September 9, 2019

Dear Community,

Roots & Branches Foundation is an initiative of Rose Community Foundation that engages Jewish young adults, ages 25 to 40, in collaborative philanthropy. Each year, a new group of 18 members works together to identify needs in the community, learn about philanthropy and make grants in the greater Denver community.

In December 2019, we, the 13th cohort of Roots & Branches Foundation, will make grants totaling approximately $50,000 to nonprofit organizations serving the greater Denver community that support incarcerated individuals, and their families and communities, as they prepare to, and as they, reenter society. We hope these grants help reduce recidivism rates by believing in the value and restoring the dignity of those who have been incarcerated.

Each year, Roots & Branches Foundation members work together to explore Jewish teachings and traditions of giving. We encompass the spectrum of Jewish denominations and collectively feel committed to guiding our grantmaking using the Jewish values of:

- *Tzedakah*, giving in pursuit of justice; we are called to right the scales of justice for communities of color, poverty and those experiencing mental illness that are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system.
- *Teshuvah*, forgiveness; we believe in giving incarcerated individuals an opportunity to make amends for past mistakes so that we can together focus on building a stronger community.

We invite nonprofit organizations to respond to this request for proposals. Approximately $50,000 is available to grant and we anticipate making grants that range from $10,000 to $20,000. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

Sincerely,

Roots & Branches Foundation 2019 Members

Lauren Baum	Ryan Hustana	Reut Tenne
Lisa Berdie	Kolby Morris Dahary	Zach Tucker
Adam Burg	Hirsch Neustein	Chava Tzemach
Ben Figa	Rosa Perlman	William Weiner
Lauren Fink	Meredith Slater	Andrew Woodman
Hillary Haspel	Josh Snyder	Sara Zessar

Grant Priority and Request for Proposals
Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4, 2019

Incarceration imposes significant fiscal and social costs on the health and vitality of communities across the country. In Colorado much of that cost is due to individuals who commit a new crime, reoffend, or violate parole after being released from prison; the recidivism rate is 10 percentage points higher in Colorado than the national average of 40 percent[1]. This high recidivism rate reflects the justice system's failure to deter or rehabilitate offenders and prepare them for life outside of prison.

Many prisoners have lived behind bars for years; reorienting and transitioning to the outside world can be extremely difficult to navigate. Programs and projects that help those who are incarcerated to reenter society transform lives by providing support networks and resources, reuniting and restoring families, and repairing communities.

Too often the criminal justice system perpetuates cycles of injustice and oppression for communities of color. In Colorado, Black, American Indian and Hispanic communities are drastically overrepresented in prisons and jails[2]. We envision that the impact of these grants will disrupt cycles of incarceration and poverty for the most vulnerable populations.

We will fund organizations that provide support for individuals during and after incarceration, as well as the families and communities affected. We are interested in funding efforts that are informed by the people they serve and have deep, transformative and lasting impacts on those individuals' lives and communities. We hope these grants connect people released from the jail and prison system to resources that help them return to society with safety, success and dignity.

We will fund organizations and programs that support incarcerated individuals and their families and communities as they prepare to reenter society through direct services such as, but not limited to:

- Mental health and wellness
- Job training and employment
- Substance abuse and drug rehabilitation
- Basic needs assistance

- Mentoring and peer support
- Educational opportunities
- Anger management
- Trauma informed care
- Housing assistance

We will not fund:
- Advocacy
- Political lobbying

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[1] "Prosecutors File A Record Number of Felonies Even As Colorado's Crime Remains Flat" Colorado Public Radio. February, 2019 https://www.cpr.org/2019/02/04/prosecutors-file-a-record-number-of-felonies-even-as-colorados-crime-remains-flat/
[2] Colorado Profile. Prison Policy Initiative. 2010 https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/CO.html

<h1 style="text-align:center">Eligibility and Application Information</h1>

Deadline

All applications must be received through Rose Community Foundation's **online grants portal** by 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 4, 2019. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. All applicants, regardless of whether or not their requests are granted, will be notified in late December 2019.

Funds Available to Grant and Grant Period

Approximately $50,000 is available to grant for this request for proposals. Roots & Branches Foundation anticipates making grants ranging in size from $10,000 to $20,000. Roots & Branches Foundation makes one-year grants; funds must be expended between January and December 2020. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

We encourage organizations whose mission and work largely align with the Roots & Branches Foundation 2019 grantmaking priority, to request general operating support. Organizations that have a specific program or project that aligns with the Roots & Branches Foundation 2019 grantmaking priority, should apply for program/project support.

