



Call for Proposals Focus Area: Youth

Opening Date: November 9, 2021

Proposal Deadline: December 16, 2021, by 7:00 pm (MT)

Award Notification: March 2022

Please note that Caring for Denver's Grants Portal (Fluxx) requires registration for new users by December 13 at 7:00 pm (MT).

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 \$6 million. Applicants should consider the total amount available to organizations and agencies in the amount they request. Caring for Denver will evaluate budgets for their reasonableness and consider whether an organization has previously received a grant in allocation decisions. *Generally, we are not seeking to fund an organization in more than one funding area in a year.*

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 City and County of Denver residents. 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 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 historical trauma and oppression.

Find more information about Caring for Denver at caring4denver.org/about.

Focus Area: Youth

Priority Areas

Caring for Denver will consider investments in programs, projects, and/or activities in the following Youth priority areas. Proposals should address at least one of the following areas:

1. **More youth have trusted, accessible care that fits their specific mental health and/or substance misuse needs**
 - Using art (of all forms) and movement to promote connections and encourage recovery and wellness
 - Improving access to “right now” help or care
 - Improving access to and use of trained peers
 - These supports are offered by those with lived experience, are encouraging and ‘real’, and meet youth where they are
 - Mental health, substance misuse, and trauma-informed supports that are increased for youth impacted by loss, violence, and school disruption
 - Supports that address mental health and substance misuse early, including during pregnancy
 - Resources and supports that remove cultural barriers, address stigma, and increase positive perspectives about seeking care
2. **Supports for families, caregivers, and allies of youth**
 - Providing needed supports and/or training for providers, caregivers, and peers so they can better recognize and meet youth needs, including better delivery of trauma-informed, culturally appropriate care
 - Trusted connections and supports for families (multi-generational) to increase their ability to support youth in healing

Desired Impact/Outcomes

We aim to provide funding and supports to programs, projects, and/or activities that can, over time, demonstrate 1) improved mental health, 2) reduced substance misuse, and/or 3) more equitable behavioral health outcomes for those reached. Applicants should be able to articulate how their work aligns with one or more of these impacts and, if possible, aim to measure one of these impacts.

We also recognize grantees often make progress on many of the pre-conditions and early outcomes that can lead to improved mental health, reduced substance use, and/or more equity in behavioral health conditions before being able to demonstrate these desired impacts. All applicants approved for funding will work in partnership with their program officer and the Foundation’s evaluation team to finalize the outcomes and measures that will be meaningful and useful for both the grantee and Caring for Denver. Please see the [Evaluation & Learning page](#) on our website for more information regarding these requirements.

Award Considerations

Grant decisions will favor programs/projects that:

- Are youth-informed/youth-led and engage young people as partners in the work
- Have demonstrated experience working with underserved populations and/or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Value culture in healing and identity
- 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

If an organization has already received a grant from Caring for Denver, that will be taken into consideration as well.

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 the IRS designates them 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, and 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 specific 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 Caring for Denver funds. 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

November 9 Opening Date	Call for Proposals released
November 10 10:00 am (MT) Facebook Live event	Caring for Denver will host a Facebook Live event on our Facebook page for interested parties and potential applicants to learn more about the priority area and have an opportunity to ask questions. We will post a recorded version on our website following the event.
December 13 7:00 pm (MT) Grants Portal Registration Deadline – if not already registered	Caring for Denver has an online Grants Portal (Fluxx) 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 our Grants Portal by visiting https://caring4denver.fluxx.io .
December 16 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).
Late March 2022 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, reach out to Grants and Operations Manager, Tish Gonzales, at grants@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. Find our strategic funding document here: [Caring for Denver Strategic Funding Report](#). Calls for proposals for the other priority areas will be released at later dates on our [website](#).