

Priority: Youth Health and Well-Being



PURPOSE: To advance health and well-being for young people, ages 9 to 25, in Colorado who experience health inequities due to economic injustice, racism, and discrimination through strategic investments designed to support young people, strengthen families, and build youth-centered communities

Focus Area: **Building Youth-Centered Communities**

DESIRED RESULT: Young people have equitable access to services, spaces, and systems that are youth-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed.

Why We Care

We believe that equitable access to services, spaces, and systems that are youth-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed leads to greater health and well-being for young people.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **Part 1: Due 11/14/2024, by 5:00 p.m.**
- Part 2 (if invited): Opens 12/12/2024
Due 02/06/2025, by 5:00 p.m.
- Grant Start Date: 07/01/2025

[Click here to apply!](#)

Young people grow to adulthood within a complex web of family, peer, community, societal, and cultural influences that affect their present and future health and well-being. Advancing their health and well-being requires improving their daily lives within family, friend groups, and neighborhoods, as well as addressing risk and protective factors at the environmental and community levels. Young people are better able to achieve their full potential when individuals, organizations, and communities work together to support them.

Equitable access to high-quality health services is essential for young people to thrive. In many communities, health services for adolescents are fragmented and focused on the needs of adults. Young people benefit from having access to providers who understand adolescent development and are culturally competent. They also require services that are accessible, convenient, and confidential.

Young people need and want safe places to gather, enjoy social, athletic, and other recreational activities, be with their peers, and engage in civic and community pursuits. The actual or perceived physical and emotional safety of community spaces can influence how comfortable young people feel using them. This is an especially important consideration for supporting young people who face disproportionate risks associated with environmental hurdles like crime, violence, abuse, trauma, prejudice, and racism.

As they approach adulthood, young people face increasing pressure to manage their own health, finances, transportation, and housing. These expectations do not always come with corresponding increases in support. Many young people also lack opportunities to build the skills needed to transition to adulthood and navigate

complex systems. Adding to the challenge, systems that serve adolescents can be confusing and spread across government agencies, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, businesses, and faith-based organizations.

When a community commits to building youth-centered communities and systems, a lack of funding to transform physical spaces, increase organizational capacity to serve young people, and staff collaborative and system-level change efforts can stifle progress. Increased investments in supporting communities as they approach this work are necessary for the optimal development of our young people.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

In addition to [Caring for Colorado's general eligibility requirements](#), the proposed work must serve:

- Communities with high rates of poverty (cities or counties where 18% or more of young people under 18 are living at or below the federal poverty level).

OR

- Communities where [Caring for Colorado's priority populations](#) are experiencing significant health disparities, compared to the state average.

Eligible Funding Strategies

To support communities in creating equitable access to services, spaces, and systems that are youth-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed, we will fund organizations that create the conditions young people need to:

- Receive youth-centered physical and behavioral healthcare.
- Experience safe, inclusive spaces designed to foster social connections and promote positive health outcomes.
- Successfully transition into adulthood.
- Experience coordinated systems of care — especially for those with complex needs who seek services across multiple systems — that are informed by young people and their families.

Types of Funding

We will fund requests for general operating, project, or capital support. Grant size will typically range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, with a 12-month term.

Examples of What We Will Fund

- Expanding access to youth-centered behavioral, physical, reproductive, and oral healthcare services through the development or expansion of school-based health centers, telehealth, tele-mental health

services, or mobile health programs targeted to remote, underserved areas of Colorado. Including, but not limited to:

- Planning grants to support the development of new services.
- Equipment that allows for mobile delivery of services.
- Equipment that allows for the delivery of care via telehealth.
- Capital to help build new clinics and delivery sites.
- Capital for building, renovating, or equipping safe spaces for youth-centered programs so young people can be together and receive support and supervision from trusted adults.
- Capital or equipment to expand opportunities for young people and their families to engage in physical activities.
- Capital to increase safe spaces for young people to explore and have pride in their heritage or identity with the aim of building more inclusive communities and reducing isolation and loneliness.
- Planning and capital to develop safe, supported housing for young adults ages 18-25 who are or are at risk of homelessness.
- Equipment for education programs that help young people explore or prepare for future careers.
- Community planning grants to develop or improve systems that support young people, especially for young people with multi-system involvement.

