

Equitable Economic Opportunity and Community Wealth Building

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 and government agencies in the Greater Denver region. This opportunity is intended to support the work of organizations working to close gaps in access and opportunity by increasing financial freedom, dismantling generational cycles of poverty, and growing assets for individuals and communities furthest from opportunity.

Racial and generational wealth gaps have persisted across time and continue to compound poverty for people furthest from opportunity. For purposes of this RFP, we seek to fund organizations supporting individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), individuals who have been justice-involved (often referred to as “second chance”), individuals who live with disability, immigrants and refugees, individuals living on low incomes (200 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and/or women. The implications of generational poverty are wide-ranging and self-perpetuating. The pandemic has worsened and widened opportunity gaps, but also gives us a window to think about and enact transformational change to create economic opportunity. Building wealth is a key to moving people from surviving to thriving – it builds financial sustainability for families and individuals, protects against crisis situations, and drives agency, allowing people more opportunity to make decisions in the best interests of themselves, their families and their communities.

While we understand community wealth building strategies are multi-faceted, for this RFP we specifically seek to increase social and financial capital, preserve and expand quality local jobs, increase cooperative models, support equitable provision of public services, ensure local economic stability, enhance workforce development and improve housing affordability. Other important drivers of economic opportunity and wealth building such as land trusts, food security, transportation and health care are not a focus of this RFP.

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations, government agencies or fiscally sponsored projects in the seven-county Greater Denver region: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties.
- Organizations with a Civic Engagement Through Arts & Culture, Nonpartisan Voter Participation & Engagement grant or who are funded through donor-advised funds, Rose Youth Foundation, Roots & Branches Foundation or other giving circles at Rose Community Foundation are eligible for this opportunity, as long as other eligibility requirements are met.
- Organizations that house endowments at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply but, like everyone else, are not guaranteed to receive a grant.
- Organizations with a currently active grant period end date of November 1, 2022, or later **are not eligible** for this opportunity (except as listed above).

- Organizations with open applications for the Social Emotional Learning or Policy and Advocacy grant cycles are eligible to apply but will only be able to receive funding for one application.

If you have questions about whether you have current funding through Rose Community Foundation and how it affects your eligibility, please reach out to Chen- Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

Purpose

To support the work of organizations that increase financial freedom, dismantle generational cycles of poverty, and increase assets for individuals and communities furthest from opportunity.

Who and where do we want to impact?

We are interested in hearing from applicants serving populations encountering barriers to economic opportunity, be they related to racial, gender or situational inequities. We recognize that intersectionality of identities may often compound the barriers to opportunity that individuals face, and we welcome applications from organizations serving multiple or overlapping priority population areas. We are especially interested in supporting organizations that serve populations/individuals earning less than 200 percent of the FPL and working on multiple strategies as defined in this RFP.

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:

- Increase social and financial capital.
 - Support community development efforts at neighborhood, local or regional levels. We define community development as planned efforts to build assets that increase the capacity of residents to improve their quality of life. These assets may include several forms of community capital: physical, human, social, financial, environmental, political, and cultural¹.
 - Increase access to capital for individuals, communities, entrepreneurs and local businesses through mechanisms such as grants and loans, including Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and other alternative financing organizations.
 - Scale peer-to-peer programs where people with lived experience are paid to support others experiencing the same or similar challenges.
- Preserve and expand local quality jobs.
 - Enhance small and family businesses within our priority populations and create opportunities for new businesses, including entrepreneurial support and business creation.
- Increase cooperative models and social enterprises.
 - Support or mobilize values-driven local businesses with a focus on worker and community benefit.
 - Support nonprofits in establishing or maintaining social enterprises that hire from constituents served.
 - Mobilize informal networks and mutual aid societies that support networked job and career opportunities.

¹ Green, G. and Haines, A. (2008). *Asset Building and Community Development*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc.



