

Recovery & Reimagining Funding Opportunity

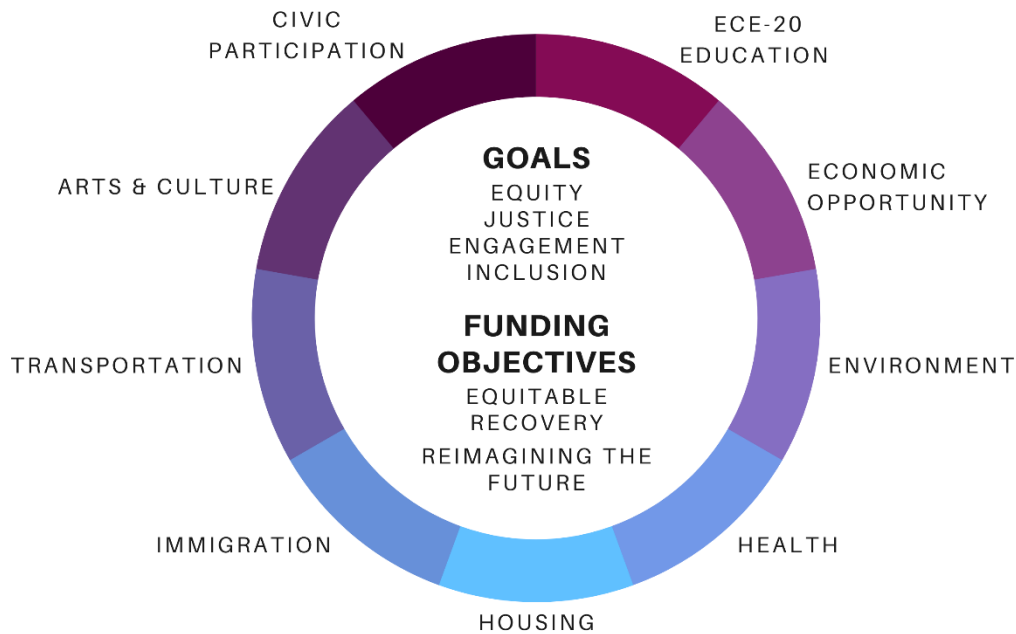
Building a better future together

Si necesita ayuda para traducir este paquete de información al Español, por favor contacte a Maria Torres vía correo electrónico mtorres@rcfdenver.org.

Overview

Rose Community Foundation is pleased to announce an open funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations in the Greater Denver region. At the Foundation, we envision a thriving region strengthened by its diversity and generosity. We seek to advance inclusive, engaged and equitable Greater Denver communities through values-driven philanthropy. We are animated in this by our values, which are universal in aspiration and anchored in the Foundation's Jewish roots and legacy. For this 2021 open funding cycle, we seek to live the value of *Tikkun Olam*: working together in partnership to create a more whole and perfect world.

We continue to navigate the compounding crises of COVID-19 and systemic racism and the need to address the inequities that have been exposed and exacerbated by both. At the same time, we seek to support communities in their vision for a new, better normal that works for everyone. We want to ensure that these efforts are informed by learning and data about the emerging challenges, opportunities and innovations in our region that better our understanding of the nonprofit ecosystem's capabilities and effectiveness in advancing equity, justice, inclusion and engagement.



This funding is intended to support organizations and projects that can propose specific activities and intended results that contribute to an equitable recovery and to advancing a more equitable, just, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver, especially in communities most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and systemic racism.

To achieve our goals of creating a more just, equitable, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver, **Rose Community Foundation funds work in the following pathways:**

Arts and culture
Civic participation
ECE-20 education

Economic opportunity
Environment
Health

Housing
Immigration
Transportation

This funding opportunity will prioritize organizations whose missions and proposed projects can demonstrate an integrated, cross-cutting approach that is inclusive of more than one issue area or pathway.

Purpose of the 2021 grant cycle

As a community foundation, we seek to maintain an open door for nonprofits in our seven-county Greater Denver region. We aim to fund organizations addressing all the following objectives:

- **RECOVERY** – supporting opportunities that contribute to an equitable recovery of our community as we continue to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- **REIMAGINING** – supporting opportunities that are intentionally creating a more equitable, just, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver
- **RESULTS AND LEARNING** – supporting organizations that can demonstrate/measure impact and learn/share knowledge about our community’s challenges and progress in advancing equity, justice, inclusion and engagement

What does creating a more equitable, just, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver mean to us?

