



Together We Protect: Colorado's Vaccine Equity Fund

Webinar Question and Answer

About Together We Protect

What is the source of Together We Protect funds? Are the funds federal in origin?

Funds for Together We Project are provided by Colorado-based foundations and donors. The grant pool does not contain any federal funds.

How much money will be granted through Together We Protect? How many grants are expected to be funded?

As of mid-March, the grant pool stands at about \$3 million. More funds may be contributed by existing or new partners in the future. The number of awards has not been determined – it will depend on the applicant pool and the available funds.

Does Together We Protect have priority geographic locations, e.g. rural vs urban, Denver Metro Area vs. other parts of state?

Together We Protect is committed to supporting organizations across Colorado and aims to have grants represented across rural, frontier, urban and suburban communities. We do not have specific targets for geographic locations or communities.

Will you post information about awarded grants and regions/counties that receive funding?

Yes. A list of grants funded by Together We Protect will be shared on the Caring for Colorado website following each round.

Applicant Eligibility

Are local public health agencies (LPHAs) eligible to apply?

Yes, LPHAs are included under the category of local government agencies and are eligible to apply.

If an organization is not a 501(c)3, can they apply using a fiscal sponsor? What organizations are eligible to serve as fiscal sponsors?

Projects/coalitions/organizations that do not have 501(c)3 status can apply using a fiscal sponsor. A fiscal sponsor must have 501(c)3 status or be a local government agency.

What if you are a new nonprofit and do not have a long financial history?

We will consider applications from relatively new nonprofits with a brief financial history (even if it is less than one year). Another option for new nonprofits is to apply using a fiscal sponsor.

If an organization currently receives funds from one or more of the Together We Protect funding partners, does that preclude them from applying?

Organizations that currently receive funds from one or more Together We Protect partners are eligible to apply for activities and expenses that are not otherwise covered through other grants.

Allowed Use of Funds

Can these funds cover our pre-existing/recent efforts that we covered through our own budget/resources? If we have a vaccination clinic scheduled after the application deadline but before awards are announced, can funding be applied to that?

Grant funds can only be used for activities and expenses incurred during the grant period and cannot be retroactively applied to activities completed before the grant is approved.

Can an eligible nonprofit subcontract with a for-profit subcontractor?

Yes, an eligible nonprofit that receives a grant can use the funds to subcontract or pay for services provided by a for-profit entity, as long as they are aligned with the purpose of Together We Protect.

What types of transportation costs are supported? Can we pay transportation providers for trips to and from a vaccination clinic and/or staff time to coordinate transportation?

Funds may be used for transportation costs, including paying/subcontracting with transportation providers to transport people to and from a vaccination clinic, fuel for an organization's existing vehicles being used to transport people, and gas cards for people to get to and from the vaccine clinic. Funds can also be used for staff time need to coordinate/dispatch transportation arrangements.

Can funds be used for incentives such as gift cards or for food/refreshments for people attending events/activities?

Funds may be used for incentives such as gift cards or "swag" (stuff we all get) items. Funding can also be used for food/refreshments for community members, volunteers and staff involved in implementing an event. Incentives should be offered in a culturally relevant way and respect the autonomy of individuals you aim to reach. Do not use incentives to coerce or pressure individuals to get vaccinated or participate in education and outreach activities.

Can fund be used for equipment, supplies and staff for a vaccine clinic?

Yes, funds can be used for staff, equipment, materials, and supplies needed to run pop-up clinics, education and outreach activities.

Are there any non-allowable expenses on the funding?

Together We Protect aims for funding to be flexible so that organizations can use the money for expenses needed to make education, outreach and vaccine access activities as successful as possible (see previous questions for examples). Funding will not be considered for costs and activities that do not directly align with the goals of Together We Protect. The grants are not intended for general operating support.

Will funding be considered for advocacy activities pushing for a more equitable vaccine rollout?

It depends. This funding does not support advocacy to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) or the Governor's Office. If your education and outreach activities have an advocacy slant, we will consider this. If you have more specific questions, please email us.

Application Process

Why are there two deadlines? Can you apply for both cycles (March 19 and April 28)?

We offer two opportunities to apply so that organizations can choose to submit applications that align with the timing of their activities and/or readiness to apply. We do not restrict organizations from applying for both funding cycles. However, because this is a statewide opportunity and the goal is to support as many organizations as possible, we are unlikely to fund multiple grants for an organization in a single cycle or across both cycles. If an organization is considering multiple applications, we strongly encourage you to prioritize your applications (this does not apply to a fiscal sponsors that may be submitting on behalf of distinct and unrelated organizations).

