Equitable Economic Opportunity
and Community Wealth Building

Si necesita ayuda para traducir este paquete de información al Español, por favor contacte a Maria Torres (she/her) via correo electrónico mtorres@rcfdenver.org.

Overview

Rose Community Foundation has an open funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the Greater Denver region. This grant cycle is intended to support organizations working to close gaps in access and opportunity by increasing financial security, dismantling generational cycles of poverty, and growing assets for individuals and communities furthest from opportunity.

We are especially interested in supporting organizations that serve 80% or more of their populations/individuals earning less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (or equivalent); the scaling of existing peer-to-peer programs where people with lived experience are paid to support others experiencing the same or similar challenges; and those working on multiple strategies as defined in this RFP.

For purposes of this RFP, we seek to fund organizations with a demonstrated capacity and deep focus on:

- BIPOC individuals
- Immigrants and refugees
- Justice-involved individuals (often referred to as “second chance”)
- People with disabilities and neurodiverse individuals
- Older adults
- Women

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.

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 funded through donor-advised funds or other giving circles at Rose Community Foundation are eligible for this opportunity if other eligibility requirements are met.
- Organizations that house endowments at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply but, like other applicants, are not guaranteed to receive a grant.
- Organizations that have funding from the Foundation’s 2023 Building Equitable Futures for Children and Youth or Jewish Life grant cycles are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Organizations with a 2022 Equitable Economic Opportunity and Community Wealth Building grant are eligible to apply.
- Rose Community Foundation currently has multiple open RFPs, and we encourage organizations that think they could be a fit for more than one to reach out to Chen-Pin Hu at chu@rcfdenver.org before beginning an application.
We are interested in proposals that:

Increase social and financial capital to advance local economic stability.

- Support and mobilize community development efforts at the neighborhood, local or regional level that prevent gentrification and displacement while promoting access to community-informed priorities such as affordable housing, grocery stores, jobs and other community assets.
- 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.

Enhance workforce development, training and job placement for people making up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level with a focus on those furthest from opportunity, as defined in this RFP.

- Support nonprofits in establishing or maintaining cooperative models and social enterprises that hire from constituents served.
- Support organizations providing workforce programming or training that results in jobs that pay at least minimum wage or better.

Increase housing affordability for individuals and families that are cost burdened.

- Support eviction prevention programs and individual advocacy.¹
- Navigate and support affordable home ownership programs for individuals with low incomes.

Though there are other important drivers of economic opportunity and such as land trusts, food security, transportation, direct/drop-in/intermittent services to people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence shelters, capital funding and access to health care, they are not a focus of this RFP.

While the Foundation appreciates the importance and value of local organizations focused directly on systems advocacy², that is not the focus of this grant opportunity. Such organizations may be a better fit for the Foundation’s Leveraging Policy and Advocacy Efforts to Advance Equity, Justice, Inclusion and Engagement opportunity which is accepting applications until July 10, 2023.

What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Collaborative approaches.
- Commitment to advancing equity across gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, income, ability, age and/or geography.
- Organization or project includes diverse perspectives and experiences, and impacted communities are engaged in program leadership, design and implementation.
- Executive leadership, board and staff are representative of communities the organization serves.
- Financial picture of the organization.
- Opportunities to leverage federal, state, and local funding or other philanthropic resources.

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

- Total funding available: $2 million. We anticipate making between 40-50 grants and expect this to be a highly competitive process.
- Grant duration: Most grant lengths will be one year.
- Types of support:
  o General Operating Support – for organizations where most of their work is connected to this RFP.

---

¹ Individual Advocacy: When an organization supports a person or their interests within a community or system.
² Systems Advocacy: When an organization works to change, create or defeat policies, laws, or practices that affect a group of people.
- Program or Project Support – for projects or work within organizations where a substantial amount of their work does not connect to the purpose of this RFP or where the organization prefers the grant be program- or project-specific.

**Funding amounts:** On average, grants will range from $25,000 - $75,000.
- Approved amounts will be determined based on the size of the organization, the program or project budget and depth and breadth of impact. We seek to fund organizations and programs across the spectrum of budget sizes.
- Collaborative projects are strongly encouraged to apply; please use the funding amount range listed for the overall program budget.
- Please note that not all grant requests will be funded and those that are may not be funded at the full amount requested.

**What are the grantee reporting expectations?**
Grantee organizations are required to submit a short narrative and financial report on grant funds within 30 days of the end of the grant period or when applying for future grant opportunities. If an applicant has an active grant, they may submit a progress report at the time of reapplication. Progress and final reports must be submitted in the Rose Community Foundation grants portal.

