Caring for Colorado FOUNDATION



GRANT GUIDELINES

Youth Health and Well-Being

PART 1 APPLICATION DUE:

Thursday, November 5, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Registration on the Online Grants Portal is due Tuesday, November 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

1 Review the funding opportunity resources on our website.

We know your time is valuable, so we work to make the grant application process as simple and clear as possible. ➜ Review all funding opportunity resources. In addition to the information in this document, we encourage you to:

- ☐ Watch the **Youth Health and Well-being Funding Opportunity Webinar** to learn about our grantmaking approach.
- ☐ Review a **PDF version of the Online Application** to see what information is needed to apply.
- ☐ Refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions** to find more detailed information about this funding opportunity.

2 Select a Focus Area and confirm your eligibility.

Read the **Focus Area Overview** on the following pages. Determine the Focus Area and funding strategies that best align with your proposed work and confirm your eligibility.

Carefully review the **Examples of What We Fund** and **What We Do *Not* Fund** before you apply.

Organizations invited to submit a Part 2 Application will be asked to complete a Learning and Assessment Plan based on their selected funding strategies. We strongly recommend limiting your selection to 1 to 3 strategies that reflect your core work.

3 Register for the online grants portal.

The Part 1 Application must be submitted through our online grants portal, Fluxx. Registration is required to access the portal. If you already have a Fluxx account with Caring for Colorado, you do not need to register again. ➜ All applicants must be registered in Fluxx by November 3rd to submit an application by the November 5th deadline.

The Fluxx portal is set up for individual users. If you have not yet set up a user account, please select "Create an account now" on the Fluxx homepage and input your information. You will receive an email to finalize setting up your account.

4 Submit your application.

➜ Log into the online grants portal and follow the directions on the online form to complete and **submit your application by 5:00 p.m. on November 5, 2026.** *Sorry, late applications will not be reviewed.*

Connect with us if you need support.

If you have specific questions about your eligibility or proposed work, please schedule a virtual meeting with the Philanthropy Lead assigned to the **county** where your physical office is located. If you have technical questions, contact our Grants Management team at *grants@caringforcolorado.org*.

Please refer to the Philanthropy Leads chart on page 2.

PHILANTHROPY LEADS

Our Philanthropy Leads are assigned to specific counties. Refer to our regional map and listed counties under each Philanthropy Lead to find your primary contact.



Yanira Duarte

yduarte@caringforcolorado.org
DIRECT 303.414.6710
Northwest: Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt
San Juan: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel
Southwest: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, and Montezuma

➜ Schedule an Office Hour



Stephanie Perez-Carrillo

sperez-carrillo@caringforcolorado.org
DIRECT 303.414.6705
Metro: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, and Jefferson.
San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache.

➜ Schedule an Office Hour



Sarah Dutcher

sdutcher@caringforcolorado.org
DIRECT 303.414.6712
North: Boulder, Larimer, and Weld.
Northeast: Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma.
High Country: Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake, Pitkin, and Summit.
Central Peaks: Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park.
Pikes Peak: El Paso and Teller

