Dear Community:

In early 2023, Roots & Branches Foundation members will make grants totaling approximately $50,000 to support Jewish organizations in the Greater Denver region that provide safe and welcoming spaces for diverse Jewish community members such as, but not limited to, Jewish individuals of color, Jewish LGBTQ+ individuals and Jewish people with disabilities.

Roots & Branches Foundation is an initiative of Rose Community Foundation that engages Jewish adults ages 25 to 40 in collaborative philanthropy. Each year, the 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 Jewish values:

- From Generation to Generation, L’dor vador: to pass Jewish Traditions from one generation to the next. We are interested in making Jewish spaces more welcoming and inclusive for the next generation to feel seen and celebrated for the entirety of their identity.
- Give in Pursuit of Justice, Tzedakah: support those who have been historically marginalized. We hope to encourage the Jewish community to intentionally design and create spaces that honor the diverse array of Jewish identities.
- Lovingkindness, Chesed: to have love for one another. We want all Jewish people to see themselves reflected in what it means to be Jewish and feel a sense of belonging among the Jewish community.

We invite Jewish organizations who are interested in launching or continuing intentionally designed programs that create safe and welcoming spaces for underrepresented Jewish community members to respond to this request for proposals. Approximately $50,000 is available to grant, and we anticipate making grants of $15,000-$25,000. 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.

Sincerely,

Roots & Branches Foundation 2022-2023 Members
Rachel Abrams
Allison Convissar
David DeBoskey
Galen Donoviel
Scott Heymann
Amy Krivel
Amy Leszman
Bohne Leah Lipsey
Zoe Osherow
Joel Pachefsky
Amy Rosenfeld
Andrew Rothberg
Josh Shapiro
Blake Sidon
Samantha Sitterley
Jon Wood
Grant Priority and Request for Proposals

Deadline to apply: 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2022

As the national conversation around justice, equity, diversity and inclusion continues to encourage reflection and calls to action, a similar dialogue must take place within the Jewish community. Many Jewish communities across the country have struggled to create inclusive and welcoming spaces for historically underrepresented Jewish community members including, but not limited to, Jewish individuals of color, Jewish LGBTQ+ individuals, and Jewish people with disabilities. In synagogues, Jewish community centers and other Jewish organizations, these individuals have often felt unwelcome, disengaged, or “othered.”

In the United States, 17% of Jewish people live in a household with at least one child or adult who identifies as Black, Hispanic, Asian, multiracial or other non-white race or ethnicity.1 Members of these households often report feeling unwelcome or “sticking out” in Jewish spaces because of their race or ethnicity. 80% of self-identified Jewish people of color have experienced racism in a Jewish setting.2 Race and ethnicity are not the only identifying factors that cause Jewish people to feel unwelcome. Other individuals that experience exclusion, or “othering” include but are not limited to: Jewish LGBTQ+ individuals and Jewish people with disabilities. We recognize that these identities may not be discrete, and that recognition of the wholeness of each individual means celebrating the entirety of a person’s unique and intersectional identity.

According to a survey of the Greater Denver Jewish Community, only 4 in 10 Jewish people of color and 3 in 10 Jewish LGBTQ+ individuals feel synagogues, Jewish community centers and other organizations are “very inclusive”.3 Without these spaces, we risk losing valuable members and all that they bring to our community. We recognize that inclusion requires systematic change from all Jewish serving organizations.

Through our grants, we seek to center the conversation of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion throughout the Greater Denver Jewish community. We define inclusion as “centering, valuing, and amplifying the voices, perspectives and styles of those who experience systemic barriers based on their identities.”4 We define belonging as “the invitation to be your full self, however that looks. It is the opportunity - no matter who you are - to learn, live, and love, to be honored, encouraged, and allowed to develop as you and as part of the groups that develop and celebrate your identities, needs, and contributions.”5

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Eligibility and Application Information

Deadline
All applications must be received through Rose Community Foundation’s online grants portal by 5p.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. All applicants will be notified whether their request is granted by March of 2023.

Funds Available to Grant and Grant Period
Approximately $50,000 is available to grant through this request for proposals. Roots & Branches Foundation anticipates making grants between $15,000-$25,000. Roots & Branches Foundation makes one-year grants; funds must be expended between March 2023 and February 2024. 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 entirety of their work aligns 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. 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 Nyland, Philanthropic Initiatives Associate, at gnyland@rcfdenver.org or 303.398.7441. If you have questions about the online grants portal, contact Tejas Iyer, Donor and Fund Services Coordinator, at tiyer@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 received. 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.

Listening and Learning Sessions
Roots & Branches Foundation will conduct listening and learning sessions with some applicants as part of the grant review process. If your organization is selected for a session, Roots & Branches Foundation members will visit your organization and meet with 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 in January or February 2023.

Application Questions and Required Attachments
All grant applications must be completed and submitted online through the Foundation’s grants portal. 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? 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 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)

- Request Description: Describe the work or program for which your organization seeks funding, including how you intend to address the community need outlined above. Include a description of the population(s) served and the approximate number of individuals or households who will be served. (Character Limit: 1,500)

- Design for welcoming, inclusion and belonging: Describe the specific design considerations such as roles, rituals, events, settings, groupings, communications, policies, or practices that your organization has implemented or would like to implement in order to create safe and welcoming spaces for underrepresented Jewish community members. (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 March 2023-February 2024) (Character Limit: 20)

• **Operating Budget: (if applicable)** If applying for general operating support, provide the organization’s operating budget including all expenses and revenue. If possible, provide the projected budget for the period covered by the grant (March 2023-February 2024). If this is not available, please provide the current operating budget. An Excel file is preferred.

• **Program Budget: (if applicable)**: If applying for program support, 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.