



Call for Proposals Alternatives to Jail

Opening Date
April 2, 2024

Proposal Due Date
May 8, 2024 by 5:00 pm (MT)

Award Notification
Late July 2024

Caring for Denver's Grants Portal requires registration for new users by May 6 at 5:00 pm (MT).

Focus Area: Alternatives to Jail

We aim to fund a diversity of projects—from preventing people with substance misuse and mental health conditions from unnecessarily interacting with law enforcement or other aspects of the criminal legal system, to addressing mental health and substance misuse needs in jail or prison systems, to providing culturally responsive services based in community that promote mental health and address substance misuse for those impacted by the criminal legal system.

Total Allocation

The total amount available for all grant awards in this funding area is \$14.4 million which includes a minimum of \$4.8 million to City and County of Denver agencies. Applicants should consider the total amount available to organizations and agencies in the amount they request. Caring for Denver will evaluate grant budgets for their reasonableness and consider whether an organization has previously received a grant in allocation decisions.

Generally, we do **not** fund an organization in more than one funding area in a year. Additionally, organizations can submit only one application in an open Call for Proposals.

Future funding areas:

Community Centered Solutions opens in August 2024
Youth opens in November 2024

Priorities

We will prioritize funding for projects and programs that address Denver's mental health and substance misuse challenges in at least one of the areas below:

- **Inclusive Access:** Helps people access care and support in ways that make sense for them, in places that feel comfortable, and at times that fit their schedules, so they are better able to participate, learn, build skills, and address mental health and substance misuse issues.
- **Attention to Fit:** These projects ensure that when people seek care, they feel understood, connected, and respected by those providing that care, primarily through offering culturally designed and matched care options. These projects also support the mental health and substance misuse needs of those providing the supports so that they can be at their best as they support others.
- **Care Over Time:** Improve care transitions, making them easier and more seamless for people. The goal is to increase stability and minimize the starts and stops in mental health and substance misuse care. These projects are particularly important during transition times, including leaving the criminal legal system back into community.

Equity

We are committed to funding and supporting innovative efforts that move us toward equity and outcomes where race, ethnicity, disability, immigration status, and identity no longer predict life outcomes. Our ongoing efforts must elevate the voices of those impacted and repair historical trauma and oppression.

Shared Impact Goals

Applicants must explain how their work will support at least one of the shared impact goals below, and, if possible, how they intend to measure their progress toward impact.

- Reduced substance misuse (including maintained healthy relationship with substances)
- Improved or maintained positive mental health (including reduced harm to self and others)
- Increased equity in mental health and substance misuse outcomes

[Read more about our Shared Impact Goals.](#)

Key Considerations

These considerations are based on additional feedback we've gathered through our learning activities specific to Alternatives to Jail funding. Grant decisions will favor programs/projects that:

- Have demonstrated trust and experience working with those at risk of entering Denver jails and prisons, or those involved with or exiting Denver jails and prisons
- Focus on supporting those with severe and persistent mental illness as they are seeking to exit Denver jails and prisons
- Provide mental health and substance misuse care that helps individuals transitioning into, within, or leaving the criminal legal system
- Strengthen transitions from the criminal legal system to community-based recovery resources including residential treatment and care beds
- Focus on alternative crisis response that divert people with mental health and/or substance misuse issues from interacting with Denver jails and prisons
- Expand de-escalation techniques and strategies for first responders to reduce crisis and limit incarceration for mental health and substance misuse needs
- Support solutions that utilize peer specialists and value lived experience

Applicants are encouraged to review summaries of our current and past [Alternatives to Jail](#) grants on our webpage. More information about how we will partner with you to assess progress and learn together, is available on the [Evaluation and Learning page](#).

About Caring for Denver Foundation

Caring for Denver Foundation was founded and funded to address mental health and substance misuse challenges facing City and County of Denver residents.

Caring for Denver was created by [ordinance](#) to fund the following purposes:

- Mental health services and treatment for children and adults
- Opioid and substance misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs
- Housing and case management services to reduce homelessness, improve long-term recovery, and reduce the costly use of jails and emergency rooms for those with mental health and substance misuse needs
- Suicide prevention programs
- Co-responder and alternative response program funding, and training on how to properly assess and handle people with mental health and/or substance misuse needs

These purposes are expressed through three community-identified funding areas: Alternatives to Jail, Community-Centered Solutions, and Youth. Calls for proposals for the other priority areas will be released at later dates on our [website](#).

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. If an organization does not have a 501(c)(3), has a pending 501(c)(3), is not in good standing, and/or does not have at least one year of tax returns and financial statements, it will be required to work with a fiscal sponsor. 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.

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 participation or membership in a specific religion, or seek to advance a particular religious faith or belief
- General operating costs
- Facilities projects
- Program-related investments (PRIs)

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 [funding 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

April 2 Opening Date	Call for Proposals released
April 3 11:30 am (MT) Facebook Live Event	We will host a live event on our Facebook page for potential applicants to learn more about the focus area and have an opportunity to ask questions. We will post a recorded version on our website after the event.
May 6 5:00 pm (MT) Registration Cutoff (if not already registered)	We have an online Grants Portal where applicants submit materials. We ask that you register for an account 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 .
May 8 5:00 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 5:00 pm (MDT).
Late July 2024 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.