



Leveraging Policy and Advocacy Efforts to Advance Equity, Justice, Inclusion and Engagement

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. This opportunity is intended to support Greater Denver's diverse and dynamic ecosystem of organizations that leverage policy and advocacy efforts to help communities furthest from opportunity create conditions for equity, justice, inclusion and engagement. The Foundation is especially interested in supporting organizations working to close gaps in access, opportunity and power by cultivating systems change, growing resources or influencing the levers of policy.

The Foundation seeks to fund a diverse slate of organizations engaging in equity-focused policy and advocacy work. Applicants may be grassroots or grasstops; work at the state level, the local level or both; pursue short- or long-term policy objectives; serve a specific population or a wide range of individuals and communities; and work across a variety of issue areas. Many grant recipients will be primarily policy-focused organizations, but we are also open to applications from organizations delivering direct services or programming with a specific advocacy component to their work.

Examples of work we intend to fund through this opportunity include, but are not limited to, organizations engaging in:

- advocacy or research for specific statewide or municipal/district policy efforts that close systemic gaps and grow financial, social, political or cultural capital for those furthest from opportunity.
- advocacy on behalf of members or communities that are furthest from opportunity and that identify policy priorities for the organization to advance.
- implementation of newly passed policies that Rose Community Foundation [endorsed](#) during the 2022 legislative session.

Though we understand applicants may not yet have a detailed sense of their specific policy objectives for the grant period of November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023, proposals should articulate a clear organizational point of view, approach, process and set of goals around cultivating systems change or influencing the levers of policy. While the Foundation appreciates the importance and value of local organizations focused on general civic engagement or community strengthening efforts without an emphasis on directly impacting policies or systems, that is not the focus of this grant opportunity.

Rose Community Foundation seeks to advance inclusive, engaged and equitable Greater Denver communities through values-driven philanthropy, and we envision a thriving region strengthened by its diversity and generosity. Our work is animated by our values, which are anchored in the Foundation's Jewish roots and legacy but universal in aspiration. The Foundation makes grants to nonprofits delivering direct services and programming in the Greater Denver region, in both the Jewish and broader community, and additional opportunities for funding are open now and later in the year. The Foundation also knows that investing in community organizations that influence policy is a critical lever to unlocking resources and removing barriers for those furthest from opportunity, and we are excited to offer this funding opportunity to nonprofits in the seven-county Metro Denver region.

To achieve our goals of 1) advancing equity and justice, 2) fostering an inclusive and engaged Greater Denver, and 3) increasing resources dedicated to mission-aligned good, Rose Community Foundation funds work in a variety of issue areas including the following pathways:

Anti-hate and discrimination	ECE-20 education	Health
Arts and culture	Economic opportunity	Housing
Civic participation	Environment	Immigration
Criminal justice	Fiscal reform	Reproductive rights
	Gun safety	Transportation

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations – 501(c)(3)s and 501(c)(4)s – or fiscally sponsored projects serving the seven-county Greater Denver region (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties) or advancing statewide policies that benefit those within that catchment area.
- Organizations funded through donor-advised funds, Rose Youth Foundation, Roots & Branches Foundation, or other giving circles at Rose Community Foundation are eligible for this opportunity, if other eligibility requirements are met.
- Organizations funded through Rose Community Foundation’s 2022 Voter Participation and Engagement grant opportunity are eligible to apply.
- Organizations that house endowments at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply, but like all other applicants, are not guaranteed a grant award.
- Local/municipal, state and federal government agencies are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Organizations or projects focused on general civic engagement or community strengthening efforts without an emphasis on directly impacting policies or systems are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Organizations that have funding through or past November 2022 from the Foundation’s discretionary grantmaking (except for funding listed above) are not eligible for this opportunity. If you have questions about whether you have current funding through Rose Community Foundation and which cycle it comes from, please reach out to Chen- Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

We are interested in proposals that:

- Specify the problems and/or opportunities the organization seeks to address, as well as the specific policy changes required.
- Center and elevate impacted community voices.
- Are informed by diverse perspectives and experiences, with communities that the organization serves engaged in leadership, design and implementation.
- Provide a plan and activities to be accomplished in the grant period.
- Articulate what success would look like as a result of the activities outlined.

What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Commitment to advancing equity across gender, race, sexual orientation, income, disability and geography.
- Executive leadership, board and staff are representative of the communities the organization serves.



- Community engagement and participation informs the organization's work.
- Organization's recent history of impact and success leveraging policy and advocacy to advance equity, justice, inclusion and engagement.
- Proposed work that can demonstrate an integrated, cross-cutting approach that is inclusive of more than one issue area pathway.
- Financial picture of the organization.

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

Total funding available: \$1.2 million. We anticipate making between 15-30 grants and anticipate this to be a highly competitive process.

