2026 Jewish Life Grant Request for Proposals | Cycle One

Overview

Rose Community Foundation's Jewish Life program area seeks to support organizations and programs that strengthen the vibrancy, sustainability, safety and security of a joy-filled local Jewish community. For more on the Foundation's holistic Jewish community support, please visit our website.

Priority Funding Areas

Organizations funded under this opportunity should reflect at least one of the following priorities:

- **Support for Jewish organizations to be sustainable and impactful with the resources and capacity to best serve the Jewish community.** Applications in this category should advance major organizational goals that bolster the core functions and long-term viability of Jewish institutions. Eligible projects may include capacity-building initiatives, strategic planning, professional development, new systems (CRM, software, etc.), and other strategic organizational investments. Grants may support general operating or program expenses and should help organizations meet evolving community needs and remain impactful and connected within the broader Jewish ecosystem. While this opportunity does not fund endowments, information on Rose Community endowment-building opportunities and incentives is available HERE.

- **Programs and projects that provide diverse, relevant and joyful ways for community members to connect with their identity and engage in Jewish life.** Applications should offer relevant and inclusive opportunities for Jewish engagement, reflecting the diversity of Jewish individuals and families. While each particular program may not be as relevant for each possible demographic group, we aspire to have a Jewish Life grantmaking portfolio that invests in the full age, geographic, denominational and demographic diversity of our seven-county Jewish community including interfaith families, Jews of Color, LGBTQ+, economically vulnerable, etc. Projects should be informed by data demonstrating community need and fill gaps in the local Jewish ecosystem, rather than duplicating existing efforts. Grants may support general operating or program expenses, with a focus on initiatives that build belonging and connectivity in a welcoming and vibrant environment for Jewish community members of all backgrounds.

- **Efforts to ensure the safety, security, and resilience of the local Jewish community and its institutions.** Applications should focus on programmatic or policy responses to antisemitism and Jewish harm/exclusion or work that ensures Jewish community members feel safe in their Jewish identity and Jewish institutions. Projects may include initiatives that build safe spaces for dialogue and education, foster alliances with non-Jewish community members, and/or bridge divides within the Jewish community. Grants should demonstrate measurable impact on the safety and well-being of Jewish individuals and institutions and support proactive strategies to prevent and respond to threats. *Please note that modest request for security training and infrastructure needs will be considered for applicants who can demonstrate that they have pursued training and site assessments through the Colorado Jewish Regional Safety and Security Initiative, also known as the Secure Community Network (SCN), which Rose community Foundation funds at JEWISHcolorado.*

Desired Outcomes and Evaluation

By making grants within the priorities stated above, the Foundation seeks to help Greater Denver's Jewish organizations advance the following seven outcomes:

Organizational Sustainability: Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish communal organizations are strong, safe, and sustainable.

Diversity: Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish organizations reach and serve Jewish audiences that represent the full spectrum of Jewish life, including demographic, geographic, and denominational diversity.

Inclusion: Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish individuals and families of all stripes feel welcomed and included in Jewish programs and organizations.

Communal Connections: Jewish individuals and families feel a strong sense of connection to one or more parts of the Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish community.

Engagement: Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish individuals and families repeatedly participate in Jewish engagement opportunities that are meaningful and relevant to them.

Social & Economic Justice: Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish individuals and families participate in activities that address social and economic justice as an expression of their Jewish identity.

Basic Needs: Basic needs of all Metro Denver/Boulder Jewish individuals and families are being met.

To better understand the needs and opportunities of Greater Denver's Jewish communities and how Rose Community Foundation can best support Jewish-serving organizations in meeting these, the Foundation has committed to monitoring community progress toward these outcomes.

Reporting requirements for grants made through this funding opportunity will include reporting on indicators relevant to these outcome statements. Information about expectations and support from the Foundation for this data collection and reporting will be shared with grant recipients when funding decisions are made.

Eligible Applicants

Please note that Rose Community Foundation is running Cycle 1 without a dedicated Jewish Life Program Director, so we have limited capacity for engaging with new-to-us organizations and would strongly encourage them to apply in Cycle 2 later in 2026.

Jewish organizations operating in the seven county Greater Denver region. Applicants must be a nonprofit organization, school, or other tax-exempt organization in the seven-county Greater Denver region of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Unincorporated organizations, groups and initiatives may apply but must have a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.

If you wish to discuss your potential proposal, please contact Community Impact Coordinator, Joann Asakawa Huntz at jasakawahuntz@rcfdenver.org. As previously noted, we strongly encourage new-to-us organizations to apply in Cycle 2 later in 2026 and may defer Cycle 1 applications from new-to-us organizations to Cycle 2.