- Support equitable provision of public services.
 - Support organizations that provide person-centered benefits counseling so that individuals do not face the “cliff effect” for needed support as income and wealth increase.
 - Improve, build and protect equitable safety-net services that intersect and support wealth building strategies through programs or advocacy.
- Advance local economic stability.
 - Support and mobilize community development efforts at the neighborhood level.
 - Minimize gentrification and displacement.
 - Increase civic participation and leadership opportunities within neighborhoods.
- Enhance workforce development, training and job placement for people making up to 200 percent of FPL with a focus on those furthest from opportunity, as defined in this RFP.
- Increase housing affordability for individuals and families that are cost burdened.
 - Support eviction prevention programs and advocacy.
 - Support affordable home ownership programs and advocacy.
 - Ensure rental or home-purchase benefits counseling and navigation programs are available to meet immediate and long-term needs.
 - Support promising practices and opportunities such as the creation of auxiliary dwelling units and older home maintenance to create and maintain wealth in families.
 - Build policy and organize advocacy to implement strategies that advance inclusionary zoning, subsidized and affordable housing opportunities.

We recognize the important role that larger anchor institutions such as universities, hospitals and cultural institutions can play in local economies. Grants for these organizations will be considered on a limited basis, but applicants should have a conversation with Rose Community Foundation staff before applying.

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 communities impacted by the issue the organization aims to impact.
- Organization or project includes diverse perspectives and experiences, and impacted communities are engaged in leadership, design and implementation.
- Financial picture of the organization.

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

Total funding available: \$2 million. We anticipate making between 30-40 grants.

Grant duration: One year

Types of support:

- General Operating Support – for organizations where the majority of their work drives economic opportunity and community wealth building work.
- Program or Project Support – for organizations where the majority of their work does not have a primary focus on economic opportunity or community wealth building work.

Funding amounts will be determined based on the organization’s operating budget and the breadth and depth of impact and will be on average between \$25,000 and \$75,000. We seek to fund organizations across the spectrum of operating/program budgets. Collaborative projects are encouraged to apply.



What are the grantee reporting expectations?

Organizations receiving grant funds will be asked to submit a short narrative report of final progress and financial reporting on grant funds in the Rose Community Foundation [online grants portal](#) within 30 days of the end of the grant period.

Timeline

August 8, 2022	Letter of Intent (LOI) process opens.
September 6, 2022	LOI process closes.
September 27, 2022	Organizations will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application or are declined for this opportunity. Application questions are included at the end of this document.
September 27, 2022	Application opens for invited organizations.
October 25, 2022	Application closes.
October 28 – November 23, 2022	Review period. Organizations may be contacted for additional information or for site visits.
December 16, 2022	All applicant organizations will be notified of funding decisions.
December 15, 2022 – December 14, 2023	Grant period for funded projects.

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 Equitable Economic Opportunity and Community Wealth Building 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 for invited applicants from August 8 through September 6. [Click here](#) to set up a meeting with Community Impact Team staff.

Additional supports from Rose Community Foundation

In addition to this and other [grantmaking opportunities](#), 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 75 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.



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](#).

Basic Information

- **Project Name**
- **Type of Support:** general operating support or project/program support
- **Total Amount Requested** (numeric) – Grant awards will range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 on average.
- **Approaches:** Select the primary approach(es) relevant to this grant request (check all that apply).
 - Increase social and financial capital
 - Anchor quality jobs locally
 - Increase cooperative models and social enterprises
 - Expand provision of public services
 - Ensure local economic stability
 - Enhance workforce development
 - Ensure housing affordability for individuals and families that are cost-burdened
- **Opportunity and Outcomes:** Share the opportunity or need your proposed project seeks to address. How does it relate to the strategies we wish to support in this RFP? What results and outcomes do you hope to accomplish in the next year, if awarded grant funding? (2000 characters, ~500 words)
- **Community Served:** Describe the community you serve. (1000 characters, ~250 words)
- **Community Participation:** To what extent do the communities most impacted inform and guide the work of the organization? Scale:
 - 1 – Impacted community members have no participation in the work of the organization
 - 2 – Impacted community members are made aware of the organization’s work
 - 3 – Impacted community members are consulted via surveys or other data-gathering tools
 - 4 – Impacted community members have some representation at staff, board or advisory levels
 - 5 – Impacted community members have equal representation at board or advisory level
 - 6 – Impacted community members hold majority of decision-making power
 - 7 – Organization is led by members of impacted community

