FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Does the David and Lucile Packard Foundation still have a local grantmaking program in Pueblo?

A. No. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation no longer has a local grantmaking program in Pueblo. In its place, the Packard Foundation made a $20 million, one-time grant to Caring for Colorado’s Centennial Fund to establish the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo, an endowment that will fund Pueblo County for decades to come.

Q. Does the David and Lucile Packard Foundation oversee the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo?

A. No. Aside from a few parameters provided by the Packard Foundation at the establishment of the endowment fund, Caring for Colorado Foundation’s Centennial Fund manages the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo.

Q. Why did the David and Lucile Packard Foundation choose Caring for Colorado to manage the fund?

A. For years, the Packard Foundation employed a staff person who worked and lived in the Pueblo. In 2016 she relocated to California. At the time, the Packard Foundation decided not to hire another staff person, and instead, partner with a state funder to carry the work forward. Caring for Colorado was selected because of its proven track record and ties to the community. It has now successfully managed the Packard Foundation’s grantmaking in Pueblo since 2016. Impressed by Caring for Colorado’s success and its community-centered approach, the Packard Foundation determined that Caring for Colorado would be an excellent steward of the new Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo.

Q. What is the Colorado Centennial Fund?

A. The Colorado Centennial Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is a subsidiary organization of Caring for Colorado Foundation. The mission of the Centennial Fund is to support innovation and community-based solutions to improve the health, well-being and economic success of Colorado’s children and families. The CO Centennial Fund manages the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo.

Q. How much grant funding will the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo award on an annual basis?

A. Historically, the Packard Foundation awarded approximately $750,000 annually to non-profit organizations in Pueblo. With the new Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo, this funding amount will remain constant in the near term. As the endowment grows over time, so will the annual giving from the fund.
Q. Who makes the grant decisions for the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo?

A. A local Advisory Board, appointed by the Colorado Centennial Fund Board of Directors, develops the strategic direction for the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo and is responsible for making grant recommendations. Local Advisory Board members are from the Pueblo community and are invited to participate following an open application process. The Colorado Centennial Fund Board of Directors is the governing entity for the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo and approves the Advisory Board grant recommendations.

Q. How does the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo Advisory Board manage conflicts of interest?

A. All Advisory Board members receive training on what constitutes a conflict of interest and are required to disclose any conflicts in writing, annually. During the grantmaking decision process, those with conflicts do not participate in site visits, grant discussions, or recommendations with the organizations where they have a conflict of interest. Of note, all Foundation staff are required to follow the same conflict of interest disclosure protocols.

Q. Why does the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo allocate 70 percent of its annual grant budget to the Children, Youth, and Family focus area?

A. The Advisory Board believes that the opportunity we create for young people today will determine the future trajectory of Pueblo County. To ensure the coming years are more equitable and prosperous for everyone, the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo is committed to intentionally investing in efforts that support children, youth, and their families. The childhood years, from the prenatal period to late adolescence, set the stage for adult relationships, behaviors, health, and social outcomes. If young people have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, research demonstrates that they are more likely to reach their full potential as productive and engaged members of the community.

The Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo’s funding strategy leverages these critical windows of opportunity and recognizes that young people are most likely to thrive when their families have the strength and resources they need to create a safe and stable home environment.