



**Spring 2020 Call for Proposals**  
***Priority Area – Alternatives to Jail***

About Caring for Denver Foundation

Caring for Denver Foundation was founded and funded with overwhelming voter support to address mental health and substance misuse challenges facing the residents of the City and County of Denver. We plan to achieve this by supporting community-informed solutions, dismantling stigma and turning the community’s desire to help into action.

Through extensive community engagement efforts, Caring for Denver identified four priority areas of funding: Alternatives to Jail; Youth; Community-Centered Solutions; and Care Provision. Our strategic funding document can be found at [Caring for Denver Strategic Funding Report](#).

Call for Proposals Focus Area - Alternatives to Jail

Caring for Denver’s first call for proposals is directed at programs, projects and/or activities that address **Alternatives to Jail**. Calls for proposals for the other priority areas will be released at later dates.

Caring for Denver’s vision is that we move away from a criminal justice response to a public health, trauma, mental health and substance misuse crisis response, with care and services provided first, and jail as a last resort.

Through Caring for Denver’s investments of resources in **the Alternatives to Jail** priority area, there will be greater supports up front and more opportunities to implement treatment and interventions before, during and after criminal justice involvement; and Denver communities investing in Alternatives to Jail will work together more cohesively and collaboratively so that people are supported and connected throughout their recovery.

The results we hope to achieve are that these efforts will reduce incarceration of persons with mental health and substance misuse issues; reduce recidivism of persons with mental health and substance misuse issues; and those released from the criminal justice system have the resources available they need to meet them where they are in recovery and live healthy lives in the community.

Applicants should emphasize program strategies that work towards achieving at least one or more of these goals. To this end, Caring for Denver will consider investments in programs, projects and/or activities in the following areas:

- Diverse mental health, substance misuse supports that follow someone across services, programs, and institutions while in—and after they leave - the justice system.
- Increased diversion opportunities to reduce the number of people with mental health and substance misuse issues in jail. Efforts that will divert people away from the justice system such as pre-arrest and/or pre-booking programs; reducing the number of people returning to incarceration due to a probation violation and other infractions.
  - Support early identification of persons eligible for diversion and develop pathways citywide to connect individuals to appropriate mental health and substance misuse programs
  - Support diversion programs to coordinate assessments and connections to community-based systems of care for mental health and substance misuse.
- Provision of culturally relevant and trauma-informed services for those facing involvement, involved in, or released from the criminal justice system through a delivery model that is accessible to those historically underserved.
- A whole-person approach to the provision of participant services that focuses on the assets of participants as well as barriers to achieving an appropriate balance for success in their recovery, including supports for employment and housing.
- Data sharing across all relevant City and County of Denver services and justice entities to support care coordination, information sharing and release planning.
- Efforts aimed at reducing bureaucracy and technicalities that create barriers to individuals exiting the justice system, including but not limited to creating common/universal procedures for referrals, transition planning, and/or the sharing of information.

Award Considerations

Grant decisions will favor organizations that:

- Have demonstrated partnership with impacted communities
- Have demonstrated partnership with systems
- Have demonstrated experience working with underserved populations, including but not limited to people of color and young adults
- Focus on innovative approaches
- Can develop and maintain productive and collaborative partnerships
- Focus on the strengths of participants.

Total Allocation

The total amount available for all grant awards in this funding area is up to \$7,000,000. Applicants should consider the total amount available to organizations and agencies in the amount they request. Budgets will be evaluated for their reasonableness.

Eligibility

Projects and activities supported by Caring for Denver’s grantmaking must serve or support only residents of the City and County of Denver (“City”). Caring for Denver’s general definition of residency is derived from the State of Colorado Medical Services Board Rule 8.607.1(F) around Areas of Service. The following individuals will be considered City residents by Caring for Denver:

- An individual physically residing full time in the City
- An individual experiencing homelessness presenting in the City and intending to stay in the City
- An individual, under 21 years of age and in the custody of Denver Human Services (“DHS”)
- An individual, under 18 years of age and in primary legal and residency custody of a City resident
- A non-City resident who is placed in a mental health or substance abuse program while in a City Jail

Applicants can be any nonprofit organization designated by the IRS as tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3), or under other sections of the U.S. tax code or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply so long as they are designated by the IRS as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and all Caring for Denver grant funds are used for non-religious purposes. Applicants may also be any Indian or Native American entity.

Government-supported entities, including schools, museums or libraries, as well as City and County of Denver or State of Colorado agencies are eligible to apply.

#### What Caring for Denver Will Not Fund

- Individuals
- For-profit organizations
- Fundraising events
- Capital campaigns
- Endowments
- Organizations that practice discrimination of any kind

#### Timeline and Deadlines

##### **April 28, 2020**

Fluxx Registration Deadline – Create or update your account by 7:00 p.m. (MDT). Fluxx is Caring for Denver’s online grants system where applicants submit materials. We ask that you register in Fluxx or update your registration by this date—five days before the application deadline—to ensure that applicants have enough time to complete and submit their application. Of course, we encourage you to register before this date to give yourself as much time as you need to complete your application.

##### **May 4, 2020**

Proposals must be submitted by 7:00 pm (MDT). The online application system will not allow incomplete proposals or submissions after 7:00 pm (MDT).

##### **August 2020**

All applicants will be notified of their status.

To Apply

Please visit our website at [caring4denver.org](http://caring4denver.org).

Further guidance is provided in our Frequently Asked Questions section.

If you need assistance or have questions, please reach out to Leah Spielberg, Director of Grants, at [leah@caring4denver.org](mailto:leah@caring4denver.org) or 720.647.6375.