

Frequently Asked Questions

November 2022

Caring for Colorado (CFC) Funding

When can we apply for funding?

Caring for Colorado has two application deadlines per year. Part 1 Applications for Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Youth, and Strong and Resilient Families Focus Areas are due by 5 pm on the first Thursday in February. The Public Policy Advocacy Focus Area cycle takes place in the fall.

What factors are important for an application to be competitive?

Applications must be aligned with CFC's [Grantmaking Guiding Principles](#) and [Focus Areas](#). For more information read our [What We Fund](#) information packet.

Can we apply under multiple Focus Areas in one application?

We see our Focus Areas as interconnected and recognize that many organizations work across all of them; however, the online application requires you to select one focus area and one corresponding strategy that most aligns with your proposed work. Please carefully review the [What We Fund](#) information packet to learn about specific strategies eligible under each focus area. If your proposed work crosses multiple focus areas and/or strategies, you can highlight the alignment in question 3 of the Part 1 Application.

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 and affirming 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.

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.

If a proposal is not funded, are we eligible to reapply?

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, youth, 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. Funding targets vary across the focus areas.

Does CFC fund multi-year grants?

Multi-year or extended length project proposals are welcome as we recognize the time it takes to shift culture, plan and innovate. You may also apply for multi-year general operating requests, however, funding in this area is more limited and often prioritized for long-term, community-based partners with strong alignment across multiple focus areas.

When are awards announced and payments disbursed?

We are committed to having decisions on Part 1 applications within four weeks of the Thursday, February 2, 2023, 5 pm deadline. Those who are selected to submit Part 2 applications will be notified of the outcome of the full application in at the beginning of July with most grants starting mid-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?

The grant application process has not changed, but the questions have been modified. Detailed 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 four weeks of the February 2, 2023, 5 pm deadline. The deadline to submit the Part 2 application is March 30, 2023, 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?

Yes! If you would like to schedule a short meeting with a statewide philanthropy lead, click on the name to open a calendar link:

- [Sarah Dutcher](#) for inquiries about [Healthy Beginnings](#) alignment
- [Steph Perez-Carrillo](#) for inquiries about [Healthy Youth](#) alignment
- [Sam Espinoza](#) for inquiries about [Strong & Resilient Families](#) alignment

Please feel free to email us with your specific questions or visit the [News section of our website](#) to access recordings of our informational webinars.

Grant Review Process

Will CFC review an application early if it is submitted before the deadline?

No. All applications are reviewed after the deadline.

What happens during the review process?

During the review process, staff read proposals, evaluate alignment with focus areas and guiding principles, conduct site visits and work with our Board. Due to the high volume of requests received from organizations located throughout the state, this 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 can conduct site visits virtually.

If an organization applies for one focus area, but CFC believes the proposal is 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 and site visits to determine alignment with our [grantmaking 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 through written application materials, site visits and partnerships. We strongly recommend reviewing CFC's guiding principles, found [here](#).

Recent Grants

What are some examples of previously awarded grants within each focus area?

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