



Roots & Branches Foundation 2025 Member Application

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 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...

- Engage in strategic philanthropy by identifying a community need, learning about nonprofits, 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 site visits that will take place in January of 2026 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 ten meetings on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. between June 2025 and February 2026. 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.

- **June 10** from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. *Offsite* Welcome Social Hour
- **June 17**
- **July 22**
- **August 19**
- **September 16**
- **October 24** from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Offsite* Shabbat Dinner
- **November 18** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. *Virtual*
- **December 16**
- **January 27**
- **February 10**

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 2025 cohort with a Welcome Social Hour on the evening of Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Additionally, mid-way through the program on Friday, October 24, 2025 we will host a Shabbat dinner 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.

Site Visits

As part of the grantmaking due-diligence and learning process, participants will attend site visits 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 5 - 26, 2026 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, on Mondays or Wednesdays between 9 am - 5 pm, [please click here.](#)

- To schedule a call with Zoe Carlson, Philanthropic Initiatives Coordinator, on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 9 am - 5pm, [please click here.](#)

Please schedule a phone call and complete your online written application by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.** 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 May 9th.**

Contact Information

We recommend that you periodically save your progress on this application using the button at the bottom of this page.

First Name: *

Last Name: *

Email Address *

Cell Phone Number *

Street Address *

Address Line 2

City *

State *

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Zip Code *

Personal Information

Roots & Branches Foundation strives to bring together a diverse group of participants so that members can learn from one another's unique perspectives and experiences. We recognize and respect that personal identity is multi-faceted and we invite applicants to share with us as much about their identity as they are comfortable. This information helps us create an inclusive and balanced group during the selection process. If you are uncomfortable responding to any of the demographic questions, please write "prefer not to say".

Age as of June 2025: *

Gender Identity: *

Preferred Pronouns *

Sexual Orientation *

Please describe your race and ethnicity *

Do you identify as Jewish? *

Yes

No

Other (please describe)

Which denomination do you identify with? *

Please list any other religious, cultural, or faith affiliation(s) *

Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition? *

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Current Profession, Employer, and/or Job Title(s) *

0/255 characters

Personal Interests or Hobbies *

0/255 characters

Current Volunteer Commitments *

0/255 characters

How long have you lived in the Greater Denver or Boulder area? *

Relationship Status *

Single

Partnered/in a committed relationship

Other

Do you have children? *

Yes

No

We strive to host inclusive meetings that enable all individuals, including individuals with physical and invisible disabilities, to engage fully. Do you require any accessibility accommodations? *

We believe meetings are better with a meal! Please let us know any dietary restrictions or preferences, we try to be as accommodating as possible. *

Strict Kosher: I require a certified Kosher meal

Flexible Kosher: I will eat vegetarian meals out

Vegetarian

Vegan

Gluten Free

Dairy Free

None

Other

Application Questions

Please use details and examples in responding to the application questions below. There are no "right" answers. Diversity of experience and perspective is an important selection criterion for us, so your answers should help the selection committee hear your authentic voice. Responses to long answer questions should be one to two paragraphs in length and a maximum of 200 words. At the bottom of the screen, there is a button you can use to save your progress.

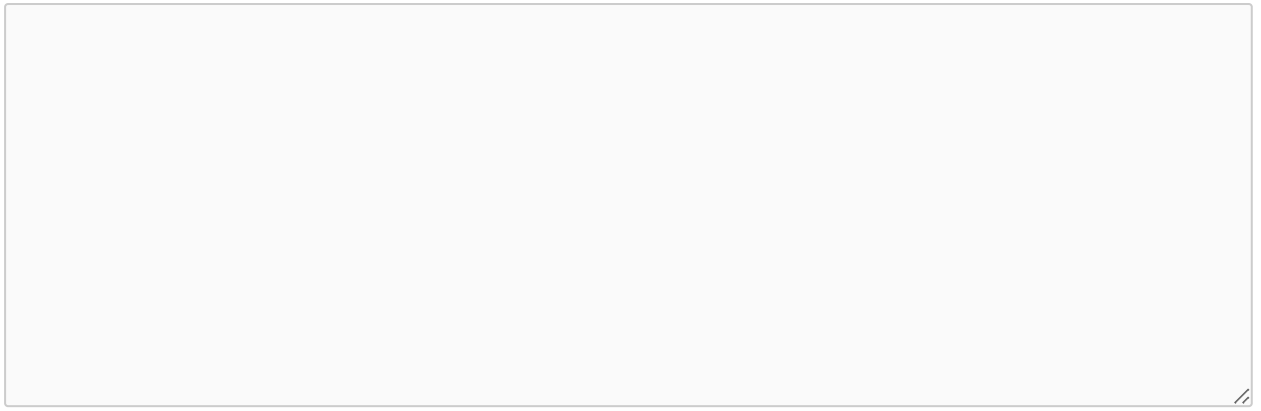
1a. We want to get to know you! Tell us about yourself in a short third person bio. Include your academic and professional journey, life achievements, extracurricular interests, surprising facts, hopes and dreams. If you are selected, these bios will be shared with your fellow members. *