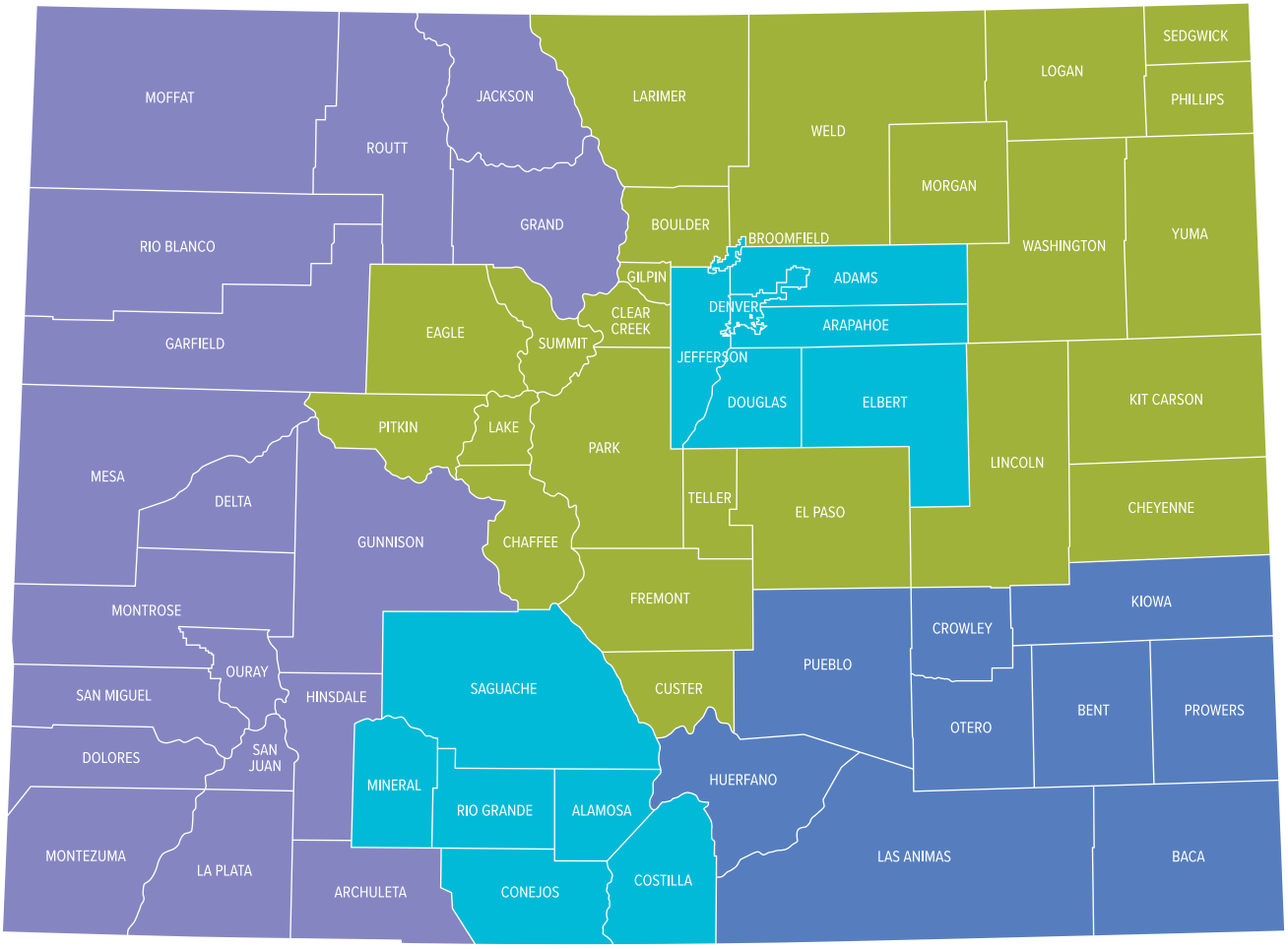
➜ Schedule an Office Hour



Gina Lopez Ferguson

gferguson@caringforcolorado.org
DIRECT 719.425.2103
Southeast: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo.

➜ Schedule an Office Hour



YOUTH HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF FUNDING: 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: Supporting Young People	
Desired Result	To support young people (ages 9-25) in developing a strong sense of belonging, identity, purpose, and agency.
Applicant Eligibility	☐ The proposed work serves a minimum of 75% of young people who live on low incomes (at or below 260% of the federal poverty level, 80% Area Median Income, or TANF eligible). **OR** ☐ Proposed work explicitly centers one of Caring for Colorado's priority populations (on page 6).
Funding Type	General operating or Program/Project
Funding Amounts	Applicants may request funding for a period of 12 to 36 months. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount. In the previous funding cycle, grants in the Supporting Young People Focus Area ranged from $60,000 to $300,000, with an average **annual** grant size of $72,995.
Eligible Funding Strategies The application requires you to select at least one strategy. The number of strategies selected is not correlated with the competitiveness of an application.	**Young people (ages 9-25)** have the opportunity to: ☐ Cultivate healthy, supportive relationships and social networks with peers, near-peers, and trusted adults. ☐ Explore their values, interests, and goals. ☐ Contribute in meaningful ways to others and their community. ☐ Make good decisions and establish positive health behaviors.



Examples of What We Fund

These examples are intended to illustrate the types of efforts we may support, but they are not meant to be limiting.

