

## Equitable Economic Opportunity & Community Wealth Building

*Si necesita ayuda para traducir este paquete de información al español, por favor contacte a Maria Torres (she/ella) vía correo electrónico [mtorres@rcfdenver.org](mailto:mtorres@rcfdenver.org).*

### Overview

Rose Community Foundation has an open funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations 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 particularly 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)
- are scaling existing peer-to-peer programs where people with lived experience are paid to support others experiencing the same or similar challenges
- are 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
- People with disabilities and neurodiverse individuals
- 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 funding.
- Organizations that have multiyear funding from the Foundation or that have received a separate grant from Rose Community Foundation in 2024 **are unlikely to receive funding** via this opportunity. We ask organizations that think they may still be eligible to reach out to our Community Impact team before beginning their application.
- Organizations with a 2023 Equitable Economic Opportunity and Community Wealth Building grant are eligible to apply.
- Rose Community Foundation has [multiple open RFPs](#), and we encourage organizations that think they could be a fit for more than one to contact [Chen-Pin Hu](#) before beginning an application.

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/harm in any form against any community

## We are interested in proposals that:

- **Increase social and financial capital to advance local economic stability.** 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 organizations providing workforce programming or training that results in better paying jobs with higher earning potential.
- **Increase housing affordability for individuals and families that are cost burdened.** Navigate and support affordable home ownership or eviction prevention programs for individuals with low incomes.

## Approaches that are not a fit for this opportunity

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

## What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Organization or project includes diverse perspectives and experiences, and impacted communities are engaged in program leadership, design and implementation
- Commitment to advancing equity across gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, income, ability, age and/or geography
- Executive leadership, board and staff have representation from the communities the organization serves
- Financial picture of the organization
- We will consider whether an organization has open funding from Rose Community Foundation in an effort to reach organizations, communities, and types of work or projects that are not eligible for or receiving funding via other Rose Community Foundation grant cycles.

## How much funding and what type of funding is available?

- **Total funding available:** \$ 1.5 million.
- **Grant duration:** Most grant lengths will be one year.
- **Types of support:**
  - General Operating Support: for organizations where most of their work is connected to this RFP

- Program or Project Support: for projects 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 to 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.
  - Due to the quality and quantity of proposals received for this funding opportunity, few applicants receive grants at or near the high-end of the range. In 2023, 45 percent of applicants received a grant, and the average one-year grant amount was \$33,000.

## What are the grantee reporting expectations?

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

August 1 – August 28, 2024	Application open. Office hours available
August 28, 2024, at 5 p.m. MT	Application closes
September 1 – October 1, 2024	Follow ups for additional information, as needed
December 13, 2024	All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by this date
November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2025	Grant period for funded projects
November 30, 2025	Final report due in online grants portal

## How do I apply?

Sign in or create your account at [rcdenver.org/grantsapply](https://rcdenver.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 Community Impact Officers Maria Torres (she/her) or VJ Brown (he/his) about this opportunity. For questions about the grants portal or application, or if you need accommodations in applying, please contact Chen-Pin Hu (she/her), grants coordinator, at [chu@rcdenver.org](mailto:chu@rcdenver.org).

# 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.** 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.
- **Approaches.** Select the primary approach(es) relevant to this grant request (*check all that apply*)
  - Access to capital for individuals, entrepreneurs and local businesses
  - Workforce development
  - Affordable home ownership and/or eviction prevention programs
- **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., the 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.

## Narrative Questions

- **Long-Term Impact.** Assuming things go well for the work that would be supported by the proposed grant, 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? Please explain how those activities advance the approaches of this RFP (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Opportunities and Outcomes.** 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. Please ensure your response here reflects the approach(es) that you selected above. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **2023 Grant Cycle Funding** (*if applicable*). If you are currently receiving funding through the Foundation's 2023 Equitable Economic Opportunity grant cycle, please include a brief update on any successes and/or challenges related to the proposed activities for that grant.

- **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.** Please give additional context on your selection above. Describe the community/ies 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*)
- **Community-Informed Leadership.** 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 or 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.
- **Previous Fiscal Year Budget-to-Actuals.** Please upload your organization's previous fiscal year budget-to-actuals
- **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 (program support requests only).** 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 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.

**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.**