

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 and uses a two-part application process. Initiative grantmaking is focused on impacting 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.

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.