



## Roots & Branches Foundation 2026 Member Application

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 30, 2026 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 and February of 2027 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 2026 and March 2027. 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 24** from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. \*Offsite\* Welcome Social Hour
- **July 14**
- **August 11**
- **September 15**
- **October 13**
- **November 12** from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. \*Offsite\* Pre-Shabbat Dinner
- **December 8** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. \*Virtual\*
- **January 5**
- **February 16**
- **March 2**

## 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 2026 cohort with a Welcome Social Hour on the evening of Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Additionally, midway through the program on Thursday, November 12, 2026 we will host a pre-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 nonprofit organizations the group is considering funding. Meetings will take place with a small group of cohort peers and will be scheduled between January 12 - February 12, 2027 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.

- To schedule a call with Zoe Carlson, Philanthropic Initiatives Coordinator, [please click here.](#)

Please have your phone call and online written application completed by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026.** 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 12th.**

## 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 2026: \***

**Gender Identity: \***

**Preferred Pronouns \***

**Do you identify as LGBTQIA+ ? \***

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**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 left off the application the selection committee sees and is used for the program 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

1. Petach (פֶּתַח)

**Opening Doors:** We support fair and equitable access to the resources and systems people need to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.

2. Kehillah (קְהִילָה)

**Community:** We promote partnerships and collaboration, build trusted relationships, and bring people together for greater community impact.

3. Tikkun Olam (תִּיקּוּן עוֹלָם)

**Repairing the World:** We address systemic barriers and strengthen community resilience for the future.

4. Chadshanut (חֲדָשָׁנוּת)

**Innovation:** We pursue innovative solutions, adapting our philanthropy, learning as we go, and evolving our approaches to meet changing needs and future challenges.

5. Chesed (חֶסֶד)

**Generosity:** We act with empathy, kindness, and compassion; giving strategically to improve the lives of people and communities.

6. B'tzelem Elohim (בְּצֵלֶם אֱלֹהִים)

**Dignity:** We honor the infinite worth of every person and their right to be included in the decisions that impact their lives.

**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