- **EQUITY AND JUSTICE** – Though Greater Denver has grown at more than double the rate of the country, the benefits of that growth are inequitably experienced across racial, gender, economic and geographic differences. We recognize and seek to correct the entrenched disparities and systemic inequities impacting communities that have been historically underserved, underrepresented and oppressed. Achieving equity requires us to acknowledge that our systems have failed to serve many in our community and commit ourselves to addressing the funding gaps and structural barriers that impede equity and justice for all communities.
- **INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT** – We recognize that not all Greater Denver community members have been able to participate fully in civic life or feel a sense of belonging in our community. We seek to build an inclusive and welcoming community, support an informed and engaged society and advance civic engagement for the betterment of public discourse, public policy and community interconnectivity.

Who and where do we want to impact?

- Organizations reaching individuals or families living on incomes at 200 percent of or below the federal poverty line
- Organizations reaching Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Although we fund in the seven-county Greater Denver region, priority will be given to applications focused on Adams, Arapahoe and Denver counties, or specific neighborhoods in Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas and Jefferson counties with demonstrated need established through data.



We are interested in seeing proposals that:

- align with the Foundation's goals of advancing equity and justice and fostering inclusion and engagement and can define specific goals in service of the same goal;
- leverage this transitional, bridge-building moment in time to build a more equitable Greater Denver region;
- demonstrate an approach that spans two or more of the pathways in which we fund;
- demonstrate how the organization engages and amplifies the voices of the communities it serves; and
- demonstrate how the organization understands, measures and communicates its impact.

For more information

You may sign up for a 20-minute session to talk with one of our program officers about this opportunity. Program officers will be available for questions about the LOI from August 16–25 and questions about the application for invited applicants from September 1–15. Use the Calendly links on [this page](#) to set up a meeting with Program Officers Tricia Bonman (she/her/hers), Therese Ellery (she/her/hers) or Maria Torres (she/her/hers).

What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Commitment to advancing equity across gender, race, sexual orientation, income, ability and geography
- Organization or project includes diverse perspectives and experiences, and people of color are engaged in leadership, design and implementation
- Executive leadership, board and staff are representative of communities the organization serves
- Community engagement and participation informs the organization's work
- Financial picture of the organization

What we won't fund in this opportunity

- For-profit entities, individuals, groups without 501(c)(3) status or equivalent exempt status (i.e., government entities, schools, religious institutions, etc.) without fiscal sponsors
- Organizations that received grants through our 2021 Policy and Advocacy or Jewish Life grant cycles
- Contributions to fund endowments
- Projects that only benefit specific individuals
- Proselytizing or organizations or programs that require or encourage participation in any type of religious activities as a condition of service or are otherwise exclusionary
- Sponsorships, fundraising events or one-time events
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings for the sole benefit of the nonprofit staff

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

- **Total funding available:** \$3.2 million. We anticipate this to be a highly competitive process.
- **Grant duration:** One year
- **Types of support:**
 - Program or Project Support – most grant funding will be structured as program support.
 - General Operating Support – if the entirety of your organization's work aligns with the goals and priorities of this funding opportunity, you may apply for general operating support.
- **Funding amounts** will be determined depending on the organization's operating budget, and we seek to fund organizations across the spectrum of operating budgets.
 - Operating budget of \$250,000 and below: up to \$25,000
 - Operating budget of \$250,001 – \$750,000: up to \$50,000
 - Operating budget of \$750,001 – \$1,000,000: up to \$75,000
 - Operating budget above \$1,000,000: up to \$100,000



- Collaborative projects are welcome to apply; please use the funding amount range listed for the largest budget of the organizations applying together.
- This is Rose Community Foundation’s last open funding opportunity in 2021. You may sign up for notifications of future funding at the bottom of [this page](#).

What are reporting and grantee expectations?

- Organizations and projects receiving grant funds will be asked to participate in an interim survey during summer 2022 on their progress, challenges and lessons learned. Grantees will also submit a short narrative report of final progress and financial reporting on grant funds in the [online grants portal](#) within 30 days of the end of the grant period.

