

*Sperry S. and Ella Graber*  
**PACKARD FUND**  
*for Pueblo*

A PROGRAM OF THE CARING FOR COLORADO CENTENNIAL FUND



## Grant Guidelines

The Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo is an endowed fund, created by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

### **Our Mission**

To champion efforts that create equitable opportunities and improve the quality of life in Pueblo County.

### **Our Vision**

Pueblo County is a healthy and thriving community where all young people and their families have pathways to success.

**Guided by a local Advisory Board, grantmaking is focused in two areas:**

1. Children, Youth, and Families
2. Community Impact

**The Advisory Board prioritizes funding for organizations and programs that:**

- are guided by community voice;
- are culturally responsive;
- focus on equity; and
- demonstrate substantial impact.

*More information about the Advisory Board's funding approach can be found on the website.*

# Children, Youth, and Families

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, we must intentionally invest in efforts that support children, youth, and their families.

We know that if young people have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments they are more likely to reach their full potential as productive and engaged members of the community. The childhood years, from the prenatal period to late adolescence, set the stage for adult relationships, behaviors, health, and social outcomes.

Our 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.

For the next three years, the Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo will invest a minimum of 70 percent of annual grant funds in the focus area of Children, Youth, and Families. Larger, multi-year, operational requests will be considered for organizations aligned with the funding priorities below.

### WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

**Brain development is most rapid in the first three years of life. Young children who experience frequent, prolonged adversity in the absence of protective factors can develop a toxic stress response that can have significant, lasting effects on development.**

**During adolescence there is a prolonged period of concentrated brain growth in which youth explore relationships with peers and adults, experience an increase in cognitive complexity, and develop identity. The absence of supportive relationships and the presence of extreme stress can affect the healthy adolescent transition to adulthood.**

## Children (ages prenatal to 8)

### Our desired results:

- Young children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and in life.
- Environments that impact children (home, neighborhood, programs, school) are safe, stable, and supportive.
- Adults are knowledgeable, responsive, and interact effectively with and on behalf of children.

Funding	Priorities
<b>Childcare &amp; Early Childhood Education</b>	Efforts that address access, quality, and equity.
<b>Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</b>	Efforts that implement a trauma informed approach; enhanced or non-reimbursable therapeutic services; two-generation strategies; developmental screening; mental health consultations; reflective supervision; and child abuse prevention and advocacy.
<b>Family Support &amp; Education</b>	Family engagement and leadership opportunities; inclusive parenting classes; systems navigation; home visitation programs; domestic violence services; and family-friendly activities that build support and reduce isolation.

## Youth (ages 9 to 18)

### Our desired results:

- Youth have strong, positive, stable connections to family, peers, school, supportive adults, and community.
- Youth have the skills and support needed to handle stress, manage emotions, and tackle everyday challenges.
- Youth are equipped to make informed decisions about their relationships and sexual health.

Funding	Priorities
Out-of-School Time Programming	Programs that provide consistent, sustained access; offer quality programming and staffing; demonstrate strong community partnerships; and implement a Positive Youth Development approach.
Mentoring	Evidence based models; high quality programs and staffing; and strong community partnerships.
Behavioral & Mental Health	Efforts that implement a trauma informed approach; enhanced or non-reimbursable therapeutic services; prevention programming; coordinated, early intervention strategies; and two-generation strategies.
Healthy Relationships & Sexual Health Education	Programs that are evidence based; LGBTQ+ inclusive; reduce barriers to access of reproductive health needs; and model healthy relationships.

## Families

### Our desired results:

- Families have safe, stable, affordable housing.
- Families have equitable access to the nutritious food needed to thrive and reach their full potential.
- Families have the support and resources needed to earn a self-sufficient wage.

Funding	Priorities
Housing	Organizing and advocacy efforts; Rapid Re-Housing; eviction prevention; and proven, proactive, and replicable local-level initiatives that expand or create collaborative solutions.
Food Assistance	Efforts that address access, quality, and equity for children, youth, and their families.
Employment and Education Opportunities	Job training and placement; life-skills development; and educational opportunities for adults with children.



# Community Impact

For nearly five decades, the Packard Foundation funded a wide range of agencies, projects, and programs that enhanced the lives of the people in Pueblo County. Community Impact grants honor this legacy and aim to be responsive to changing community needs and priorities in the areas of:

- art, history, and culture
- education
- the environment
- human services
- mental health
- senior services

While there are no specific funding priorities, preference will be given to organizations located in Pueblo County and requests that are guided by community voice, culturally responsive, focus on equity, and best demonstrate community need and impact. Organizations who are awarded grants in the Children, Youth, and Families focus area are not eligible to apply for Community Impact funds during the same calendar year.

Community Impact grant requests are not to exceed \$25,000.

### WHAT WE WILL NOT FUND:

- Grants to individuals
- Scholarships
- Debt retirement
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Capital campaigns
- Membership campaigns
- Events or conferences
- Individual financial assistance programs
- Grants for academic research
- Anti-abortion efforts
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Financial support for political candidates
- For profit entities

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for a grant, all prospective applicants – including current grantees – must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). The LOI should be no more than two pages in length and include the following:

- Summary of request, including grant request amount and operating or program budget
- Statement of need
- How the request aligns with the Fund’s priorities
- Primary programs or activities that address the stated need
- Methodology and intended outcomes
- Past organizational success and credentials
- Primary contact

The LOI should be sent via email to Melanie Bravo, Program Director, a minimum of 30 days before the grant deadline ([mbravo@caringforcolorado.org](mailto:mbravo@caringforcolorado.org)).

Responses to inquiries will be sent via email at least 21 days before the grant deadline. If an invitation to apply is extended, grant seekers must register for access to the online grants portal. If you have previously registered for an account, you do not need to register again.

The Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo application mirrors the Colorado Common Grant Application. Grant applications must be submitted online. Please visit the website for detailed instructions [www.caringforcolorado.org](http://www.caringforcolorado.org).

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### GRANT DEADLINES

Focus Area	LOI	Request
Children, Youth, & Families	30 days before request deadline	First Friday in February
Community Impact	30 days before request deadline	First Friday in August

Contact Melanie Bravo, Program Director  
[mbravo@caringforcolorado.org](mailto:mbravo@caringforcolorado.org)