- Comprehensive out-of-school time programs.
- Evidence-based mentoring.
- Affinity programs and spaces.
- Programs focused on identity formation, self-efficacy, responsible decision-making, personal values, social skills, emotional and behavioral regulation, coping skills, and problem-solving.
- Civic engagement and education, community-led projects, movement building, and local youth-led advocacy.
- Programs that help young people navigate rapidly evolving technology advancements, including but not limited to AI and digital literacy and thriving.
- Leadership development.
- Sexual and reproductive health programs, including education on healthy relationships, bodily autonomy, personal values, pregnancy prevention, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Physical health programming with opportunities for young people to engage in a wide variety of physical activities, including sports and outdoor adventure.
- Health education programs that support young people in making decisions that foster good physical health (e.g., hygiene, sleep, nutrition, exercise, refraining from substance misuse).

What We Do *Not* Fund

- Applicants who do not meet Caring for Colorado's general eligibility requirements.
  ➜ Click to view general eligibility requirements.
- Organizations that do not have clear practices to ensure programs and services are affordable and accessible.
- One-time events.
- 1:1 mental health services.
- Mentoring programs that do not use an evidence-based model.

FOCUS AREA: Strengthening Families	
Desired Result	To support parents and caregivers of young people (ages 9-25) in developing secure and supportive relationships with their adolescent child(ren).
Applicant Eligibility	☐ The proposed work serves a minimum of 75% of young people who live on low incomes (at or below 260% of the federal poverty level, 80% Area Median Income, or TANF eligible). **OR** ☐ Proposed work explicitly centers one of Caring for Colorado's priority populations (on page 6).
Funding Type	General operating or Program/Project
Funding Amounts	Applicants may request funding for a period of 12 to 36 months. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount. In the previous funding cycle, grants in the Strengthening Families Focus Area ranged from $150,000 to $300,000, with an average **annual** grant size of $91,250.
Eligible Funding Strategies The application requires you to select at least one strategy. The number of strategies selected is not correlated with the competitiveness of an application.	**Parents and caregivers of young people (ages 9-25)** have the opportunity to: ☐ Strengthen family bonds and cultivate healthy parent/caregiver-adolescent relationships. ☐ Deepen their knowledge of adolescent development and parenting strategies that support young people's health and well-being. ☐ Develop meaningful social connections with other parents, caregivers, and advocates. ☐ Access concrete support, especially in times of need.* **This strategy must accompany at least one other strategy from this focus area.*



2 Generation Approach

Organizations that serve young people (ages 9-25) *and* their families can submit a **2 Generation Application** that includes funding strategies from two focus areas: **Supporting Young People**, described on page 3, and **Strengthening Families**, described above.

Examples of What We Fund

These examples are intended to illustrate the types of efforts we may support, but they are not meant to be limiting.

- Family-serving organizations that provide comprehensive services and support for parents and caregivers of young people (ages 9-25).
- Evidence or community-informed 2Gen family strengthening programs.
- Evidence or community-informed 2Gen prevention programs (e.g. substance misuse, nutrition, or sexual health programs).
- Evidence or community-informed programs that provide parents and caregivers of young people the opportunity to develop and practice skills and tools that support healthy adolescent development.
- Parent/caregiver peer support networks for parents of young people (ages 9 to 25).
- Opportunities for families who are engaged in comprehensive family support programming to participate in social activities with their adolescent children.
- Evidence-informed approaches that address whole-family behavioral health, including community health and peer support.
- Resource navigation and direct financial assistance for families who are engaged in comprehensive family support programming.
- Collaboration with youth-serving organizations or schools to increase family engagement and support.

What We Do *Not* Fund

- Applicants who do not meet Caring for Colorado's general eligibility requirements.
  ➜ Click to view general eligibility requirements.
- Organizations that do not have clear practices to ensure programs and services are affordable and accessible.
- One-time events.
- 1:1 mental health services.
- Organizations exclusively focused on basic needs or short-term assistance (e.g., food, clothing, financial assistance).