Timeline

August 16 – 27	<p>Letter of Inquiry (LOI) process open. Organizations are invited to submit a Letter of Inquiry form (a series of questions including a narrative section) through the online grants portal to determine eligibility and fit for the RFP. LOI questions are included at the end of this document. Not all applicants will be invited to the full application stage.</p> <p>We have elected to use an LOI approach because, as a community foundation, we seek to maintain an open door for nonprofits in the Greater Denver region. Asking nonprofits to submit LOIs before full applications is a less time-consuming way for them to share information about their work and is a way for them to determine if this opportunity is the right fit before completing a more detailed application. We want to be respectful of people’s time and efforts. LOIs are also a more digestible, simpler format to share with our community of donors.</p>
September 1	Application invitation notification. Organizations will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application or are declined for this opportunity.
September 1 – 17	Application process open. Invited organizations will apply through the online portal at this time. Application questions are included at the end of this document. Not all organizations invited to apply will be recommended for funding.
September 27 – 29	Virtual site visits. Organizations may be contacted for “site visit” calls.
October 25	Grant funding decisions announced.
November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022	Grant period for funded projects.

How do organizations apply?

- Sign in or create an account at rcfdenver.org/grantsapply. Click on the “Apply” icon at the top of the screen. Locate the “Recovery & Reimagining Funding Opportunity” and click the blue “Apply” button to start an LOI.
- If you have questions about the grants portal or need assistance with access, please contact grants manager [Kelly Costello](#) (he/him/his).



More About Rose Community Foundation

In addition to grantmaking, Rose Community Foundation utilizes advocacy and philanthropic services to advance thriving Greater Denver communities. Our staff works closely with [individual and family donors](#) to define and achieve their philanthropic goals and support the causes they care about most.

Our philanthropic services department also brings together diverse groups of Jewish teens and young adults from across the Greater Denver community, who collectively represent the diversity of the denominational spectrum of Judaism, for two giving circles: [Roots and Branches](#) and [Rose Youth Foundation](#).

Additionally, the Foundation has supported nearly 70 nonprofit organizations in creating and growing endowments to sustain their vital work into the future. Through the [Nonprofit Endowment Cohort](#), we offer coaching on all aspects of an endowment campaign, from donor solicitation and stewardship to growing the fund through future planned gifts. [Contact us](#) to learn more about how we support nonprofits beyond programmatic grantmaking.



LOI Questions

The following questions will be available in the online grants portal and are provided here for your reference only. Please submit your responses via the [online grants portal](#).

1. What are the three core counties in which you do most of your work (majority of people served live within these three counties) within the seven-county Denver Metro area?
2. Current fiscal year operating budget (*numeric*)
3. Mission statement (*if your organization has a profile with Guidestar, your mission statement will be automatically populated*)
4. Project or general operating support (*checkbox*)
 - Program or Project Support (*most grant funding will be structured as program support*).
 - General Operating Support (*if the entirety of an organization's work aligns with the goals and priorities of this RFP, you may apply for general operating support*).
5. Pathways: select up to three pathways in which you do your work related to your request for this opportunity.
6. One of our goals as a community foundation is to find alignment between donors' interests and the work happening in our communities. In the event Rose Community Foundation fundholders are interested in funding organizations or projects in the space in which you are working, may we share with them the programmatic information you provide as part of this application process? *Your LOI and, if invited, full application may be shared in part or in whole. Your answer will not influence the Foundation's funding decision for this request.*
7. Rose Community Foundation will not fund organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, height, weight, physical or mental ability, veteran status, military obligations, socioeconomic status, marital status, genetic information, political views or belief systems. Does your organization practice nondiscrimination policies in line with these views? (*Checkbox with space for further explanation*)
8. Project/Request name
9. Opportunity your proposed project seeks to address. How does it relate to both recovery and reimagining a more equitable, just, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver? What results and outcomes do you hope to accomplish in the next year, if awarded grant funding? (*2000 characters, ~500 words*)
10. Describe the community you serve (*1000 characters ~250 words*)
11. To what extent does community participation guide your work? (*This scale has been adapted from the ladder of participation model developed by Sherry Arnstein – you may see a breakdown of the ladder developed by Catalytic Communities [at this link.](#)*) Scale:
 - 1 – no participation
 - 2 – community members are made aware of the organization's work
 - 3 – community members are consulted via surveys or other data-gathering tools
 - 4 – community members have some representation at staff, board or advisory levels
 - 5 – community members have equal representation at board or advisory level
 - 6 – community members hold majority of decision-making power
 - 7 – organization is led by members of impacted community



Application Questions

The following questions will be available in the [online grants portal](#) for those who are invited to apply after the LOI process. Questions are provided here for your reference only. Please note that not all questions below are applicable to all applicants.

