

Roots & Branches Foundation 2024

Application Deadline: Monday, April 1 2024 at 5 p.m.

Get involved. Get connected. Give together.

Each year, Roots & Branches Foundation brings together a diverse, talented and motivated group of Jewish people, ages 25 to 40, to use their Jewish values and the tools of strategic philanthropy to make a positive difference in the Greater Denver Community.

Roots & Branches Foundation members will:

- Engage in strategic philanthropy by identifying a community need, learning about nonprofit organizations and awarding grants totaling roughly \$50,000.
- Leverage time, talent and personal philanthropy
- Connect Jewish values to the good they seek to do
- Learn about and connect with the Greater Denver and Boulder community
- Become part of the next generation of funders at Rose Community Foundation

The Commitment

We are seeking applicants who feel they have something to contribute to and gain from this collaborative group experience. We encourage participants to have an open mind and be curious about the process and what can be learned from peer members and community voices.

Members are required to:

- Attend and participate in all meetings; one pre-approved absence is permitted. *If participants have symptoms of illness, a remote option will be made available to still participate in meetings.*
- Engage fully in the process, including spending time connecting with fellow members, researching community issues, reading relevant materials and grant proposals and meeting with nonprofits for Listening and Learning meetings that will take place in January or February of 2025 during regular business hours
- Carefully read, understand and accept Rose Community Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy, Confidentiality Agreement and Media Authorization and Release prior to participation in the program
- Make a personally meaningful donation to the Roots & Branches grantmaking pool. We recognize members have diverse circumstances, and we believe philanthropy is defined by intention and commitment, not by gift size, so there is no recommended donation amount. Individual gift size is kept confidential and will not be shared among the group.

Decision Making Structure

Members of Roots & Branches Foundation work together in the spirit of consensus; all voices and perspectives are considered before a final decision is reached. This kind of collaboration requires participants to be curious, open-minded, patient and committed to the process, not just the

outcomes. Working as a team in this way is rewarding, but we recognize it is not for everyone. We ask applicants to consider their comfort with group collaboration before applying. Rose Community Foundation staff support the group and facilitate its meetings, learning and discussions.

Meeting Schedule

Members will meet for nine meetings on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 8 p.m. between July 2024 and February 2025. Meetings will be held in-person at Rose Community Foundation (4500 Cherry Creek Drive S, Suite 900, Denver) unless otherwise noted. We recommend taking note of meeting dates and times before applying to ensure the program schedule works for you.

- **July 2** from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. *Offsite* Welcome Social Hour
- **July 9**
- **August 6**
- **September 17**
- **October 15**
- **December 10** from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. *Virtual*
- **January 7**
- **February 11**
- **February 25**

Getting to Know One Another

We believe that trust and community building are the foundation for collaborative teamwork. To nurture group connection we will kick-off the 2024 cohort with a Welcome Social Hour on the evening of Tuesday, July 2. Additionally, mid-way through the program on Friday, November 15, 2024 we will host a "Friendsgiving" shabbat for participants and their plus one to pause, reflect, and celebrate the work of the cohort. We also encourage participants to get to know one another outside of meetings and events by going on walks, meeting for coffee, or connecting in other ways.

Listening and Learning Meetings

As part of the grantmaking due-diligence and learning process, participants will attend Listening and Learning Meetings with key staff at the non-profit organizations the group is considering funding. Meetings will take place with a small group of cohort peers and will be scheduled between January 14 and February 10 during weekday work hours. We ask each participant to attend two of these meetings based on their availability.

Grantmaking Funds

Rose Community Foundation seeds the group's grantmaking with \$30,000 and provides a dollar-for-dollar match for members' combined contributions, up to \$10,000. All members are asked to make a personally meaningful donation. There is no recommended contribution amount and all amounts donated are confidential. 100% of member contributions are donated to the community.

Member Eligibility

All applicants should reside within the Greater Denver community – Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, identify as Jewish, and be between the ages of 25 and 40 years old. You do not need to be of a certain income level, wealth status or earning potential.

Application and Selection Process

Applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule a 15-minute informational phone call to ask questions about the program and get clarity about the commitment ahead of applying.

- To schedule a call with Emily Kornhauser, Director of Collaborative Philanthropy, weekdays between 9 am - 1 pm, [please click here](#).
- To schedule a call with Gillian Nyland, Philanthropic Initiatives Coordinator, weekdays between 1 pm - 5pm, [please click here](#).

Please schedule a phone call and complete your [online written application](#) by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024**. Once you create a login and password, you will be able to save and return to your application before submitting.

All applications are reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Rose Community Foundation staff and community partners. The selection committee discusses each application and selects members primarily for their demographic, professional, personal and Jewish diversity, and for the degree to which each applicant stands to benefit from the giving circle experience. All applicants will be notified of selection decisions by June 1, 2024.

If you have questions about the program or applying, please contact [Gillian Nyland](#), Philanthropic Initiatives Coordinator at gnyland@rcfdenver.org or 303-398-7441.