What We Will Not Fund

- Applicants that do not meet [Caring for Colorado’s general eligibility requirements](#).
- Organizations that do not offer free or accessible services based on a sliding fee scale.
- Capital projects for spaces that will not be free or accessible to young people.

Grantmaking Guiding Principles

Our grantmaking decisions are guided by five principles that influence an organization’s ability to advance health and well-being for young people, ages 9 to 25, and their families who experience health inequities due to economic injustice, racism, and discrimination. The principles were developed based on insight from our youth and community listening sessions and are informed by best practices in the field of adolescent health and well-being. Grant funding will be prioritized for applicants who demonstrate alignment with these five principles:



[Learn more about our guiding principles.](#)

Application Review Process and Timeline

Caring for Colorado utilizes a two-part online application process. **No registration is needed to submit the Part 1 application**, which is designed to provide grant-seekers with a quick, low-barrier opportunity to share basic information about the organization and proposed work. Staff reviews Part 1 applications to determine eligibility and alignment with the funding opportunity.

Organizations that submit a Part 1 application by 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2024 will be notified about the status of their application by December 12, 2024. If an application is declined, the organization will receive an email from a Philanthropy Lead with a brief explanation of the decision. Organizations that are invited to move forward in the review process will be asked to complete the Part 2 application by 5:00 p.m. on February 6, 2025. **The Part 2 application must be submitted via Caring for Colorado's online grants portal.**

Part 2 Applications will be reviewed by March 3, 2025. If an organization's application does not move forward in the review process, a Philanthropy Lead will provide the opportunity to schedule a meeting to learn more about the decision. If an organization is asked to continue in the review process, a Philanthropy Lead will schedule a site visit. Site visits will take place between March 17 and May 3, 2025.

Following a comprehensive team review process, Philanthropy Leads present their grant recommendations to Caring for Colorado's Board of Directors for consideration. Following Board approval, Philanthropy Leads will notify applicants of grant decisions by June 16, 2025. The grant start date is July 1, 2025.

Learning & Assessment

How Your Application Informs Our Learning

The **Part 1 application** requires basic organizational data that Caring for Colorado collects to inform the decision-making process and help the foundation track and assess key grantmaking metrics over time (e.g., counties served, budget size, populations served, etc.).

The **Part 2 application** requires organizations to establish at least one outcome and subsequent objective for each [eligible funding strategy](#) selected. If funded, the grantee will report on the results of outcome(s) and objective(s) after 12 months.

POST GRANT AWARD:

In addition to reporting on grant outcomes and subsequent objectives, grantees will be asked *optional* learning questions in their annual grant report. These questions are designed to support Caring for Colorado in assessing our theory of change and create opportunities to share best practices and lessons learned with other grantees working on the same strategies.

Grantees will not be expected to implement any specific measurement tools or be asked to explicitly evaluate the impact of their work on the funding opportunity's desired results. We understand that organizations use different tools and methods to track data and measure impact, and we are confident that those will be helpful in reflecting on the funding opportunity's impact. We hope to learn if and how organizations are measuring outcomes related to building youth-centered communities, but we will do so through informal conversations and optional learning opportunities.

Connect With A Philanthropy Lead

Philanthropy Leads are available to answer questions that will help you determine eligibility and prepare your Part 1 Application. We recommend you watch the [Youth Health and Well-Being Funding Opportunity Webinar](#) and review application resources before scheduling a meeting.

Philanthropy Leads are assigned to specific counties. [Refer to our regional map](#) to determine your primary contact.

Schedule a meeting with [Lauren Czajka](#), [Sarah Dutcher](#), or [Steph Perez-Carrillo](#).

How to Apply

The [Part 1 application](#) is submitted online and does *not* require registration in the Caring for Colorado grantmaking portal. For the best results, we suggest that you use Google Chrome as your web browser.

Important note: You cannot save your work while working on the Part 1 online form. We recommend using the [Part 1 Application Template](#) and then copying and pasting your answers into the online form.

If you are unable to complete an [online application](#), please contact our grants management team at grants@caringforcolorado.org to discuss alternative options.

Glossary of Terms

Learn more about [terms used in the Youth Health and Well-Being Funding Opportunity](#).

We Want to Hear from You!

If you have feedback on this funding opportunity, [please share your thoughts here](#). You may also use this form to share helpful resources!