- **Funding amounts will typically range from \$25,000 to \$75,000, with amounts determined based on alignment with the grant cycle objectives** and a clear organizational point of view, approach, process and set of goals around cultivating systems change or influencing the levers of policy. Grant amounts will be awarded based primarily on the quality and quantity of an organization's policy and advocacy work, rather than the work of the organization as a whole.

Grant duration: One year.

Types of support:

1. **General Operating Support.** With the intention of providing maximum flexibility for nonprofit organizations engaging in policy and advocacy work, we anticipate that most grants will be for general operating support.
2. **Program or Project Support.**
 - Organizations that have a primary organizational focus that does not include policy and advocacy should apply for policy-specific program funding. Non-policy work will not be considered through this grant opportunity.
 - Organizations applying on behalf of a coalition are required to apply for program funding.
 - 501(c)(4) organizations are required to apply for program funding to distinguish from candidate or partisan work which the Foundation cannot fund.
 - Any grant applicants may opt to have funding structured as program support if that is preferred.
 - Please note: organizations that receive program or project support will be required to submit a final report on lobbying expenses.

What are the reporting and grantee expectations?

Organizations receiving grant funds will be asked to submit a short narrative report of outcomes in the online grants portal within 30 days of the end of the grant period. Organizations receiving program or project support will also be asked to submit financial reporting on the grant funds.

Because Rose Community Foundation relies on its grantee partners to inform its own policy positions, organizations receiving grant funds are requested to inform Foundation staff as legislative priorities are established, but no interim grant reports are required.



Timeline

June 27 – July 28, 2022	Application process open
July 28, 2022, at 5 p.m. MT	Application process closes
July 29 – August 26, 2022	Site visits and follow ups for additional information, as needed
October 28, 2022	All organizations will be notified of funding decisions by this date at the latest
November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023	Grant period for funded projects
November 30, 2023	Final report due in online grants portal

How do I apply?

- Sign in or create your account at rcfdenver.org/grantsapply. Click on the Apply icon at the top of the screen. Locate the opportunity for Policy and Advocacy Ecosystem and click the blue Apply button.
- If you have questions about the online grants portal or application or need accommodations in applying, contact Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

For questions about this opportunity

You may sign up for a 20-minute session to speak with our team. Staff will be available for questions about the application from June 27 – July 28. [Click here](#) to schedule a meeting with the Foundation’s public affairs team.

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 team also brings together diverse groups of teens, young adults and women from across the Greater Denver community for collaborative giving circles. 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 incentive grants and coaching on all aspects of an endowment campaign. [Contact us](#) to learn more about how we support nonprofits beyond programmatic grantmaking.



Application questions

The following questions are available in the online grants portal and are provided here for reference only. Please submit your responses via the [online grants portal](#). Not all questions are applicable to all applicants.

Organization Information

- **Name, Pronouns and Title of Primary Contact**
- **Primary Contact's Email Address and Phone Number**
- **Executive Director/President/CEO's Name, Pronouns and Title**
- **Executive Director/President/CEO's Email Address**
- **Fiscal Sponsor.** Is there a fiscal sponsor organization for this project that is different from the applicant organization listed on this application? If applicable, 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.

Grant Request Information

- **Project name**
- **Request Type**
 - **General Operating Support.** Most grant funding will be structured as general operating support.
 - **Program or Project Support.** Organizations that have a primary organizational focus that does not include policy and advocacy should apply for policy-specific program funding, as non-policy work will not be considered through this grant opportunity. 501(c)(4) organizations and organizations applying on behalf of a coalition are also required to apply for program funding. Grant funding for other organizations or projects may also be structured as program support upon request.
- **Coalition Support.** Are you applying on behalf of a coalition? If you choose yes, please ensure that you have chosen Program or Project Support in the previous question.
 - **Name of Coalition**
 - **Role in Coalition.** Please describe your organization's role in the coalition (i.e., lead, co-lead, steering committee member, member, etc.).
 - **Coalition Members.** Please list all other organizations involved in the coalition.
 - **Coalition Background.** Please describe the coalition's mission, history and overall work.
 - **Coalition Funding Needs.** Please describe why the coalition needs funding.
- **Short Description.** Please provide a concise description of this grant request's specific charitable purpose. This one-to-two sentence description will inform how we characterize this grant, if approved, in any agreement and in Rose Community Foundation communications about this work.
- **Level of Government.** At what level of government does your proposal seek to influence policy? Please select all that apply. (*Choices: Federal level, State level, Municipal level, District level, Other*)
- **Type of Policy and Advocacy Work.** What type(s) of policy and advocacy work does your proposal seek to engage in? Please select all that apply. (*Choices: Legislation, Ballot measure(s), Policy implementation or rulemaking, Research to inform policy proposals, Community engagement/organizing, Other*)
- **Geographic Reach: Core Counties.** What are the three core counties in which you do most of the work related to this grant request (majority of people served live within these three counties) within the seven-county Greater Denver area? Please rank up to three core



counties. If your work is statewide, please briefly describe how that work engages and benefits individuals and/or communities in the Greater Denver region. Policy work that is primarily focused on communities outside of Greater Denver is not a fit for this opportunity.

