



Grant Application Overview

Grantmaking Philosophy

Caring for Colorado's vision is that Colorado's children and families are happy, healthy and thriving. Our purpose is to create equity in health, well-being and opportunity. Integrity, inclusion and commitment are the core values that guide our work with partners, communities and each other. We recognize that the grantmaking process is an expression of our values and the primary way we build relationships and fulfill our role in the nonprofit sector. We acknowledge the role of power in grantmaking. We strive to minimize power dynamics and use our unique position to further our partners' work in advancing equity in Colorado.

Caring for Colorado has two types of grantmaking: responsive and initiative. Responsive grantmaking is open to proposals and ideas from applicants that align with our focus areas, which are driven by what we learn from communities. Responsive funding has two annual application deadlines – the first Friday in February and the first Friday in August. Initiative grantmaking is focused on a specific area or issue with defined goals and strategies. Initiative grantees are selected by invitation or through a targeted request for proposal process.

In our work with applicants and grantees, we seek to:

- Build relationships grounded in trust and mutual goals
- Be transparent in our communication
- Be accessible and available to provide guidance and thought partnership
- Streamline our process and only ask for the information we need to make funding decisions
- Be present in communities and the places our partners live and work
- Have a strengths-based approach to our understanding of communities
- Learn with and from our partners to strengthen organizations, communities, systems and policies

The foundation works to provide the support organizations and communities need. Multi-year grants, funding for core operations, opportunities to build capacity, and emerging practices are all considered. Unfortunately, we are unable to fund every application we receive. Before submitting a registration or beginning a grant application, we highly encourage contact with a program lead to discuss applying for funding.

Of the applications we receive within our focus areas, we prioritize organizations that:

- Center children and families in their approach and in their work
- Intentionally focus on those facing the greatest barriers to opportunity
- Celebrate the diverse makeup of families and emphasize cultural responsiveness
- Prioritize community engagement and participant voice

Achieving our vision is directly tied to the success of our grantees. We value the information shared throughout the grant period to help us understand the issue areas and communities in which our partners work. Feedback and understanding about our process is essential for improving our grantmaking. We welcome opportunities to learn how we can further enhance our approach.

Grant Application Process

Before registering or beginning an application, please confirm your eligibility; review our Focus Areas to ensure alignment with your project, program or organization; and, speak to a program lead to discuss your proposal.

Eligibility

Caring for Colorado will consider applications from and awards to organizations who benefit Colorado and are:

- Charitable nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt classification from the Internal Revenue Service; or
- Tax-supported institutions including state and local governments and schools.

Note that new or emerging organizations are permitted to apply through a tax-exempt organization acting as fiscal agent. The most common type of fiscal agent arrangement is between a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization and a non-tax-exempt group. The fiscal agent has the ultimate authority and responsibility to see that the funds are used for the purpose intended; it cannot simply be a pass-through organization.

Caring for Colorado Does Not Fund:

- For-profit entities
- Annual appeals or membership drives
- Financial support for political candidates
- Patient assistance funds that cover individual medical, dental or pharmaceutical costs
- Scholarships

Funding Focus Areas:

Caring for Colorado Foundation Focus Areas were developed through a strategic planning process that included engagement with people and communities throughout Colorado to understand the health needs of children and families. Our Focus Areas are:

- Healthy Beginnings
- Healthy Youth
- Strong and Resilient Families
- Public Policy Advocacy

For eligible organizations and proposals aligned with our Focus Areas, funding may support general operations, programs/projects, capacity building, collaboration or systems-building efforts. Proposals extending beyond 12 months are considered.

Registering for an Account

Grantseekers must register for access to the online grants portal. If you have previously registered for an account, you **do not** need to register again. If you have contact updates, please visit the website to complete our [Contact Change Form](#).

Registration deadlines occur two weeks before the grant application deadline.

Grant Application Deadlines

Caring for Colorado has two grant application deadlines per year:

- The first Friday in February
- The first Friday in August

Applying

Grant applications must be submitted online. Please use Google Chrome as your browser and log into the online grants portal to apply. Please follow the directions in the portal to complete the application. More information on using our online system can be found on our [website](#).

The primary components of the online grant application include:

- **Proposal Overview** (completed in the online portal):
 - Organization Name
 - Identify if the proposal is a request for general operating support
 - Proposal Title, Proposal Summary, Proposal Outcomes
 - Total Amount Requested
 - Proposal Term in Months
 - Geographic Area Served
- **[Proposal Narrative](#)** (form is submitted as an attachment in the portal): The proposal narrative provides a description of the organization and proposal. The narrative is to be six pages or less and includes five sections: organization information, description of proposed work, engagement, learning and assessment and financial.
- **[Program/Project Budget](#)** (form is submitted as an attachment in the portal and is **NOT** required for general operating requests): The budget consists of three parts: projected expenses, projected income and a narrative description of expense items.

- **Other Required Attachments** (submitted as attachments in the portal):
 - Board of Directors – list of the board of directors, with titles
 - Major Contributors – list of the major contributors to the organization and contribution amounts for the previous fiscal year
 - Annual Financials – for the most recently completed fiscal year end, **one of the following**:
 - Audit (preferred document)
 - IRS form 990/990EZ
 - Internal year-end balance sheet and income statement
 - YTD Financial Statements – most recent current year-to-date internal financial statements (Statement of Activities and Balance Sheet) include budget-to-actual data, if available
 - Operating Budget – current-year annual operating budget
 - Optional additional attachment (**not required**)

Grant Review Process

After submission, applicants will receive an email within 24 hours confirming that the proposal was successfully submitted. Proposals submitted successfully will be listed as “Under Review” in the online portal.

Program leads begin their review after submission. Your organization may be contacted for in-person or remote site visits to further discuss the proposal and the organization’s operations. Program leads may request additional information throughout the process. **The review process takes approximately four months.**

Caring for Colorado receives more proposals than it can fund. If the proposal does not align with the focus areas or an organization is considered ineligible, the applicant will be notified of declination as soon as possible.

Funding recommendations and decisions are made by the Caring for Colorado staff in partnership with our Board of Directors. We notify all grantees of final decisions via phone and email.