Civic Engagement Rolling Grant Opportunity

Si necesita ayuda para traducir esta aplicación al Español por favor contacte a Maria Torres via correo electrónico mtorres@rcfdenver.org.

Overview

Rose Community Foundation is accepting funding requests to support efforts aimed at elevating the voices and priorities of those furthest from opportunity through voter participation and engagement, community organizing, leadership development, and civic forums to help build a base for strong and inclusive civic engagement in the seven-county Greater Denver region.

Grants will be made to support organizations and programs that engage diverse communities leading up to and outside of elections; increase community participation in policy and electoral processes; center equity and justice in conversations about municipal and state elections; and ensure candidates' and elected officials' priorities are informed by all the people they serve. Activities that support specific candidates, political parties, legislation or ballot issues will not be considered.

Civic engagement gives residents a voice and more proximity to the systems of governance that affect their daily lives. The ballot, public forums, leadership development programs and community organizing efforts are all powerful vehicles for advancing empowerment, belonging and representation. Rose Community Foundation seeks to fund organizations and projects that promote equitable and inclusive nonpartisan civic engagement efforts to strengthen the civic fabric of our region.

Examples of projects that may be funded through this opportunity include, but are not limited to:
Nonpartisan voter registration, turnout and education efforts.
- Issue-focused deep canvassing programs.
- Community organizing efforts that engage and lift the voices of individuals who are furthest from opportunity.
- Civic fellowships and leadership development programs that create pathways to policy, political engagement and/or representation for historically under-reached communities.
- Outreach and advocacy to – and education for – candidates and elected officials.
- Local election forums and debates that elevate issues related to equity, justice and inclusion, with the goals of both educating voters and shaping the narrative around critical local issues.

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations, schools/school districts, government agencies or fiscally sponsored projects in the seven-county Denver Metro region: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties.
- Organizations funded through donor-advised funds, Rose Youth Foundation, Roots and Branches, or other giving circles at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply, as long as other eligibility requirements are met.
- Organizations that house endowments at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply, as long as other eligibility requirements are met, but are not guaranteed to receive a grant.
- Organizations that have current funding at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply for this opportunity, but prioritization will generally be given to applicants that do not have open grants in an effort to reach new-to-us organizations, communities, and types of work or projects that are not eligible for funding via other Rose Community Foundation grant cycles.

If you have questions about whether you have current funding through Rose Community Foundation and its source, please reach out to Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate.

We are interested in seeing proposals that:

- Specify the problems and/or opportunities the organization seeks to address.
- 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.
- Demonstrate commitment to advancing equity across gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, income, age, intellectual and physical ability, and geography.
- Center and elevate impacted community voices.
- When relevant for the scope of work and proposed activities, remove barriers to civic engagement by providing practical supports such as child care, food, interpretation, and/or compensation for participation.

What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Extent to which executive leadership, board and staff are representative of communities affected by the issue the organization aims to address.
- Extent to which community engagement and participation informs the organization's work.
- Extent to which organization or project includes diverse perspectives and experiences, and impacted communities are engaged in leadership, design and implementation.
- Financial stability of the organization and/or project.

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

- **Total funding available**: $500,000. We anticipate making between 20 to 30 grants.
- **Funding amounts** will typically range between $5,000 and $30,000.
- **Application timeline and grant duration:** Grant proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis as applications are received from February 6 through October 13 or when all available funding is distributed, whichever comes first. Grant periods may range from three to 12 months after the approval date, depending on the specific activities and objectives of the grant.
- **Types of support**
  - **General Operating Support:** for organizations where the majority of their work centers around increasing civic engagement for those furthest from opportunity.
  - **Program or Project Support:** for aligned programs/projects within organizations where the majority of their work does not center around increasing civic engagement for those furthest from opportunity, or for organizations that prefer a program- or project-specific grant for any other reason.

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 online grants portal within 30 days of the end of the grant period.

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 Civic Engagement Rolling Grant Opportunity and click the blue Apply button to start an application.

For questions about this opportunity

You may sign up for a 20-minute session to meet with an application reviewer about this opportunity. Click here to set up a meeting with a member of Rose Community Foundation's Public Affairs team. For questions about the online grants portal or application, please contact Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

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. The Foundation also supports 85 nonprofit organizations in establishing and growing endowed and designated funds 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.

Organization Information
- Executive Director/President/CEO's Name, Pronouns, and Title
- Authorized Contract Signer's Name, Pronouns, Title and Email Address
- **Type of Organization**. Indicate the organization type for the legal entity submitting this application *(501(c)(3) – not fiscally sponsored; 501(c)(4); Government Entity; For Profit; Fiscally Sponsored Organization; Other)*
- **Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information (if applicable).** Provide the organization name and full contact information (name, pronouns, title, email address, phone number, and mailing address) for your point of contact with the fiscal sponsor for this project.

Grant Request Information
- **Type of Support** *(General operating support; Program support)*
- **Program/Project Name**
- **Short Description.** Provide a concise description of this grant request's specific charitable purpose. *(Character limit 300)*
- **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? If you only work in one or two counties, please select the one or two counties in which you do your work. Civic engagement efforts that are primarily focused on communities outside of Greater Denver are not a fit for this opportunity.
- **Nonpartisan Efforts.** I affirm this grant will not be used for efforts in support of specific ballot measures, candidates or political parties.
- **Total Amount Requested.** Applicants are eligible to apply for grants up to $30,000 but, even if selected, may not receive the full amount requested.
- **Timeframe.** Provide the start and end dates for the proposed grant period, as well as the timeframe for the project completion (if different from the grant period) and any other important information regarding timing for the requested support. Grant periods may range from three to 12 months.

- **Efforts and Activities.** Briefly describe the efforts and activities in support of the goals of this opportunity. Please include the anticipated number of people served for each effort/activity described. *(Character Limit: 3500)*
- **Impact.** How will you know that you were successful? How will you measure or evaluate your intended efforts? *(Character Limit: 2500)*
- **Population(s) Served.** Describe the populations you are seeking to reach through this grant opportunity. This opportunity seeks to prioritize historically disenfranchised demographics. (Character Limit: 2500)
- **Total 2023 Operating Budget**
- **Program Budget.** Upload the program budget associated with this request.

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, 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 boards 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.

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, intellectual or physical ability, veteran status, military obligations, socioeconomic status, marital status, genetic information, political views, or belief systems. Please upload a copy of your board-approved nondiscrimination policy.

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 on this application? Your application may be shared in part or in whole. Your answer will not influence the funding decision for this request.

Community Needs

For Rose Community Foundation's own understanding of community needs, what are the most pressing issues you are seeing in the communities you serve, OUTSIDE the scope of services your organization provides? What are the most pressing issues you are seeing in the communities you serve WITHIN the scope of services your organization provides? *(Character Limit: 2500)*