

Supporting our Workforce Development Ecosystem

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.

Overview

Rose Community Foundation has an open funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations in the Greater Denver region. Guided by our [vision, mission and values](#), the Foundation is focused on four areas of impact: [Community Wellbeing](#), [Education & Economic Opportunity](#), [Health](#) and [Jewish Life](#). These impact areas provide strategic direction and focus while also allowing the Foundation to remain flexible and responsive as community needs evolve.

This particular opportunity builds on the Education & Economic Opportunity impact area's overarching goal to support inclusive pathways to enter, remain and grow in the workforce amidst an evolving economy. It is intended to support organizations working to ensure that individuals have the skills and opportunities that enable them to secure living-wage jobs and access career advancement in industries with high demand. The Foundation seeks aligned partners that train individuals for higher-wage jobs in high-demand fields, upskill and reskill adults for career transitions and advancement, and reinforce pipelines from credentialing programs to employers for individuals and communities furthest from opportunity.

We are especially interested in supporting organizations that serve individuals who experience barriers to economic mobility; provide scalable skill building and navigation support that are evidence-based or evidence-informed; work with industry partners and employers to build and optimize local talent pipelines.

For purposes of this RFP, we seek to fund organizations with a demonstrated capacity and deep focus on:

- Low-to-middle income youth and adults
- Underserved populations and communities facing inequitable outcomes (including but not limited to BIPOC individuals, older adults, immigrants and refugees, women, and individuals with disabilities)

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 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 a grant.
- Organizations that have multiyear funding from the Foundation or that have received a separate grant from Rose Community Foundation in 2026 **are unlikely to receive funding** via this opportunity.

- **Please note that there are two potential steps to this application process.** Organizations are required to first submit an inquiry form for review. Organizations that are invited to submit a full application will be notified when the application is available in the online grants portal. The invitation for this opportunity is non-transferrable.

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/exclusion in any form against any community.**

We are interested in proposals that:

- **Train, upskill, reskill adults for higher-wage jobs in high demand fields that offer potential for career advancement.**
 - Provide quality training and pathways to credentialing that significantly increases earning potential for adults.
 - Provide services responsive to the needs of target populations that help lead to credential acquisition, job placement, and long-term economic stability.
- **Reinforce pipelines from higher education institutions, postsecondary programs, and other credentialing and training programs to employers.**
 - Coordinate and organize employers to inform training programs and talent pipelines.
 - Supports participants and employers with workplace integration and long-term growth.
- **Support career preparation programs that equip younger learners with skills relevant to increasing economic mobility.**
 - Support programs that create opportunities for youth through education-to-career pathways, including post-secondary options, like concurrent enrollment programs, apprenticeships, internships and work-based options.
 - Support career preparation and exposure programs that equip students with skills relevant for future careers.
- **Support training and education programs and access to capital opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses.**
 - Support programs that increase social and financial capital for entrepreneurs through technical assistance and skills development.
 - Increase access to capital for entrepreneurs through mechanisms such as grants or loans.

What we would like to see addressed in the proposal:

If your organization is invited to move from the inquiry to the application phase, please address the following in the application for this opportunity. Answers can be embedded throughout sections or be answered in the “additional grant information” question of the application.

- We are interested in supporting programs that facilitate a change in economic mobility for program participants. Please explore how your organizations’ approach supports short- and long-term mobility.

- While we recognize that all work is valid, we are interested in supporting programs that help participants build long-term careers. Please address how your organization supports career building, particularly within career pathways from industries with high demand for talent.
- We understand that artificial intelligence will greatly change how many industries will operate over time. Please share how your organization is exploring or preparing for how artificial intelligence has or will change the talent landscape of the population you support.

What else do we consider when making funding decisions?

- Commitment to removing barriers to opportunity for communities facing economic disparities.
- Impacted communities are engaged in program design and/or implementation.
- Executive leadership, board and/or staff are representative of communities the organization serves.
- Financial health of the organization.
- Intersectionality: Organizations or projects that are working on strategies defined in this RFP **and** in other Rose Community Foundation impact areas and priorities.
- Organizations that have current multiyear funding from the Foundation or that have received a separate grant from Rose Community Foundation in 2026 **are unlikely to receive funding** via this opportunity so we can expand our reach to additional organizations that may not have opportunities elsewhere within the Foundation's priorities.

How much funding and what type of funding is available?

- **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 or work 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 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.

What are the grantee reporting expectations?

Grantee organizations are required to submit a short narrative 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 will be asked to submit an update in the application. Progress and final reports must be submitted in the Rose Community Foundation [online grants portal](#).

Timeline

- **July 23, 2026 – August 13, 2026:** Opportunity opens for inquiries and invitations to apply are sent to invited organizations. Office hours available for applicants.
- **July 30, 2026:** Deadline to submit an inquiry for this cycle. Please note that after completing the inquiry step, organizations strongly aligned with the opportunity may be invited to complete a separate application form, described below.