0/200 words

1b. Upload a headshot to accompany your bio. Please select a high-resolution photo with only you in the frame. This will be used for the program and shared with peer members if you are selected.

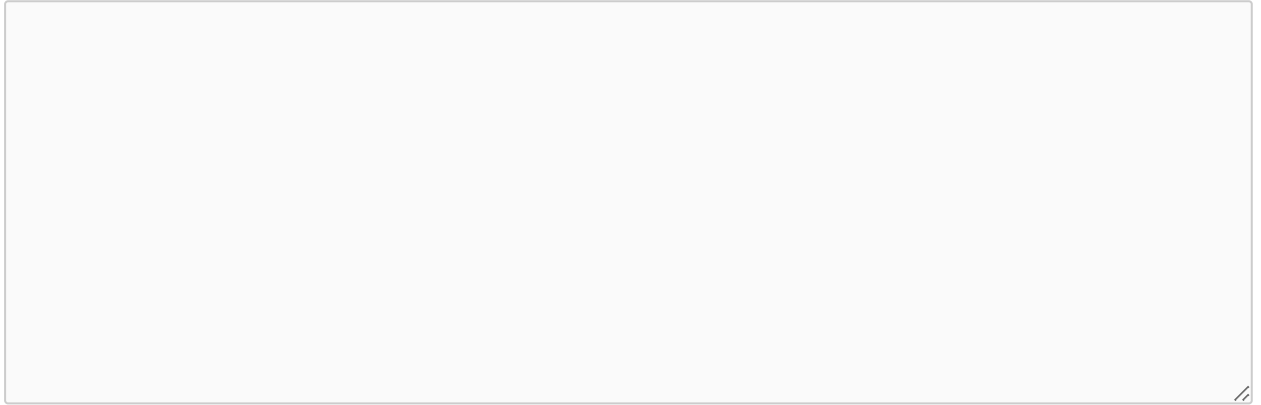
Choose File No file chosen

2. Why are you interested in participating in Roots & Branches Foundation? What do you hope to gain or learn from this experience? In what ways will the group benefit from your participation? *



0/200 words

3. What does being Jewish mean to you now and what has your Jewish journey been like so far? *Judaism may be a relatively big or small part of your life and may be a mixture of positive, negative, lack-luster or life-changing experiences; we want to hear about it.* *



0/200 words

JUSTICE

We take action to address pressing issues in our community in pursuit of fairness, humanity and justice.

Do not stand idly by in the face of suffering or injustice | Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Rei'echa

EQUITY

We advance a more equitable region that provides opportunity and access for all, recognizing that historic and systemic barriers exist based on race, resources and gender.

The ethical responsibility to right the scales of justice through philanthropy | Tzedakah

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We believe all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ability or country of origin – are equal and worthy of dignity, honor and full inclusion in community life.

All of humanity is created in a divine image | B'tzelem Elohim

EMPATHY

We strive to understand the perspectives of individuals, communities and organizations in our region, and to ground our actions in this understanding.

*Our experiences – historic and modern-day – create inherent empathy with those in need of support or alliance
| Avadim Hayinu B'Mitzrayim*

GENEROSITY

We encourage and practice generosity, and our giving is informed by the interests, needs and dignity of the recipients.

Honor and uphold the dignity of others | Kavod Habriot

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

We join with others to work toward a common vision.

Humanity is in partnership to create a more whole and perfect world | Tikkun Olam

COMMUNITY

We believe our region needs strong, interconnected communities and honor Rose Community Foundation's Jewish roots with an enduring commitment to supporting the Greater Denver Jewish community as well as the Greater Denver region as a whole.

Responsibility to communal needs | Kehillah

4. Universal in aspiration and anchored in the Foundation's Jewish roots and legacy, our values (listed above) guide the work we do and how we do it, both within the Jewish community and in the Greater Denver region, providing a unifying sense of who we are as an organization. Please share a story about a time you experienced or put into action one of these values. *

0/200 words

5. Have you applied to participate in Roots & Branches before? *

Yes

No

