

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 20, 2020

What Caring for Colorado (CFC) Will Fund

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 one and use the application narrative to address how your work aligns across other areas.

Does CFC fund staff?

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.

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.

Eligibility to Apply

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 can 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 connect with 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.

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, 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 align with all strategies 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.

Are there any advantages to seeking program funding versus general operating support?

Applicants are encouraged to contact a program lead to discuss the best fit for request type before submitting; CFC does not prioritize types of awards.

Does CFC fund multi-year grants?

We do not anticipate funding many large, multi-year requests at this time. We recommend you connect to a program lead if you are interested in applying for multi-year funding.

When do awards get announcement and disbursed?

The grant review process is 4 months. For applicants applying on the first Friday in February, we are committed to having decisions by early June with most grants starting in July. For applicants applying on the first Friday in August, we are committed to having decision by early December with most grants starting in January.

Is there a limit on indirect costs for program grants?

CFC generally funds indirect costs at 10% or less of the overall request amount for programmatic awards. Some administrative costs for programs can also be written into the program budget.

Grant Review Process

Will CFC review applications submitted before the deadline?

Staff does not review applications before the deadline. Applicants are welcome to email program leads asking for guidance on specific questions.

Does CFC conduct site visits?

CFC is committed to being present and believes site visits are an important opportunity to grow partnerships and better understand the contexts in which partners work. We generally conduct in-person site visits for as many applicants as possible each cycle; however, when public health recommendations limit in-person contact, we are happy to conduct site visits virtually.

How are grant applications rated? Is there a rubric for assessing grants?

CFC does not use a scoring system or rubric for assessing applications. We primarily use application materials, online content, and site visits to determine alignment with our [guiding principles](#) and our [areas of focus](#).

What are you looking for regarding evaluation?

CFC is interested in how partners understand whether they are progressing toward their desired impact. We also understand that capacity for evaluation is varied and are willing to support organizations in creating or enhancing a strategy that works for their agency.

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. We strongly recommend reviewing the CFC's guiding principles, found [here](#).