- **Name, Pronouns and Title of Primary Contact** Provide the name, gender pronouns and title of the person we should contact to discuss this grant request.
- **Primary Contact's Email Address**
- **Primary Contact's Phone Number**
- **Executive Director's Name and Pronouns**
- **Fiscal Sponsor** Is there a fiscal sponsor organization for this project that is different from the applicant organization listed on this application?
 - **Branching Question, only if "Yes" above: Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information** Please provide the legal organization name and full contact information (name, gender pronouns, title, email address, phone number, and mailing address) for your primary point of contact with the fiscal sponsor for this project.
- **Total Amount Requested** Using the eligible request ranges based on the organization's operating budget:
 - Operating budget of \$250,000 and below: up to \$25,000
 - Operating budget of \$250,001 – \$750,000: up to \$50,000
 - Operating budget of \$750,001 – \$1,000,000: up to \$75,000
 - Operating budget above \$1,000,000: up to \$100,000
 - Collaborative requests on behalf of more than one organization: please use the funding amount range listed for the largest budget of the organizations applying together.
- **Short Description** Provide a concise, one-to-two sentence description of this request's specific purpose. (300 characters)
- **Intended Goals, Results or Outcomes in support of:**
 - **Recovery** – supporting opportunities that contribute to an equitable recovery of our community as we continue to deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Reimagining** – supporting opportunities that are intentionally creating a more equitable, just, inclusive and engaged Greater Denver.
- **Results** Recognizing that long-term wins may take years to enact, please share what positive changes you realistically hope to achieve in a one-year grant period related to the goals of this RFP? Identify specific qualitative and/or quantitative results you expect to achieve in this grant period, including the sources of data you will rely on to measure your results. In your answer, we



are looking for the results and outcomes you hope to achieve, not the activities or outputs you plan to use to achieve them. [Click here for more information about results and outcomes.](#)

- **Community Impacted** Specify the areas of Metro Denver that the project will impact if successful. Include counties, cities, neighborhoods and/or zip codes, as applicable. Also specify the populations your organization intends to serve through your work and the number of people you anticipate serving.
- **Key Activities** What are the most important activities you will undertake to achieve your intended outcomes in this one-year grant period? If you have a specific set of activities, communication strategies or actions you hope to achieve, please include them here.
- **Community Engagement** In what ways does the community you serve lead, direct and/or inform the design and implementation of your work and programs?
- **Leadership Diversity** We are committed to building and supporting organizations led by and representative of those who are the most impacted and least represented by existing systems. To that end, please describe what steps your organization is taking to ensure leadership at all levels of your organization is reflective of the community you serve. By leadership, we mean executive directors, senior staff and boards of directors, as well as core members who are leading the work. This could include leadership pipeline, hiring practices, staff transition planning and other explicit strategies that strive to increase diversity at all levels of the organization.
- **Financials** Describe your organization's financial model. Describe how your organization is supported, including a description of the typical sources of income and the percentages of revenue from each type of source. How likely is each source to be reliable and repeatable?
 - **Branching Question, only for organizations applying for up to \$100,000: Budget Narrative** If your organization experienced or is expecting to experience a deficit, please provide details on how the deficit was managed or plans to address it. Please also provide comments explaining any major changes or unusual occurrences in your budget(s).
- **Operating Budget** Upload a 2021 (or current fiscal year) organizational operating budget with actuals to date.
- **Branching Question, only for organizations applying for program support: Program Budget** Please upload a program budget for the activities for which you are requesting funding, with both revenue and expenses represented.
- **Partnership** Does your organization work in partnership with other organizations or groups in carrying out your goals for this project/request? If yes, describe the nature of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities of partners.