



November 15, 2021

Dear Community:

Roots & Branches Foundation, an initiative of Rose Community Foundation, engages Jewish young adults ages 25 to 40 in collaborative philanthropy. In the current cycle of Roots & Branches Foundation, we will make grants totaling approximately \$45,000 to support access to quality early childhood care and education for children and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Each year, Roots & Branches Foundation members work together to reflect on Jewish teachings and traditions of giving, explore community needs, and practice strategic philanthropy. Our grantmaking is guided by the following two Jewish values:

- From Generation to Generation, *L'dor vador*: to pass Jewish Traditions from one generation to the next. We are interested in targeting multigenerational approaches to this issue.
- You Shall Strengthen, *V'hechezekta bo*: support those who need help in becoming self-sufficient. We hope to support families and children in becoming self-sufficient through education.

We invite organizations providing quality early childhood care and education for children and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity to respond to this request for proposals. Approximately \$45,000 is available to grant, and we anticipate making grants of \$10,000-\$20,000. We understand that community needs far outpace the resources we have available, and as a result it is expected that not all applicants will receive funding.

Please note: a new grant cycle for another initiative of Rose Community Foundation, Rose Youth Foundation, opened on November 8 and will close December 13, 2021. Rose Youth Foundation seeks to fund organizations providing mental health support to survivors of sexual assault. View the RFP here: <https://rcfdenver.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RYP-RFP-2021-2022.pdf>. If you believe that your organization or program fits the eligibility criteria for **both** the Rose Youth Foundation and Roots & Branches Foundation funding opportunities, please reach out to Gillian Breuer, Philanthropic Initiatives Associate, at [gbreuer@rcfdenver.org](mailto:gbreuer@rcfdenver.org), or Tejas Iyer, Donor and Fund Services Associate, at [tiyer@rcfdenver.org](mailto:tiyer@rcfdenver.org), before submitting your application.

Sincerely,

**Roots & Branches Foundation 2021-2022 Members**

Melissa Dworkin  
Elliot Eisen  
Rachel Hersch  
Abby Kaufman  
Nate Levy  
Elliot Marks

Anna Michaels-Boffy  
Alyssa Miller  
Andrew Rubin  
Alec Sarche  
Amalia Sax-Bolder  
Allie Schlosser

**Grant Priority and Request for Proposals**  
**Deadline to apply: 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021**

Rising housing prices in the Greater Denver area, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic's varied impacts, have significantly increased the number of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in our region. In 2021, the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time more than doubled compared to just one year earlier.<sup>1</sup> Families with young children represent a significant portion of these individuals.<sup>2</sup> Homelessness and housing insecurity can make it harder for families to access quality early childhood education and care, and yet these services are critically important for children and their parents. Children who receive high quality early childhood education are more likely to live healthier lives, earn higher wages, and raise stronger families themselves as adults.<sup>3</sup>

This issue is pervasive nationwide, but over-burdened support systems and the lack of affordable housing make the Greater Denver region particularly susceptible. We believe equitable access to quality early childhood education can help disrupt cycles of poverty and homelessness and provide a better quality of life for children, parents and caregivers. Through our grants, we hope to improve access to quality early childhood education, childcare and parenting support in our region.

We seek to fund organizations and programs providing early childhood education and care and parenting support to children and families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. We define early childhood as infants and preschool-aged children, ages zero to five years old.

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<sup>1</sup> Kyle Cooke, "Study: First time homelessness doubled in Denver area over the past year," *RMPBS*, August 26, 2021, <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/news/study-finds-drastic-increase-in-denverarea-homelessness/>

<sup>2</sup> Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, "2021 Point in Time Survey," *Metro Denver Homeless Initiative*, 2021, <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mdhi/viz/2021PITDashboard/Overview>

<sup>3</sup> First Five Years Fund, "Why It Matters," *First Five Years Fund*, 2021, <https://www.ffyf.org/why-it-matters/#:~:text=Children%20who%20receive%20a%20high-quality%20early%20childhood%20education,incarceration%2C%20raise%20stronger%20families%20and%20contribute%20to%20society.>



## Eligibility and Application Information

### Deadline

All applications must be received through Rose Community Foundation's [online grants portal](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. All applicants will be notified whether their request is granted by April 2022.

### Funds Available to Grant and Grant Period

Approximately \$45,000 is available to grant through this request for proposals. Roots & Branches Foundation anticipates making grants between \$10,000-\$20,000. Roots & Branches Foundation makes one-year grants; funds must be expended between May 2022 and April 2023. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

We encourage organizations to request the type of support (general operating or program) that best serves them. Organizations whose mission and work align with the grantmaking priority should consider requesting general operating support. For organizations whose work is broader than the scope of this grant priority, a program support grant for a specific project aligning with the grant priority is advised.

### Eligibility Requirements

Roots & Branches Foundation will accept proposals from organizations and programs that serve the seven-county Greater Denver region of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and/or Jefferson Counties. Organizations 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 have a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a tax-exempt organization.

Organizations with a current grant or 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.



## Completing Your Application

**Applications must be submitted online through Rose Community Foundation's online grants portal at [rcfdenver.org/grantsapply](https://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.

### Questions

If you have questions about Roots & Branches Foundation's funding priority, contact Gillian Breuer, Philanthropic Initiatives Associate, at [gbreuer@rcfdenver.org](mailto:gbreuer@rcfdenver.org) or 303.398.7441. If you have questions about the online grants portal, contact Tejas Iyer, Donor and Fund Services Associate, at [atiyer@rcfdenver.org](mailto:atiyer@rcfdenver.org) or 303.398.7459.

### 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](https://rcfdenver.org/grantsapply).

### Virtual Site Visits

Roots & Branches Foundation will conduct virtual "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 on Zoom with a small group of Roots & Branches Foundation members and should include any key staff from your organization, including those working on the project for which you are seeking funding. Foundation staff will reach out to the applicant's primary contact to organize this meeting for January or February 2022.

## Application Questions and Required Attachments

*All grant applications must be completed and submitted online where character limits are enforced. Spaces are included in character limits. 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:** Does your organization have a fiscal sponsor? Yes/No. If yes: 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.

### Request Details

- **Mission and Vision Statements, Goals and Objectives, and History:** Provide your organization's mission statement and vision statement, current goals and objectives, and a brief history of the organization. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- **Community Needs:** Provide a description of the community need and how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these needs or created new challenges for the communities you serve. (Character Limit: 1,500)

- **Request Description:** Describe the work or resources for which your organization seeks funding, including how you intend to address the community need outlined above. Include a description of the population served and the approximate number of children or families who will be served. (Character Limit: 1,500)
- **Community Leadership and Input:** In what ways does the community you serve lead, direct, and/or inform the design and implementation of your work and programs, specifically the work for which you are seeking funding? (Character Limit: 1,500)
- **Success Measures:** How do you define and measure success for the work for which you are seeking funding? (Character Limit: 1,500)

#### Financial Information

- **Fiscal Year End Date** (Character Limit: 10)
- **Total Approximate Annual Expenses** (for the period covered by the grant May 2022-April 2023) (Character Limit: 20)
- **Operating Budget:** Provide the organization's operating budget including all expenses and revenue. If possible, provide the projected budget for the period covered by the grant (May 2022-April 2023). If this is not available, please provide the current operating budget. 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)