If you apply in March and are not awarded, can you re-apply at the April deadline?

Yes, you are eligible to apply for funding for the April deadline if you did not receive funding the first round. We encourage you to make modifications as needed to ensure your application aligns with the funding priorities. You must submit a new application if you are re-applying for the April deadline, as we are not able to save applications from the first cycle.

Is there any benefit to applying for the first deadline vs. the second deadline?

No. We encourage you to apply for the deadline that best aligns with the timing of your proposed activities and readiness to complete an application. The available grant funds will be distributed across the two grant deadlines.

How much funding can be requested? Can we apply for the max amount that we need or would it be more competitive to apply for a lesser amount? Will partial grants be awarded?

We will consider requests between \$10,000 and \$100,000. We encourage you to consider a request amount that aligns with the scope of your project and apply for what you need. We aim to fund as many proposals as we can within the funds available; some grants may be funded at the full amount while others may be funded at less than the requested amount. We anticipate receiving more applications than we are able to fund, and thus some requests will not receive funding.

Does the application/proposal narrative questions have character or word count limits?

For applications completed in English, the Proposal Narrative Template should not exceed 3 pages in total. We strongly encourage you to be as concise as possible in your responses to remain within the 3-page limit. For applications completed in Spanish, the document should not exceed 4 pages.

Are letters of support allowed or recommended?

Letters of support cannot be submitted. We encourage you to share information about your partners and their roles in your application as a means of demonstrating support for your project.

We work with a fiscal agent. For the financial information section of the application, is this for our project, or for the fiscal agent/sponsor?

The Financial Information section of the application should be completed using the financials of the fiscal sponsor.

Partnerships and Collaboration

We are a community-based organization and do have an ongoing partnership with a vaccine provider but can we propose a program for funding that is purely focused on education and outreach but does not include a funded role for the vaccine provider?

Yes. We know that there are a range of partnerships and your activities may be focused more on education and outreach rather than direct vaccination efforts. A vaccine provider does not need to have a funded role. We are interested in how the proposed education and outreach activities address vaccine hesitancy and help people understand their options for accessing the vaccine (vaccine site information, vaccine clinic schedules, etc.)

If we want to provide a pop-up clinic, do we need to have a partnership with a vaccine provider in place before applying? Will Together We Protect help us identify or find a partnership with a vaccine provider?

We understand that projects are moving quickly and you may be working to identify partnerships that are yet to be confirmed. If you do not yet have a confirmed partnership with a vaccine provider, we suggest you identify in your application who you are most likely to partner with and where you are with securing partnership. If selected for funding, we ask that you confirm the partnership before grant.

Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to make connections or introduce partnerships. We encourage you to network with others in your community who may be able to help connect you to a vaccine provider. You can use this [website](#) from CDPHE as a starting point for identifying existing vaccine providers in your county. If you are a vaccine provider, we encourage you to use your networks to identify community-based organizations that may be interested in partnering with you to increase vaccine access in communities that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Can multiple community organizations submit a collaborative application? Do you encourage a multi-organizational partnership and will there be some considerations regarding funding for these submissions?

We appreciate and encourage multi-organizational partnerships. Organizations may apply for funding separately, and we encourage you to describe your partnerships in the narrative section of the application. We also welcome collaborative applications that include multiple community organizations. For collaborative applications, one organization would need to be designated as the lead applicant to apply for and receive funds, if awarded, and have a mechanism for distributing funds to other partners.

Grantee Expectations

Do both application deadlines have the same Dec 31, 2021 expiration of funds?

Yes. We anticipate many grantees will spend the funds before this date. If funds are not spent down by this date, just let us know – we can be flexible and work with you to adjust the grant end date.

Do you intend for grantees to share strategies with each other? If yes, how will this be done?

Immunize Colorado will facilitate a Community of Practice where grantees will have the opportunity to connect with other organizations to share information, strategies and lessons learned. The goal is to create a feedback loop and a space for grantees to learn from each other as this work is rapidly happening. The Community of Practice is in development, but the goal is to make it as easy as possible for organizations to connect.

Can you share a bit more about the brief report that is required at the end of the grant period?

Grantees will be asked to complete a grant report that consists of a few brief questions to help us understand the overall outcomes of the grant, lessons learned and how the grant funds were spent.

Other

Is there existing data we can use to inform our application and our vaccine equity efforts?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is currently tracking and reporting vaccination rates in certain census tracts across the state – you can find this on the Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce [homepage](#) (scroll down to the section “Interested in vaccine equity information in Colorado?” to find an interactive map). Some data for Metro Denver can be found [here](#). The local public health department in your county has data as well and we encourage you to check there.