Eligibility Requirements

Roots & Branches Foundation will accept proposals from organizations and programs that serve the seven-county Greater Denver community of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. Programs with a broader geographic focus may apply; however, the application must address its relevance to and impact on people living within these seven counties.

Applicants must be nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt classification from the Internal Revenue Service or must have a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a tax-exempt organization.

Organizations with a pending grant request to Rose Community Foundation may also apply for this grant opportunity. Organizations may only submit one application in response to this request for proposals. In cases where two or more organizations are partnering on a program or project, one organization should submit a single proposal on behalf of the partnership.

Questions

If you have questions about Roots & Branches Foundation's funding priority, contact Emily Kornhauser, Initiatives Manager, at **ekornhauser@rcfdenver.org** or 303.398.7417. If you have questions about the online grants portal, contact Kelli Rojas, Grants Manager, at **krojas@rcfdenver.org** or 303.398.7446.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted online through Rose Community Foundation's online grants portal. You can access the portal **here** or at **rcfdenver.org/grantsapply.** You will need to create or log into an existing account to view and complete the grant application. Only applications submitted through Rose Community Foundation's online grants portal will be accepted.

After Submitting Your Application
Once you have submitted your online grant application, you will receive an email confirming your application was successfully submitted in the system. If you wish to access your application after submittal or to apply for another grant in the future, log in to your account by visiting **rcfdenver.org/grantsapply** to access the system.

Site Visits
Roots & Branches Foundation will conduct site visits with some applicants as part of the grant review process. If your organization is selected for a site visit, the visit will take place between October 28 and November 15, 2019 and should include any key staff working on the project.

Application Questions and Required Attachments
All grant applications must be completed and submitted online where character limits are enforced. The following information is provided as a resource to help you prepare your proposal.

Basic Information
- **Program/Project Name** (Character Limit: 100)
- **Executive Director Name** (Character Limit: 50)
- **Name and Title of Primary Contact for this Proposal** (Character Limit: 70)
- **Primary Contact's Email Address** (Character Limit: 50)
- **Primary Contact's Phone Number** (Character Limit: 20)
- **Grant Request Type:** General Operating Support or Program/Project Support (Select one)
- **Total Grant Amount Requested**

Fiscal Sponsor (if applicable)
- **Fiscal Sponsor:** Provide the organization name, address and website for your fiscal sponsor, as well as the name of a contact person and his or her phone number and email address. (Character Limit: 500)

Request Details
- **Mission and Vision Statements, Goals and Objectives:** Provide your organization's mission statement, vision statement along with current goals and objectives, and a brief history of the organization. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- **Request Description:** Describe the work for which your organization seeks funding including specific related activities you will undertake during the grant period of January through December 2020. Include a description of the population served and the number of people who will be served. If your work is community-informed, please let us know how. (Character Limit: 2,000)

- **Outcomes and Impact:** Describe the desired outcomes for your organization or program/project. What will be the impact be on the individuals, families and communities served through this request? If you have past results please include those, as well as how you measure your quantitative and qualitative metrics. Optional: You may include a short story or example to demonstrate impact. (Character Limit: 2,000)

Financial Information
- **Fiscal Year End Date** (Character Limit: 10)
- **Operating Budget**: Provide the organization's operating budget including all expenses and revenue for the period covered by the grant (January through December 2020). An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- **Program Budget** (if applicable): Provide a detailed line item budget for all program expenses and revenue. Itemize each major budget category and include the total cost of the program. In the case of revenue, include all funds available for the program and indicate pending or secured for each. Include the amount requested from Roots & Branches Foundation as a pending source of revenue. An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- **Year-to-Date Statement of Financial Position or Balance Sheet:** Upload your year-to-date statement of financial position (or balance sheet) through the most recent month end. An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- **Year-to-Date Statement of Activities or Income and Expense or Profit and Loss Statement:** Upload your year-to-date statement of activities (income and expense or profit and loss statement) through the most recent month end. An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)

Site Visit and Additional Information
- **Site Visit Date and Times** Select at least 1, and up to 3, possible dates and times between October 28 and November 15, 2019 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for a one-hour meeting when a small group of Roots & Branches members may visit your office or facility to learn more about the specific program or project(s) related to this funding request. We ask that you please hold the dates and times until we are in touch by October 23 to let you know if you have been selected for a site visit, and which of the provided dates we are able to visit.
- **Additional Tools and Resources Needed:** What additional tools or resources would be helpful to your organization as you continue to strengthen or expand your capacity to address the needs of the communities you serve? (Character Limit: 500)