***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 [here](#).*
- **Core Counties:** 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 Greater Denver area? If you only work in one or two counties, please select the one or two counties in which you do your work.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Does the proposed project use policy and advocacy to achieve impact? We define this as efforts to close gaps in access, opportunity and power by changing systems, growing resources or influencing the levers of policy. For example, systemic efforts to address housing affordability or the expansion and preservation of public services. **If yes:** Please describe how policy and advocacy plays a role in your proposed project. (1000 characters, ~250 words)

Organization Information

- **Mission Statement:** You can pre-populate the mission statement for your organization by clicking on the Guidestar icon. You can further edit the mission statement, as needed.
- **Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget** (numeric): If you are applying on behalf of a university, hospital system, or as a local chapter of a national organization, please include the budget for the unit, department or local chapter. If your organization has a fiscal sponsor, please include the budget for the fiscally sponsored project.



- **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 contact information (name, pronouns, title, email address, phone number and mailing address) for your primary point of contact with the fiscal sponsor.

Information Sharing and Nondiscrimination

- **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 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. (Yes/No)
- **Nondiscrimination Policy:** Rose Community Foundation will only fund organizations that do not 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? (Yes, in full; Yes, in part; No) *If you answer "Yes, in part" or "No," you will be provided with space to explain.*

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.

Organization Information

- **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 and Phone Number**
- **Executive Director/President/CEO's Name, Pronouns and Title**

Grant Request Information

- **Short Description:** Provide a concise description of this grant request's specific charitable purpose. This summary will inform the description of this grant, if approved, in any agreement and in Rose Community Foundation communications about this work. (300 characters)
- **Intended Results:** Share the intended results related to your approaches for increased financial freedom, dismantling generational cycles of poverty and increasing assets for individuals and communities furthest from opportunity for this request. 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. At the end of the grant period, what do you envision success looking like? 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.
- **Community Impacted:** Specify the areas of Greater Denver that the project will impact if successful. Please include counties, cities, neighborhoods and/or zip codes, as applicable. 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 the outcomes for the community wealth building approaches you intend to impact 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 most impacted lead, direct, and/or inform the design and implementation of your work and programs?
- **Leadership Diversity:** We are committed to supporting organizations led by and representative of those most impacted by the issues your organization seeks to address. 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 board 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.*
- **Partnership:** Does your organization work in close 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. *Provide information about any relevant organizations you collaborate with and how you work with them to achieve your outcomes for this specific project. Please do not provide only a list of partners. What role do each of these partner organizations play to support your efforts? If you do not collaborate with any partners for this work, please state that.*
- **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?

Financials

- **Operating Budget:** Upload a 2022 (or current fiscal year) organizational operating budget (**revenue and expenses**) with actuals to date.
- **Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position:** Upload your year-to-date statement of financial position (or balance sheet) through the most recent month end. An Excel file is preferred.
- **Income Statement or Statement of Activities:** Upload your year-to-date statement of activities (or profit and loss/income statement) through the most recent month end. An Excel file is preferred.
- **Additional Financial Information (if applicable):** If your organization experienced or is expecting to experience a deficit, provide details on how the deficit was managed or plans to address it. Also provide comments explaining any major changes or unusual occurrences in your budget(s) or financials.

Program or Project Support (for program/project and policy specific requests only)

- **Program Budget (non-policy):** For program support only, upload a program budget for the activities for which you are requesting funding, with **both revenue and expenses** represented.
- **Policy Project Budget:** Upload the allocated project budget related to this request, which includes a separate line for lobbying expenses, even if the total lobbying will be \$0. If this request contains any lobbying efforts, please ensure that the following is included in the lobbying line 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: Urging a legislator, city council member or political leader to support a specific proposal, even if a policy proposal has not yet been introduced as a bill, measure or initiative.