FOCUS AREA: Building Youth-Centered Communities	
Desired Result	To support communities in creating equitable access to services, spaces, and systems that are youth-centered, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed.
Applicant Eligibility	☐ The proposed work serves one or more of the following counties: Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Fremont, Garfield, Huerfano, Kit Carson, Lake, La Plata, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma. **OR** ☐ School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) that provide comprehensive, equitable healthcare to young people (ages 9 to 25).
Funding Type	General operating, Program/Project, or Capital
Funding Amounts	Applicants may request funding for a period of 12 to 36 months. There is no minimum or maximum grant amount. In the previous funding cycle, grants in the Building Youth-Centered Communities Focus Area ranged from $80,000 to $300,000, with an average **annual** grant size of $70,938.
Eligible Funding Strategies The application requires you to select at least one strategy. The number of strategies selected is not correlated with the competitiveness of an application.	**Young people (ages 9-25)** have the opportunity to: ☐ Receive youth-centered healthcare. ☐ Be safe from interpersonal, family, and community violence. ☐ Successfully transition into adulthood. ☐ Access inclusive, safe spaces designed to foster social connections and promote positive health outcomes. ☐ 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.



Examples of What We Fund

These examples are intended to illustrate the types of efforts we may support, but they are not meant to be limiting.

- Operating support for SBHCs to provide reproductive health care, mental health screening and counseling, other health screenings, immunizations, health education, and/or to strengthen community referrals to address other health needs of young people.
- Planning grants to support the development of new youth-centered healthcare services.
- Equipment that allows for telehealth or mobile delivery of healthcare services to young people.
- Capital to help build new youth-centered healthcare clinics and delivery sites.
- Public health approaches to violence prevention.
- Programs that engage young people and parents/caregivers in conversations about firearm access and safety.
- Programs and interventions that protect young people from abuse and neglect.
- Capital for building, renovating, or equipping safe spaces for youth-centered programs.
- Capital to increase safe spaces for young people to explore and have pride in their heritage or identity.
- Capital or equipment to expand opportunities for young people and their families to engage in physical activities.
- Planning and capital to develop safe, supported housing for young adults ages 18-25 who are or are at risk of homelessness.
- Planning or equipment for workforce development programs that help young people explore or prepare for future careers.
- Community planning grants to develop or improve systems or services that support young people (e.g., child welfare, housing, transportation, food access, etc.).

What We Do *Not* Fund

- Applicants who do not meet Caring for Colorado's general eligibility requirements.
  → Click to view general eligibility requirements.
- Organizations that do not have clear practices to ensure programs and services are affordable and accessible.
- Capital projects for spaces that will not be free or accessible to young people.



PRIORITY POPULATIONS

At Caring for Colorado, we work to improve health outcomes for people experiencing the greatest inequities in health, well-being, and opportunity. Recognizing that economic injustice, racism, and discrimination are major drivers of health inequity, we prioritize:

- Young people and families living with low incomes, defined as living below 260% of the federal poverty level, 80% Area Median Income, or TANF eligible.
- Communities of color, including individuals from various racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds not identified as white.
- Young people who identify as 2SLGBTQAI+.
- Young people who are experiencing the child welfare system.
- Young people being raised by grandparents or other kinship caregivers.
- Young people who are experiencing housing insecurity.
- Young people who are experiencing the juvenile justice system.
- Young people who are pregnant or parenting.
- Young people who are experiencing interpersonal or family violence or abuse.
- Newly arrived immigrants or refugees.
- Young people who are experiencing family separation and/or instability due to parent involvement in the justice or immigration system.
- Young people living with visible or invisible disabilities, including physical or intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions that create barriers to education, healthcare, or employment.

IMPORTANT NOTE

We recognize that many young people hold multiple, intersecting identities and may experience overlapping forms of inequity. However, for eligibility purposes, applicants must explicitly center one priority population—meaning at least 90% of the young people or families served identify with that population. This requirement is designed to support efforts that are intentionally created by and for a specific priority population. Multiple populations cannot be combined to meet the 90% threshold.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

September 15, 2026	Part 1 Application Open
November 5, 2026	**Part 1 Application Due by 5:00 p.m.**
December 18, 2026	Part 1 Application Notifications *Declination or Invitation to Submit Part 2 Application*
February 4, 2027	**Part 2 Application Due by 5:00 p.m.**
March 24, 2027	Part 2 Application Notifications *Declination or Site Visit Invitation*

Continuing Review of Grant Applicants:	
March 29 to May 7, 2027	In-Person Site Visits
June 8, 2027	Grant Decisions Approved *by Caring for Colorado Board of Directors*
June 11, 2027	**Final Award Notifications**
July 1, 2027	Grant Start Date