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 8 – July 6, 2023</td>
<td>Application open. Office hours available for applicants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10, 2023, at 5 p.m. MT</td>
<td>Application closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11 – Sept. 1, 2023</td>
<td>Site visits and follow ups for additional information, as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27, 2023</td>
<td>All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by this date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1, 2023 – Oct. 31, 2024</td>
<td>Grant period for funded projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, 2024</td>
<td>Final report due in online grants portal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How do I apply?**
Sign in or create your account at [rcfdenver.org/grantsapply](http://rcfdenver.org/grantsapply) and click 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 to start an application.

**For questions about this opportunity**
You may sign up for a virtual 20-minute session to speak with a community impact officer about this opportunity from June 8 - July 6. For questions about the grants portal or application or if you need accommodations in applying, please contact Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants associate, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

**Additional supports from Rose Community Foundation**
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. In addition to this and other [grantmaking opportunities](http://www.rosefoundation.org/grantmaking-opportunities), the Foundation utilizes advocacy and philanthropic services to advance thriving Greater Denver communities.

Our staff works closely with [individual and family donors](http://www.rosefoundation.org/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 90 nonprofit organizations in creating endowment funds to sustain their vital work into the future. Through the Foundation’s Endowment Building Pathways, we offer training and coaching for nonprofits to integrate endowment building and legacy giving into their development work and incentives to help launch or grow an endowment fund. Contact us to learn more about how we support nonprofits beyond programmatic grantmaking.

Application Questions
The following questions are provided here for reference only. Submit your responses via the 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; Government Entity; Fiscally Sponsored Organization; Other)
- Mission Statement
- 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)
- Project Name
- Short Description. Please provide a concise description of this grant request's specific charitable purpose. (Character limit 300)
- Number Served. Indicate how many people will be served or impacted through this request.
- Total Amount Requested. Grant awards will range from $25,000 - $75,000, on average.
- Approaches. Select the primary approach(es) relevant to this grant request (check all that apply)
  - Social and financial capital through community development efforts
  - Access to capital for individuals, entrepreneurs and local businesses
  - Gentrification and displacement prevention
  - Workforce development
  - Social enterprise and cooperative models
  - Eviction prevention
  - Affordable home ownership
- Core Counties. Select the three core counties within the seven-county Greater Denver area in which you do most of the work related to this request (i.e., majority of people served live within these three counties). If you only work in one or two counties, please select the counties in which you do your work.
- Policy and Advocacy. Does the proposed project related to this grant request address systemic policy and/or legislative advocacy issues? We define this as efforts to close gaps in access, opportunity and power by changing systems, growing public resources or influencing the levers of public policy. If yes, please describe how policy and advocacy plays a role in your proposed project.

Narrative Questions
- Opportunities and Outcomes. Assuming that things go really well for the work that would be supported by the proposed grant, please describe what success might look like in the longer term, i.e., beyond the grant period. (Character Limit: 3500)
• **Key Activities.** What are the most important activities you will undertake to achieve your intended outcomes 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. *(Character Limit: 3500)*

• **Results.** 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)*

• **Community Participation.** To what extent do the communities most impacted inform and guide the work of the organization? This scale has been adapted from the [ladder of participation model](#) developed by Sherry Arnstein. Choices:
  - 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

• **Community Served / Engagement.** Describe the community you serve and how communities or individuals engage, participate, and inform the work. Specify the areas of Greater Denver in which the work occurs including counties, cities, neighborhoods and/or zip codes by including data sources, as applicable. Data examples may include census data, equity analyses, needs assessments, etc. *(Character Limit: 3000)*

• **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, 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. *(Character Limit: 2500)*

• **Partnership.** Does your organization work in close partnership with other organizations or groups in carrying out your goals for this specific project/request? If yes, please provide detailed information about any relevant organizations you collaborate with and how you collaborate with them to achieve your work for this specific project, including the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Please do not provide only a list of partners. If you do not collaborate with any partners for this work, please state that. *(Character Limit: 3000)*

• **Community Needs.** For the 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: 2000)*

### Financials

• **Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget.** Upload a 2023 (or current fiscal year) organizational operating budget (revenue and expenses) with actuals to date.

• **Additional Financial Information (if applicable).** If a narrative explanation of the financial statements or budget is helpful, let us know here. This may be an opportunity to describe your organization’s financial model including how the organization is supported, typical sources of income and the percentages of revenue from each type of source. This is also the space to provide comments explaining any major changes or unusual occurrences in your budget(s). *(Character Limit: 2500)*

• **Program Budget (if applicable).** Please upload a program budget for the activities for which you are requesting funding, with both revenue and expenses represented.
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 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.

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. If your organization's nondiscrimination policy is not board-approved or your organization does not have a nondiscrimination policy, please upload a document with an explanation. An uploaded document is required to submit this application.