



**Funding Opportunity:
Accelerating COVID-19 Vaccine Equity for Colorado's Youth**

Achieving high vaccination rates across all Colorado communities can help mitigate the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent widening disparities going forward. Now that access to COVID-19 vaccines has opened for adolescents ages 12 and over, and as eligibility is expected to expand to include younger children this fall, we are committed to ensuring equitable access for children and youth to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Equity in information and vaccine access is a cornerstone for reduced transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Achieving COVID-19 vaccine equity for youth provides a path to promoting healthy child development and can support broad attendance and regular, stable engagement in in-person K-12 educational and post-secondary opportunities as well as enrichment and social activities.

FUNDING DETAILS

Together We Protect supports community-centered and trusted Colorado-based organizations to provide culturally relevant outreach, education, and support to youth and/or caregivers to ensure that those who face systemic barriers have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Efforts targeting youth who are currently eligible to receive the vaccine (ages 12 and older), as well as those likely to become eligible for the vaccine will be considered (emergency authorization for younger ages is expected in late 2021/early 2022). Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded to applicants from across Colorado. Funds must be expended by March 2022.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a community-based nonprofit organization; a youth advocacy and/or youth-led organization or group; an out-of-school time and youth enrichment provider; a health clinic serving a high percentage of children and youth, and/or families, enrolled in Medicaid/CHP+ (pediatric, family medicine, and SBHCs); or a public school/district serving a high percentage of students from communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19. *Entities that do not have 501c3 status or are not a local government or public agency are eligible to apply, though funding will be administered through an intermediary.*
- Have deep roots in and a history of providing culturally responsive and trusted information and services to youth and caregivers from the following communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19:
 - **communities of color**
 - **immigrant and refugee communities,**
 - **youth/families with limited English proficiency/language barriers,**
 - **youth with disabilities,**
 - **youth experiencing homelessness/housing instability,**
 - **youth in the foster care system,**
 - **LGBTQ+ youth,**
 - **families living on low income**

- Have the flexibility and capacity to quickly develop and implement activities to provide accessible information to youth and caregivers and/or low-barrier opportunities for immunization.
- If proposed activities include vaccination, demonstrate clear partnership with a state-contracted vaccine provider (if a community-based organization is the applicant) **OR** show strong partnership with a community-based nonprofit organization for implementation (if applicant is a local government agency or vaccine provider). Immunization activities must ensure consent protocols are in place for minors.
- Be willing to share lessons learned, education strategies and messages, and other creative ideas that help to address barriers to immunization in communities facing systemic inequities.

Types of Activities:

Funds can be used for expenses directly related to outreach, education and/or vaccine access activities that address youth and/or caregiver hesitancy and concerns about the vaccine as well as logistical barriers to youth getting the vaccine. The following are examples of activities the funds can be used to support:

- One-on-one or small group health education and vaccine trust building engagement with youth and/or caregivers, including peer-to-peer youth leadership and advocacy and caregiver-targeted engagement activities in trusted spaces such as schools, faith-based organizations, clinics, community-based youth centers, other youth-centered spaces and events (such as back-to-school events, youth groups, enrichment and/or athletic programs, etc.).
- Youth-led education and will-building campaigns using culturally appropriate messaging and media platforms through digital and non-digital channels best suited for different communities.
- Low-barrier vaccine access such as pop-up or targeted immunization clinics (including mobile clinics) in trusted spaces such as schools, faith-based organizations, clinics, community-based youth centers, other youth-centered spaces and events (such as back-to-school events, concerts, festivals, etc.). Clinics targeting youth may also reach family members and others needing vaccination.
- Creative use of incentives, contests, and other strategies to motivate youth vaccination, including those designed and led by youth.
- Supportive services to reduce barriers to vaccine clinics including transportation assistance, translation and interpretation, scheduling assistance for those without digital access and other supports identified at the community level.
- Other innovative and best practice strategies that support youth having access to the vaccine. We are open to your ideas!

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND DECISIONS:

There is no deadline for proposals. We will review proposals on a weekly-basis and applicants can expect to be notified if their proposal will be funded within 10 business days of submission. Payments will be made within one week upon receipt of signed grant contract and ACH information.

HOW TO APPLY

Learn how to apply at <https://caringforcolorado.org/together-we-protect>. Contact us directly at grants@caringforcolorado.org with your questions. Please state **“Together We Protect”** in the subject line.

Together We Protect – Colorado’s COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Fund provides funding to organizations working in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to ensure that people who face systemic barriers have the most appropriate and accessible information about the COVID-19 vaccine and can access the vaccine through low-barrier opportunities. This funding opportunity is offered through a partnership of Colorado funders, [Immunize Colorado](#), and the [Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce](#). These entities will review and select grantees, as well as serve as a coordinating body that will gather and share strategies across the grantee cohort, serve as a resource for rapidly changing COVID-19 information, and provide learning and coordinating opportunities for grantees.