- **August 13, 2026, at 5 p.m. MT:** Application closes.
- **August 14 – September 11, 2026:** Follow ups for additional information, as needed.
- **October 30, 2026:** All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by this date.
- **November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2027:** Grant period for funded projects.
- **November 30, 2027:** Final report due in online grants portal.

How do I apply?

Please note that there are two steps to this application. Organizations are required to submit an inquiry form for review no later than Thursday, July 30, 2026. Organizations that are invited to submit a full application will be notified when the application (described below) is available in the online grants portal. Applications must be submitted through the [online grants portal](#) no later than Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 5 p.m. MDT.

For questions about this opportunity

For questions about this opportunity, please reach out to VJ Brown (he/him), Program Director, at vjbrown@rcfdenver.org. 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@rcfdenver.org.

Inquiry Questions: Phase I

The following questions are provided here for reference only. All inquiries must be submitted via the [online grants portal](#). Once the inquiry has been received, you will be notified if you are invited to apply for the opportunity. Upon receiving an invitation, the application is assigned to you to complete. This is a competitive process with finite dollars available; not all organizations that submit inquiries will be invited to apply for this opportunity.

- **Organization or Project Name.** If you are reaching out about a specific program or project, please list that here. If you are not reaching out about a specific project, please submit your organization name in this field.
- **Grant History.** Has your organization received a grant from Rose Community Foundation since January 1, 2025? If no, you will be asked for the following:
 - **Mission Statement**
 - **Overview.** Please give an overview of the work you do that you believe is aligned with Rose Community Foundation's [priorities](#).
 - **Policy and Advocacy.** Is policy and advocacy work a key approach to how you advance your mission, based on the following?
 - Advocacy – including lobbying – for specific policy efforts.
 - Research that directly informs policy actions or strengthens advocacy campaigns.
 - Implementation or rulemaking around recently passed policies.
- **Type of Organization.** Indicate the organization type for the legal entity submitting this application (*501(c)(3) – not fiscally sponsored; Fiscally Sponsored Organization; Government Entity; Other*)
- **Core Counties.** What are the three core counties in which you do most of your work (majority of people served live within these three counties) within the seven-county Greater Denver area? If you only work in one or two counties, please select the one or two counties in which you do your work. If most of your work is outside of the Greater Denver area, please explain.

- **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.

Application Questions: Phase II, if invited

The following questions are provided here for reference only. All applications must be submitted via the [online grants portal](#).

Organization Information

- **Executive Director/President/CEO's Name, Pronouns and Title**
- **Authorized Contract Signer's Name, Pronouns, Title and Email Address**

Grant Request Information

- **Type of Support.** (*General operating support; Program support*)
- **Short Description.** Please provide a concise description of this grant request's specific charitable purpose. (*Character limit 300*)
- **Total Amount Requested**
- **Timeframe.** Provide any important information regarding timing for the requested support, including the timeframe for project completion, if applicable. Please note that approved grants are typically for a 12-month period, but we want to understand the full time horizon for the project. (*Character limit 1,000*)
- **Key Activities.** Briefly describe the efforts and activities in support of the goals of this opportunity. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Impact.** How will you know that you were successful? How will you measure or evaluate your intended efforts? (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Population(s) Served.** Please describe the populations you are seeking to reach through this grant opportunity. If applicable, please also include the number of people you anticipate serving with this grant. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Partnerships (optional).** Please share if you are working with any specific partners related to the activities for which you're seeking funding. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Additional Grant Information (optional).** Please include any information requested by Rose Community Foundation staff when you were invited to apply. *This can be used to address prompts outlined above that describe what the Foundation is looking to support in this opportunity.* (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Community-Informed Leadership.** We are committed to supporting organizations informed by those who are the most impacted and least represented by existing systems. Please describe how the impacted community's voice or experience informs the leadership and/or activities of the organization. (*Character Limit: 3500*)
- **Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget**
- **Current Fiscal Year Operating Budget (upload)**
- **Statement of Financial Position (upload)**
- **Previous Fiscal Year Budget-to-Actuals (optional)**
- **Program Budget (if applicable).** If you are applying for program support, please upload the program budget with revenue and expenses associated with this request.

- **Financial Narrative.** Please share any details you would like us to know about your organization's finances. 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. If your organization experienced or is expecting to experience a deficit, please provide details on how the deficit was managed or plans to address it. Please also provide comments explaining any major changes or unusual occurrences in your budget(s).
- **Current funding from Rose Community Foundation.** If you currently have an open grant from the Foundation for which you have not yet submitted a progress or final report, please include a brief update on any successes and/or challenges related to that grant. If you have a question about the status of an open grant, please reach out to your program officer prior to submitting this application.

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.

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.