

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 2021

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 to address how your work aligns across other areas.

Does CFC fund general operating requests?

Yes, general operating requests are considered. See more on general operating requests below under “Funding Types and Amounts.”

Does CFC fund capital requests?

Capital requests may be considered based on alignment with the guiding principles and the strategies and priorities within each of the focus areas. CFC does not have a strong emphasis on capital funding.

Does CFC fund organizations they have not previously partnered with or are unfamiliar with?

Yes! We welcome and encourage applications from organizations who are new to CFC.

Does CFC prioritize new programming over established programs?

CFC funds new programs, established programs, and expansions of existing programs. We do not prioritize within program types.

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. We recognize that some evidence-based programs may not be culturally responsive or must evolve to address changing contexts and emerging issues.

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.

Eligibility to Apply

Does CFC fund new start-up organizations?

Yes! CFC funds new organizations as well as organizations with fiscal sponsors.

Eligibility to Apply

Does CFC consider applications from partnering organizations?

Yes! If you are applying as a partnership, please clearly outline the responsibilities of each partner organization and how funding will be used for each partner's work.

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. We provide as much feedback as we can for declined proposals.

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 reach 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. Recently, average grants have ranged from \$25,000 to \$75,000. The grant size is not tied to length of relationship with CFC.

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.

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

CFC does not prioritize types of awards. Please see above for guidance about general operating funding.

Does CFC evenly distribute funding across the four focus areas?

No. Our annual budget is about \$6 million for the statewide grantmaking program. We split the annual budget across two grant cycles per year. Funding targets vary across the focus areas.

Does CFC fund multi-year grants?

We do not anticipate funding many large, multi-year requests at this time, but we may shift to longer-term funding in the future.

When do awards get announcement and disbursed?

The grant review process is approximately four months. For applicants applying on the first Thursday in February, we are committed to having decisions on Part 1 Applications within three weeks of the February 4, 2021, 5 pm deadline. Those who are selected to submit Part 2 applications will be notified of the outcome of the full application by mid-June with most grants starting in July.

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.

Application Process

Has CFC's grant application process changed from last year?

Yes, our grant application has changed. We are now using a two-part application. Information about our two-part application can be found [here](#).

By what date will organizations be invited to submit the Part 2 application?

Organizations will receive an invitation to apply to Part 2 within three weeks of the February 4, 2021, 5 pm deadline. The deadline to submit the Part 2 application is March 18, 2021, at 5 pm.

Is it possible to schedule a meeting with a philanthropy lead to discuss alignment with CFC's focus areas before we apply?

In the past we would welcome the opportunity to discuss proposals with organizations before applying. Unfortunately, with the volume of inquiries and our small staff we no longer have the capacity for individual calls with organizations. We realize this is a difficult shift for us and our partners. Please do feel free to email us with your specific questions or visit the website for recordings of our [informational webinars](#).

Grant Review Process

Will CFC review applications that are submitted before the deadline?

Staff does not review applications before the deadline.

What happens during the four-month review process?

During the four-month period, we are reviewing proposals, evaluating alignment with focus areas and guiding principles, conducting site visits and working with our Board. Generally, we receive more than 100 applications per cycle, so it is a time intensive process.

Who reviews applications?

CFC philanthropy team staff review applications and submit recommendations to our Board of Directors for approval.

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 organizations 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.

If an organization applies for one focus area, but CFC believes the proposal is a as a better fit for a different focus area will CFC move the proposal to be considered to that focus area?

Yes – we discuss any focus area changes with the applicant. We do not decline applicants based only on focus area selection.

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 progress 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, and partnerships. We strongly recommend reviewing CFC’s guiding principles, found [here](#).

Healthy Beginnings Focus Area FAQ

What are some examples of previously awarded grants within the Healthy Beginnings focus area?

Please see our website and “Recent Grants” information for Healthy Beginnings [here](#).

A full list of all grants awarded in our last cycle can be found [here](#).

CFC considers “billable costs,” in evaluating applications. What does this mean?

CFC considers other sources of funding available, for example, if an organization applies to CFC and services provided are eligible for insurance reimbursement. We are unlikely to fund requests that have alternative funding sources apart from costs associated with program startup. Please email for additional info.

Healthy Youth Focus Area FAQ

What are some examples of previously awarded grants within the Healthy Youth focus area?

Please see our website and “Recent Grants” information for Healthy Youth [here](#).

A full list of all grants awarded in our last cycle can be found [here](#).

Strong & Resilient Families Focus Area FAQ

What are some examples of previously awarded grants within the Strong & Resilient Families focus area?

Please see our website and “Recent Grants” information for Strong & Resilient Families [here](#).

A full list of all grants awarded in our last cycle can be found [here](#).

Public Policy & Advocacy Focus Area FAQ

What are some examples of previously awarded grants within the Public Policy & Advocacy focus area?

Please see our website and “Recent Grants” information for Public Policy & Advocacy [here](#).

A full list of all grants awarded in our last cycle can be found [here](#).