



Dear Community Partners:

Rose Youth Foundation, an initiative of Rose Community Foundation, engages Jewish high school students in collaborative grantmaking. In Spring 2023, our Rose Youth Foundation cohort will make grants totaling \$60,000 to support mental health services for teens navigating substance use and misuse. Grants will support organizations and projects that provide education and awareness support for teens to make informed decisions when confronted with drugs and alcohol and/or harm reduction support for teens that have turned to substance use to cope with stress and mental illness.

Each year, Rose Youth Foundation members work together to reflect on Jewish teachings and traditions of giving, explore community needs, and practice strategic philanthropy. We have identified the following Jewish values to guide our grantmaking:

- *Save Life, Pikuach Nefesh*: Substance abuse puts the lives of too many teens in danger. We understand that to support a person's mental and physical health we must provide care for the entirety of a person with compassion and dignity.
- *Do Not Stand Idly By, Lo ta'amod al dam rei'echa*: Many teens are affected by stress and mental illness caused by the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, political division, and racial and economic disparities. We will not allow our friends to suffer in silence and isolation.
- *Love the Stranger, Ahavat ger*: Throughout a person's lifetime, they will experience a range of mental health situations. We have a responsibility to love and support those who are feeling low or challenged.

We invite nonprofit organizations in the Greater Denver region that are providing mental health support for teens aged 12 - 18 to navigate and recover from substance use and misuse to apply to this funding opportunity. We are interested in reviewing proposals that reach teens who are furthest from access to care and support, such as, but not limited to: native and indigenous communities, teens involved with the juvenile justice system, rural communities, and communities who have historically been subjected to hate and racism. Up to \$60,000 is available to grant, and we anticipate making two grants of \$30,000. We understand that community needs far outpace the resources available, and as a result it is expected that not all applicants will receive funding.

Sincerely,

2022 – 2023 Rose Youth Foundation members

Emi Asarch
Mason Dinar
Theo Eichberg
Coleman Eschenbrenner
Hunter Frank
Evan Goldstein
Eden Handler
Madison Hansen
Sophia Jacobs

Rachel Kaufmann
Samantha Kowitt
Shira Miller
Caroline Ortman
Sam Reisch
Zahava Stroll
Sydney Tatar
Nolan Williams
Noah Zemel

Overview

In 2021, Children’s Hospital Colorado declared a ‘state of emergency’ for youth mental health, stating that pediatric emergency departments and inpatient units were overrun¹. We know that when mental illness goes untreated, teens may turn to self-medication or drug use to help cope with stress or mental illness. Although the percentage of adolescents reporting substance use in 2022 largely held steady from the prior year², there has been a recent dramatic rise in overdose deaths among teens aged 14-18, largely attributed to the abundance of illicit fentanyl in counterfeit pills³. This issue is pervasive nationwide, but overburdened support systems make the Greater Denver region particularly susceptible. In 2020, the number of deaths due to drugs for teens was highest in Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, and El Paso counties⁴.

Additionally, since the COVID-19 pandemic, feelings of isolation and instances of teen depression have increased.⁵ Impacts of the pandemic have compounded with other global realities such as the climate crisis, political division, an uptick of hate rhetoric, and racial and economic disparities – putting teens in a difficult position to cope with the intersecting challenges.

For these reasons, prevention and intervention strategies are critical to reducing the harm caused by dangerous substances. Drug use can elicit or exacerbate mental health issues such as anxiety, mood disorders and depression.⁶ These issues must be viewed as inextricably linked. Educating teens in a realistic way about the consequences of drug use is critical in an era of rampant misinformation.

The members of Rose Youth Foundation understand that care is inequitably distributed and difficult to access for those who are furthest from opportunity. Decades of mistreatment and discrimination have created barriers for people of color to engage with the health care system.⁷

Through these grants, Rose Youth Foundation members hope to break cycles of generational trauma and help teens access the care they need. We recognize that mental health issues cannot be solved in a single interaction or at a pre-determined rate, but it is our hope that this funding will help individuals receive the support they need in a deep and transformative way.

Eligibility and Application Information

All applications must be received through Rose Community Foundation’s [online grants portal](#) by **5 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023**. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. All applicants will be notified by June 2023 whether their request is granted.

Funds Available and Grant Period

Approximately \$60,000 is available to grant through this request for proposals. Rose Youth Foundation anticipates making two grants of \$30,000, and we encourage organizations to apply for the level of funding they feel is needed. Rose Youth Foundation makes one-year grants; funds must be expended

¹ [“Children’s Hospital Colorado Declares a ‘State of Emergency’ for Youth Mental Health”](#) Children’s Hospital Colorado

² [“Most reported substance use among adolescents held steady in 2022”](#) National Institute on Drug Abuse

³ [“Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths Among US Adolescents, January 2010 to June 2021”](#) JAMA Network

⁴ [“Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths Due to Any Drug in Colorado, 2020-2021”](#) Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁵ [“Poor Mental Health Common Among Students During COVID”](#) U.S. News and World Report

⁶ [“Effects of Drugs on Mental Health of Teenagers”](#) Teen Drug Addiction Center

⁷ [“Stigma and Systemic Barriers, Why Mental Health Care is Not the Same for Everyone”](#) Colorado Health Institute



between June 2023 and May 2024. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

We encourage organizations whose mission and work largely align with the Rose Youth Foundation 2022-2023 grantmaking priority to request general operating support. Organizations that have a specific initiative that aligns with the grantmaking priority should apply for program/project support.

Eligibility Requirements

Rose Youth 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. Programs 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 must have a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a tax-exempt organization. Organizations with a 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](#). 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 considered.

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 Session

Rose Youth Foundation will conduct listening and learning meetings with some applicants as part of the grant review process. If your organization is selected for a meeting, the visit will take place on **Wednesday, March 8 or Wednesday, March 15 between 4 and 5 p.m.** with a small group of teen members and should include any key staff from your organization. Rose Community Foundation staff will reach out to the applicant's primary contact to schedule this meeting. Organizations will be able to choose whether these conversations take place in-person or virtually.

Questions

For questions about the funding opportunity, contact Gillian Nyland, philanthropic initiatives associate at gnyland@rcfdenver.org or 303.398.7441. For questions about the online grants portal, contact Tejas Iyer, donor and fund services coordinator, at tiyer@rcfdenver.org or 303.398.7459.



Application Questions and Required Attachments

All grant applications must be completed and submitted through the [online grants portal](#). 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)
- **Community Needs:** Provide a description of the community need, and what or who informs your understanding of the community need. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- **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 number of people who will be served. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- **Outcomes and Impact:** Describe the desired short and long-term outcomes and impacts related to this request. Describe why this project or proposal is effective and necessary in providing resources and support to teens in need. (Character Limit: 2,000)

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 (June 2023-May 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 Rose Youth Foundation as a pending source of revenue. An Excel file is preferred.