



Funding Opportunity: Children, Youth, and Families

PURPOSE: Support opportunities that create equity for children, youth, and their families in Pueblo County.

Focus Area: Economic Stability & Advancement

DESIRED RESULT: All children, youth, and their families experience economic stability and advancement, with the ability to access quality education and employment.

WHY WE CARE

We believe all children, youth, and their families deserve to experience economic stability and advancement, with the ability to access quality education and employment.

Supporting the economic stability and advancement of young people and families is essential for building a prosperous and equitable community. Families facing consistent financial hardship are more likely to experience heightened stress, depression, and family conflict. Limited resources force parents and caregivers to make difficult decisions as they juggle employment, financial obligations, and family responsibilities. This challenge is compounded when communities lack access to critical resources like affordable childcare and quality education.

However, when families achieve stability, parents, caregivers, and young people gain the freedom to explore pathways to economic advancement. Opportunities for career development, higher education, or vocational training lead to stable employment, living wages, and the ability to build wealth and attain long-term financial independence. Beyond improving the quality of life for individual families, economic stability strengthens the community's overall economic health, fosters resilience, and helps reduce social and economic disparities.

Eligible Funding Strategies

To increase economic stability and advancement for children, youth, and families, we fund strategies that:

- Focus on career development and readiness for young people and their parents or caregivers
- Offer holistic educational support for students
- Improve quality and increase access to affordable childcare, including home-based, center-based, preschools, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Part 1 Due: 1/16/2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Part 2 Open (if invited): 1/27/2025

Part 2 Due: 02/20/2025, by 5:00 p.m.

Grant Start Date: 07/01/2025

[Click here to apply!](#)

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

In addition to Caring for Colorado's [general eligibility requirements](#), the proposed work must provide services in Pueblo County.

We will not fund:

- Grants to individuals
- Scholarships
- Debt retirement
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Capital campaigns
- Membership campaigns
- Individual financial assistance programs that are not supported by wraparound services
- Grants for academic research
- Anti-abortion efforts
- Religious organizations for religious purposes

Types of Funding

We will fund requests for general operating or project support. Annual grants can range from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Multi-year requests will be considered.

Grantmaking Guiding Principles

Caring for Colorado partners with a local community advisory board to provide grant funding to organizations that serve Pueblo County. The Sperry S. and Ella Graber Packard Fund for Pueblo Advisory Board prioritizes funding for organizations and programs that are guided by community voice, are culturally responsive, focus on equity, and demonstrate significant impact. The advisory board's has established shared definitions of key terms, guidance, and recommended strategies for success. [Learn more about our advisory board 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 January 16, 2025 will be notified about the status of their application by January 27, 2025. If an application is declined, the organization will receive an email from the director of place-based philanthropy 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 20, 2025. **The Part 2 application must be submitted via Caring for Colorado's online grants portal.**

Organizations invited to submit a Part 2 application will also be required to participate in a site visit with staff and community advisory board members. Following a comprehensive review process, the community advisory board will submit its funding recommendations to the Caring for Colorado Centennial Fund board of directors for final approval. Following board approval, the director of place-based philanthropy will notify applicants of grant decisions by May 22, 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 objective and subsequent outcome for each [eligible funding strategy](#) selected. If funded, the grantee will report on the results of objectives(s) and outcomes(s) after 12 months.

POST GRANT AWARD:

In addition to reporting on grant objectives and outcomes, grantees will be asked *optional* learning questions in their annual grant report. These questions are designed to support Caring for Colorado in assessing our Packard Fund for Pueblo funding approach 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.

Connect with our Director of Place-Based Philanthropy

The director of place-based philanthropy is available to answer questions that will help you determine eligibility and prepare your Part 1 Application. We recommend you watch the [Children, Youth, and Families Webinar](#) and review application resources before scheduling a meeting. [Schedule a meeting with Gina Lopez Ferguson.](#)

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@caringsforcolorado.org to discuss alternative options.

