply under multiple Focus Areas in one application?

Organizations can submit proposals that align with one Focus Area or multiple Focus Areas. We see our Focus Areas as interconnected and recognize that many organizations work across all of them. If your work addresses multiple Focus Areas, choose a primary Focus Area and use the application narrative to address how your work aligns across other areas.

Does CFC fund staff? Would CFC fund a clinical position?

We recognize that people are an important resource for organizations to carry out their work and we do consider funding for personnel costs directly related to the proposed work.

We would consider funding a clinical position doing work aligned with a Focus Area. We will consider other possible revenue available to support clinical salaries in our review of the proposal.

Do programs need to be evidence-based or can they be promising practices or adaptations of these types of programs?

We fund an array of programs, including evidence-based programs, promising practices and local adaptations. While many evidence-based programs have been proven to make an impact on the lives of children and families, we also recognize that some of these programs don't always meet the needs of children and families, may not be culturally responsive or must evolve to address changing contexts and emerging issues. We want to understand what programs/approaches are being implemented, how they align with the needs of children and families and how you assess impact.

I am a current grantee and have worked with a CFC staff member who is leading a Focus Area that is different from our work. Should I contact them or the program lead for the Focus Area most aligned with our work?

Our program leads aim to work across Focus Areas and work closely together to support grantees. If you have had a relationship with a CFC staff person, you are welcome to contact them as a first step. If the
guidance you need is outside the scope of what they can provide, they will connect you with the program lead best positioned to answer your questions. We work to maintain relationships as much as possible, but there are times when a grantee relationship may be transferred to a different staff person.

**Eligibility to Apply**

**Does Caring for Colorado fund national organizations working in Colorado?**

Our priority is building capacity within Colorado-based organizations; however, at times we have funded national organizations working in Colorado. It is important for us to understand the connection of a national organization to Colorado communities, its commitment to residents of the state and its capacity to do the work within Colorado.

**Can our organization apply for more than one responsive grant in a year?**

There are times when we have funded multiple grants for an organization, but this is not common. Funding is competitive, and we typically receive at least double the number of requests that we are able to fund. Our goals are to support as many organizations as we can and to have reach across the state and across Focus Areas.

**If a proposal is not funded, are we eligible to reapply at a later deadline?**

If a proposal is not funded, an organization is eligible to reapply at any future deadline; however, we strongly recommend you talk to a program lead before reapplying. We are committed to providing direct feedback on declined proposals, including whether a proposal is likely to be a fit if resubmitted.

**Does CFC have geographic limitations or priorities?**

CFC supports organizations across Colorado. We do not have geographic targets. We are most interested in meeting the needs of communities across the state that have children and families experiencing significant inequities. We monitor the spread of our funding and maintain a commitment to funding in rural and frontier areas.

**What is the RFP process for initiatives?**

Caring for Colorado’s initiatives are designed to address specific issues through targeted approaches and are separate from our responsive funding and the priorities outlined in our Focus Areas. Initiative grantees are selected through an invitation or an open request for proposals process at specific times.
**Funding Types and Amounts**

**What is the typical size of grants? Does grant size relate to length of relationship with CFC?**

CFC grants have ranged from $5,000 to $150,000, with the upper amount being a large grant for CFC. Grant size depends on several factors, including the scope and length of the proposal, other sources of funding available to support the work and our available budget. Historically, average grants have ranged from $25,000 to $75,000. The grant size is not tied to length of relationship with CFC. We encourage you to contact a program lead to discuss the request, and we are happy to provide guidance on the level of funding we would consider.

**What are the criteria for general operating funding?**

We are likely to fund general operating for organizations whose programs all align within one focus area, organizations working across multiple Focus Areas and organizations that are deeply anchored in a community. Given the typical size of our grants, we will prioritize general operating when funds would have a significant impact across the organization. If you are interested in applying for general operating support, please contact a program lead.

**Does CFC fund multi-year grants?**

We recommend you talk to a program lead if you are interested in applying for multi-year funding. In your proposal, indicate the period of funding and the amount of funding you need to accomplish what you’ve proposed. If awarded a grant, we will work out a payment schedule that best aligns with your work.

**Does CFC fund capital?**

We consider capital requests that are aligned with our Focus Areas. We do not have plans for specific capital funding opportunities. If you are interested in applying for capital funding, please talk to a program lead.

**Does CFC allow pass-through funding?**

CFC may fund some pass-through grants, though it depends on the context of the proposal. Please contact a program lead for guidance.
Public Policy Advocacy

If we are interested in funding under the Public Policy Advocacy Focus Area, whom should we contact?

Contact the program lead for the Focus Area most aligned with the work you are doing in public policy advocacy. Our program leads aim to work across Focus Areas and work closely together to support grantees. If you have had a relationship with a CFC staff person, you are welcome to contact them as a first step.

Does CFC fund lobbying?

CFC considers funding for a range of advocacy activities, including limited lobbying activities aiming to create meaningful change aligned with our Focus Areas. Please contact a program lead to discuss your ideas.

Other Questions

Is CFC engaging in any collective impact strategies? Are you collecting data from partners about impact on Focus Areas?

CFC is developing our approach to learning and assessment. We want to learn what our partners are doing, the impact they are having, changes they are seeing and the continued needs and barriers they are facing. We also want to assess where grant dollars are going and what impact is it specifically having. We are not currently engaged in a collective impact model.

How does CFC evaluate an organization’s values and practices related to equity and reaching children and families?

We assess equity practices and values in several ways, including written application materials, site visits, references, language and actions.