



Call for Proposals Focus Area: Youth

Opening Date: November 10, 2020

Registration Deadline: December 7, 2020 by 7:00 pm (MT)

Proposal Deadline: December 17, 2020 by 7:00 pm (MT)

Award Notification: March/April 2021

Summary

Caring for Denver Foundation is currently seeking proposals to address its [Youth focus area](#). Youth funding is directed at innovative mental health, trauma, and/or substance misuse supports, which increase youth's resilience to life stresses and pressures; address mental health and substance misuse early; and/or provides supports for families and allies of youth to better support youth in their healing.

Caring for Denver considers anyone between the ages of 0 – 26 as a youth. Proposals need not address the entire age range.

Total Allocation

The total amount available for all grant awards in this funding area is up to \$10 million. Applicants should consider the total amount available to organizations and agencies in the amount they request. Budgets will be evaluated for their reasonableness. If an organization has already received a grant from Caring for Denver, that will be taken into consideration as well.

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.

Equity

As we work to address the mental health and substance misuse needs in Denver, we are committed to funding and supporting innovative efforts that move us towards equity and outcomes where race/ethnicity, disability, immigration status, and identity can no longer be used to predict life outcomes. Our ongoing efforts must elevate the voices of those impacted and repair the historical trauma and oppression.

More information about Caring for Denver can be found at caring4denver.org/about.

Funding Overview

Caring for Denver will consider investments in programs, projects, and/or activities in the following Youth priority areas:

1. Resilience to life stresses and pressures

- a. Peer and mentoring activities that are supported, expanded, and promoted to address the mental health, trauma, and substance misuse needs of youth. These supports are offered by those with lived experience, are encouraging and 'real', and meet youth where they are
- b. Mental health, substance misuse, and trauma-informed supports that are increased for youth impacted by loss, violence, and school disruption. These supports increase a sense of belonging and purpose.
- c. Education, resources, and supports that occur in spaces in which youth trust and feel safe and are empowering for youth to heal
- d. Mental health and substance misuse messages that are developed and spread by youth in their own voice

2. Address mental health and substance misuse early

- a. Art and activities offered to address mental health, trauma, and substance misuse that encourage self-expression without shame, and help youth to envision a healthy future
- b. Solutions that address risk factors and trauma early to promote healthy development and coping strategies
- c. Supports that address mental health and substance misuse as early as possible, including during pregnancy
- d. Resources and supports that remove cultural barriers, address stigma, and increase positive perspectives about seeking care for youth and families

3. Supports for families, caregivers, and allies of youth

- a. Supports and resources that help families, caregivers, and allies recognize symptoms and address early signs of the need for mental health, trauma, and substance misuse support
- b. Trusted connections and supports for families (multi-generational) to increase their ability to support youth in healing

Desired Impact

Applicants must highlight how their programs, projects, and/or activities work towards achieving at least one of the following results:

- Reduced harm to self and others through addressing trauma, mental health, and substance misuse
- Increased ability to demonstrate healthy resilience for coping with challenges and stresses in life
- Increased awareness and involvement by family and allies in ways that help youth address trauma, mental health, and substance misuse
- Improved mental health and/or reduced substance misuse by youth

Award Considerations

Grant decisions will favor programs/projects that:

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- Are youth-informed/youth-led and engage young people as partners in the work
- Focus on innovative approaches
- Are meaningful to youth, where they are, and in the forms that work for them
- Reach youth who have been impacted by trauma and inequitable access to resources and supports
- Focus on the strengths of youth
- Value culture in healing and identity

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 and/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 an 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.

Caring for Denver Foundation will accept one application per organization in an open Call for Proposals.

What Caring for Denver Will Not Fund

Grant requests for the following will not be supported:

- Grants to individuals, for-profit organizations, or private foundations
- Annual appeals, membership drives, underwriting or fundraising events
- Endowments
- Loans
- Fellowships or scholarships
- Debt reduction
- Partisan causes
- Programs that require membership in a certain religion or seek to advance a particular religious faith or belief
- General operating costs
- Facilities projects
- Program-related investments

We will not make grants to organizations that practice discrimination of any kind.

We will not make grants to, participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, in support of, or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Our [founding ordinance](#) prohibits us from using our grant dollars to *supplant* existing funds. Grant recipients may not replace existing federal, state, city, or other local agency funds with funds from Caring for Denver. However, our funds may be used to *supplement* existing funds to replicate or expand the scope of an existing program or project.

Timeline and Deadlines

December 7 7:00 pm (MT) Fluxx Registration Deadline – if not already registered	Fluxx is Caring for Denver’s online grants system where applicants submit materials. We ask that you register in Fluxx by this date. If you have already applied or have received funding, you are already registered and may skip this step. Access Fluxx by visiting https://caring4denver.fluxx.io .
December 17 7:00 pm (MT) Proposals Due	Submit your complete application with document uploads at https://caring4denver.fluxx.io . The online application system will not allow incomplete proposals or submissions after 7:00 pm (MDT).
March/April 2021 Award Notification	All applicants will be notified of their status.

How to Apply

Visit our website at caring4denver.org and click on the Grants Portal button. Further guidance is provided in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section.

If you need assistance or have questions about our available funding or the application process, please reach out to Director of Grants Leah Spielberg at leah@caring4denver.org or 720.647.6375.

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 by clicking here: [Caring for Denver Strategic Funding Report](#). Calls for proposals for the other priority areas will be released at later dates on our [website](#).