Funds Available to Grant and Grant Period

Rose Community Foundation anticipates making individual, one-time, grant awards based on alignment with the stated funding priorities and availability of funds. We expect this grant opportunity to be highly competitive, and it is possible that not all applicants will be awarded funding and/or that awards may not be for the requested amount. Grant requests should generally not exceed 15 percent of the current year's operating budget.

Grants may be structured as programmatic or general operating support. **Funds cannot be used for endowments, cash reserves, debt repayment, or pass-through grants.** The majority of awarded grants will be for a period of 12 months, and organizations are eligible to apply for funds only once in a 12-month period. In limited instances, multi-year grants may be awarded based on staff, committee and board discretion. Priority will be given to organizations that have demonstrated community need and interest in a proposed project, and where multi-year support would help to advance or achieve outcomes which may otherwise not be possible.
First-time or newer grantees are unlikely to receive multi-year grants.

Timeline

- **February 4, 2026:** Application open. Office hours available for applicants.
- **March 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. MT:** Application deadline.
- **March 5 - April 30, 2026:** Follow ups for additional information, as needed.
- **May 2026:** All applicants will be notified of funding decisions.
- **June 2026:** Grantees required to attend one of two evaluation strategy meetings. Additional meeting details will be emailed.
- **May 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027:** Grant period for funded projects.
- **May 31, 2027:** Final report due in online grants portal.

How to Apply

Applications are to be submitted through the [online grants portal](#) no later than Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. MDT. Since Rose Community Foundation staff anticipate a large volume of applications, email communication is preferred.

Please note that Rose Community Foundation is running Cycle 1 without a dedicated Jewish Life Program Director, so we have limited capacity for new-to-us organizations and would strongly encourage them to apply in Cycle 2 later in 2026. *Even if new-to-us organizations opt to apply now, we may defer their applications to Cycle 2.*

Application Questions

The following questions are available in the online grants portal and are provided here for reference only.

Organization Information
- **Executive Director/President/CEO's Name, Pronouns and Title**
- **Authorized Contract Signer's Name, Pronouns, Title and Email Address**
- **Type of Organization**. (501(c)(3) - not fiscally sponsored; Government Entity; Fiscally Sponsored Organization; Other)
- **Mission Statement**
- **Fiscal Sponsor Information (if applicable).** Provide the legal organization name and full contact information for your primary point of contact with the fiscal sponsor for this project.

Grant Request Information
- **Funding Priority Alignment.** Organizations funded under this opportunity should reflect at least one of the following priorities (see full descriptions above):
    1. Strength and Stability of Jewish Organizations
    2. Meaningful Engagement Opportunities
    3. Safety, Security & Combatting Antisemitism
- **Type of Request.** General operating support; Program or project support
- **Program/Project Name**
- **Short Description.** Provide a description of the grant request's specific charitable purpose.
- **Total Amount Requested**
- **Total Operating Budget (number)** For national organizations applying for a Colorado chapter or work in the Metro Denver/Boulder area, please only report the total of the local budget.
- **Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget (upload)** Please upload the operating budget for the current fiscal year. For national organizations applying for a Colorado chapter or work in the Metro Denver/Boulder area, please upload the local budget.
- **Program Budget (program/project requests only).** Upload the program budget, including revenue and expenses, associated with this request.
- **Additional Financial Information (requests for $100,000 or more only).** Please upload audited financials. If audited financials are unavailable, include your organization's most recent fiscal year-end financial statements.
- **Additional Financial Information (if applicable).** If a narrative explanation of financial statements or budget is helpful, let us know here.
- **Core Counties.** What are the three core counties (within the Metro Denver/Boulder area) in which you do most of the work related to this grant request (i.e., most people served live within these three counties)?
- **Grant Impact.** Outline the ways in which this grant will support your organization, the people and communities served. If you are requesting project support, state the opportunity or problem your organization is addressing within the scope of this grant request.
- **Total Number of People Served.** Estimate the unique number of people directly served through this grant request.
- **Timeline.** What big goals for your organization would this grant support, and what benchmarks are you using to measure progress towards those goals?

- **Opportunities & Outcomes.** Describe what success might look like in the longer term, i.e., beyond the grant period.
- **Evaluation.** Rose Community Foundation requires its grantee partners to collect Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through participant surveys. Describe your current data collection practices (if any) and how KPIs could fit into these practices.
- **Other Funding Sources.** List any other funding sources, including any pending applications, related to this request. Include the status and amounts for each.
- **Staffing in Metro Denver/Boulder Area (national organizations only).** If you are applying on behalf of a national organization, please indicate how many staff members are based in the Metro Denver/Boulder area.

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 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 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.**