- **Issue Area Pathways.** Select up to three issue area pathways in which you do your work related to your request for this opportunity. (*Choices: Anti-hate and discrimination, Arts and culture, Civic participation, Criminal justice, ECE-20 education, Economic opportunity, Environment, Fiscal reform, Gun safety, Health, Housing, Immigration, Reproductive rights, Transportation*)

Legal Compliance Guidelines. Rose Community Foundation funds direct and grassroots lobbying efforts. Rose Community Foundation funds cannot be used for partisan electoral work or to endorse or oppose candidates. If you have any questions about permissible activities, please reach out to staff at Rose Community Foundation.

- If you are applying for program or project support, please clearly state any lobbying efforts in the application. If awarded a grant, you will need to clearly report all lobbying activities related to grant funds.
- If you are applying for general operating support, there is no need to specify whether grant funds will or will not be used for lobbying efforts.

Information Sharing. One of our goals as a community foundation is to find alignment between donors' interests and the important work happening in our communities. In the event Rose Community Foundation donor-advised fundholders are interested in funding work in the space in which you are working, may we share with them the programmatic information you provide below? Your application may be shared in part or in whole. Your answer will not influence the funding decision for this request.

Nondiscrimination Policy. 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 have nondiscrimination policies in line with these views? If you answer "Yes, in part" or "No," you will be provided with space to explain.

Narrative Questions

- **Desired Change.** What "big picture" policy or systems changes are you working to bring about? What barriers to access, opportunity and power do you aim to address by cultivating systems change or influencing the levers of policy? (*Character limit: 2500*)
- **Results.** Recognizing that long-term wins may take years to enact, please share what positive changes you hope to achieve over the grant period related to the goals of this grant application. At the end of the grant period, what do you envision success looking like? Please identify specific qualitative and/or quantitative results you expect to achieve in this grant period. 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. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Key Activities.** What are the most important activities you will undertake to achieve your intended outcomes over this grant period? If you have a specific set of activities, communication strategies or actions you hope to achieve, please include them here. If you do not have full clarity around your specific policy objectives for the grant period, please outline how you will identify and execute on those objectives. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Recent Policy and Advocacy History.** Describe your relevant policy and advocacy efforts last year or over the past few years. Where did you find success? Where do you see opportunities



for improvement? How do your upcoming policy and advocacy efforts build off lessons learned, roads paved and partnerships formed from past activities? If you have not previously engaged in policy and advocacy work, instead please describe why you are interested in leaning into this type of work in the future and how you feel equipped to do so. *(Character Limit: 2000)*

- **Community Served.** Describe the community you serve. Include counties, cities, neighborhoods and/or zip codes, as applicable. Specify the populations (demographic information, income level, etc.) your organization currently serves and/or intends to serve through this grant request. *(Character Limit: 2000)*
- **Community Engagement.** In what ways does the community you serve lead, direct and/or inform your policy and advocacy priorities and activities? *(Character Limit: 2000)*
- **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, what steps are your organization 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 this 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. *(Character Limit: 2500)*
- **Community Needs.** What are the pressing issues you are seeing in the communities you serve, whether within or outside the scope of services your organization provides? *(Character Limit: 2000)*

Financials

- **Financial Model.** 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? If you are applying for program or project support, please specify how the work related to this request is supported.
- **Operating Budget.** Upload a 2022 (or current fiscal year) organizational operating budget (revenue and expenses) with actuals to date.
- **Budget Narrative.** Please describe the amount of the organizational budget that is devoted to policy and advocacy work. Grant amounts will be awarded based primarily on the quality and quantity of an organization's policy and advocacy work, rather than the work of the organization as a whole. If your organization experienced or is expecting to experience a deficit (reflected in the operating budget above), 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).

Program or Project Support *(if applicable)*

- **Total Amount Requested.** Grant requests between \$25,000 and \$75,000 will be considered.
- **Total Lobbying Expenses.** Enter the total amount anticipated to be used for lobbying expenses. Ensure the following is included in this number and in the lobbying line item of the budget:
 - Preparation time: Preparing to lobby (planning, research, strategy meetings, etc.).
 - Overhead expenses: A portion of rent, insurance premiums, etc. in proportion to the amount of lobbying conducted.
 - Specific legislation or ballot initiative: Time and resources spent urging a legislator, city council member, political leader or voter to support or oppose a specific proposal, or time and resources spent mobilizing others to do the same.
- **Allocated Project Budget.** Upload the allocated project budget (revenue and expenses) related to this request, which includes a separate line item for lobbying expenses (if relevant).