2024 Civic Engagement 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 around local issues, and civic leadership development programs 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 and equip historically under-reached populations to participate in civic, policy and electoral processes around local issues. *Activities that support or oppose 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 and is a powerful vehicle for advancing empowerment, belonging and representation. Rose Community Foundation seeks to fund organizations and projects that promote equitable and inclusive nonpartisan 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.
- Civic fellowships and leadership development programs that create pathways to policy and civic engagement and/or representation for historically under-reached communities.
- Community engagement or organizing efforts that elevate the voices of individuals who are furthest from opportunity. *Please note that efforts focused on advocacy for specific local/state policies are a better fit for the Policy and Advocacy Ecosystem grant cycle, which launches in summer 2024.*

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, government agencies or fiscally sponsored projects in the seven-county Denver Metro region: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. 501(c)(4) organizations are eligible to apply for project support only (not unrestricted or general operating grants).

- Organizations funded through donor-advised funds or Rose Community Foundation giving circles (i.e., Rose Youth Foundation, Roots and Branches, Generation Now, Rose Women's Circle) 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 grants.

- Organizations that have current funding at Rose Community Foundation are eligible to apply for this opportunity, but prioritization will be given to applicants that do not have open grants (including via the Colorado Education Organizing funder collaborative) in an effort to expand our reach to and inclusion of organizations, communities, and types of work or projects that are not eligible for funding via other Rose Community Foundation grantmaking opportunities.
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 coordinator, at chu@rcfdenver.org.

Rose Community Foundation will only fund organizations that do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, pregnancy (including childbirth and related medical conditions), national origin, ancestry, citizenship, military status, marital status, familial or caregiver status, or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Given the Foundation’s Jewish roots and longstanding commitment to supporting the local Jewish community, we will not fund organizations that promote antisemitism, anti-Jewish misinformation, or hate in any form against any community.

We are interested in seeing proposals that:

- Center and elevate local impacted community voices.
- Specify the local 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/or geography.
- 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?

- The extent to which executive leadership, board and staff are representative of communities affected by the issue the organization aims to address.
- The extent to which community engagement and participation informs the organization’s work.
- The extent to which the 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:** $350,000. We anticipate making around 20 grants.
- **Funding amounts** will typically range between $5,000 and $30,000, with amounts determined based on alignment with the grant cycle objectives. Please note that not all grant requests will be funded and those that are may not all be funded at the full amount requested.
- **Grant duration:** Grants approved for work specific to the 2024 election cycle will typically end December 31, 2024. All other approved grants will be for a 12-month period unless applicants provide a reason for requesting a shorter grant period.

Types of support

**General Operating Support:** With the intention of providing maximum flexibility for nonprofit organizations engaging in civic engagement work, we aim for most grants to be for general operating support.

**Program or Project Support:**

- Organizations that have a primary organizational focus that does not include civic engagement.
- Organizations that do national or multi-state work should apply for program funding and specify that
dollars would be used exclusively for regional activities.

- 501(c)(4) organizations are required to apply for program funding to distinguish from candidate or partisan work, which the Foundation cannot fund.
- Any grant applicants may opt to have funding structured as program support if that is preferred.

Timeline

- **March 6 – April 1, 2024**: Application process opens. Office hours are available for applicants.
- **April 1, 2024, at 5 p.m. MT**: Application process closes
- **April 2 – April 8, 2024**: Site visits and follow-ups for additional information, as needed.
- **Mid-May 2024**: All organizations will be notified of funding decisions

What are the grantee reporting expectations?

Organizations receiving grant funds will be asked to submit a short narrative report of final progress on grant funds in the online grants portal within 30 days of the end of the grant period. 501(c)(4) organizations will also be required to submit a financial report.

For questions about this opportunity

You may sign up for a 20-minute session to meet with Policy and Advocacy Manager Ray Barrie-Kivel about this opportunity. For questions about the online grants portal or application, please contact Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants coordinator, 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 nonprofit organizations in establishing and growing endowed and designated funds to sustain their vital work into the future. Through the Endowment Building Pathways, 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 legal organization name and full contact information (name, title, email address, phone number, and mailing address) for your primary 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.
- 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 or opposition of specific ballot measures, candidates or political parties.
- Total Amount Requested. Applicants are eligible to apply for grants up to $50,000 but, even if selected, may not receive the full amount requested. Most grant amounts will be below $30,000.
- 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. Grants approved for work specific to the 2024 election cycle will typically end 12/31/2024. All other approved grants will be for a 12-month period, unless applicants provide a reason for requesting a shorter grant period.
- 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.
- Impact. How will you know that you were successful? How will you measure or evaluate your intended efforts?
- Population(s) Served. Describe the populations you are seeking to reach through this grant opportunity. This opportunity seeks to prioritize historically disenfranchised demographics.
- Activities Beyond Local Mission: As a place-based funder, we fund local efforts on local issues that impact our local community. Does your organization engage in activities (advocacy, position-taking, education, communications, marketing, etc.) related to national or international issues, and if so, what are they?
- Total Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget (general operating support only). Upload a 2024 (or current fiscal year) organizational operating budget (revenue and expenses) with actuals to date.
- Program Budget (program support requests only). 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 values diversity, inclusion, and equity and is committed to ensuring that these values are reflected in all its activities and operations. The Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, pregnancy (including childbirth and related medical conditions), national origin, ancestry, citizenship, military status, marital status, familial or caregiver status, or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

It is our policy to maintain a non-discriminatory environment free from intimidation, harassment, or bias based on these grounds. This policy applies to all areas of employment, including recruitment, hiring, training and development, promotions, terminations, layoffs, compensation, and all other conditions and privileges of employment, as well as to Foundation volunteers and vendors. The Foundation is dedicated to equal employment opportunities and provides equal opportunities to all individuals based on job-related qualifications and ability to perform a job.

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.

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?