Call for Proposals
Youth

Opening Date	Proposal Due Date	Award Notification
November 3, 2026	December 9, 2026 by 5:00 pm (MST)	Late March 2027

Caring for Denver's Grants Portal requires registration for new users by December 7 at 5:00 pm (MDT).

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

Total Allocation

The total amount available for all grant awards in this funding area is $12.7 million. 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 Calls for Proposals Releases
Care Over Incarceration – April 2027
Community-Centered Solutions – August 2027

Focus Area: Youth (0-26)

This funding opportunity aims to support programs/projects serving youth who are experiencing or at increased risk for trauma-related needs, mental health challenges, and/or substance misuse. This may include engaging and supporting caregivers to respond to youth needs. Priority will be given to programs/projects that demonstrate how youth voice informs program design and delivery. Proposals need not address the entire age range of 0–26.

Foundation Priorities

The Foundation 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 mental health care and substance misuse 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, build skills, and apply what they have learned in their daily life.

- **Attention to Fit:** Ensure those providing mental health care and substance misuse support treat those seeking care and support with respect, help them feel connected and understood, primarily through offering culturally responsive care options. These projects also support the mental health and substance misuse needs of those providing support, so that they can be at their best as they support others.

- **Care Over Time:** Improve care transitions, making them easier to navigate and more seamless for people. The goal is to minimize the gaps in mental health and substance misuse care that often happens when needs change, prevent the trauma that comes when people must re-tell, or re-document their journeys, and increase stability.

Key Considerations

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

- Provide intensive mental health and/or substance misuse care that supports youth who have high needs, including severe and persistent mental illness
- Strengthen transition supports between different levels of care and community-based recovery resources
- Support solutions that utilize peer specialists
- Provide opportunities for ongoing connection and/or re-engagement
- Prioritize early assessments/intakes so youth are connected to the right intervention from the start
- Focus on multigenerational interventions that engage and support youth, caregivers, and other trusted adults to strengthen family and community supports for youth mental health and/or substance misuse care
- Support early intervention for youth at increased risk for or showing early signs of mental health challenges and/or substance misuse

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 a 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.

Applicants are encouraged to review summaries of our current and past Youth grants. More information about how we will partner with you to assess progress and learn together, is available on the Evaluation and Learning page.

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 who physically resides or presents and intends to stay in Denver full time, without regard to their housing status, national origin, immigration or citizenship status to the maximum extent permitted by law.
- An individual under 18 years of age and has at least one parent/legal guardian who is a Denver resident (can also have an out-of-home placement as long as not in custody of another county's Department of Human Services);
- An individual physically residing part time in the City, under 21 years of age and in the custody of Denver Human Services ("DHS");
- A non-City resident who is placed in a mental health or substance abuse program while in the custody of the City and County of Denver's legal system; or
- A non-City resident registered as a Denver Public Schools student participating in a DPS program/project funded by Caring for Denver Foundation.

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, and libraries, as well as City and County of Denver or State of Colorado agencies, are

eligible to apply.

Responsibilities of Grant Partners

Participate in Learning Activities

- Participate in Start of Grant Call
- Co-create Project Framework document with Foundation staff
- Participate in Mid-Year Learning Check-Ins
- Participate in End-of-Grant-Year Learning Call

See our Evaluation Touchpoints document for more about our approach to evaluation and learning.

Measure Progress

- Work with Foundation staff to review progress and impact of the funded project/program
- Submit annual End-of-Grant-Year Report, including required narrative and financial reporting

Responsiveness & Communication

- Ensure the Foundation has current points of contact
- Respond to Foundation staff in a timely and clear manner
- Maintain open lines of authentic communication

Responsibilities of the Foundation

Responsiveness & Communication

- Respond to grantees in a timely, respectful, and clear manner
- Be open about processes, decisions, and expectations
- Incorporate feedback from grantees and community into our work

Commitment to Partnership

- Adjust expectations and provide thought partnership when challenges arise
- Provide opportunities for technical assistance and/or capacity building
- Connect grantees to networks to build social capital

Treat Grantees with Respect

- Understand and respect the diverse contexts in which grantees work
- Share back data, let grantees know how their data is used, and what we're learning across the field
- Accept feedback about our processes and adjust when we can

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
- Matching or challenge grants
- 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 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 3 Opening Date	Call for Proposals released
November 10 **10:00 am (MST)** Live Stream Event	We will host a live event on our social media channels 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. Add the livestream to your calendar: https://www.addevent.com/event/p1c8g51l5x34
December 5 **5:00 pm (MST)** 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.
December 9 5:00 pm (MST) 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 (MST).
Late March 2027 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 our grants office at grants@caring4denver.org or 720.647.6375.

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

Notification of Open Records Act: All material submitted regarding this application is subject to the Colorado Public (Open) Records Act ("CORA"). If the applicant believes that any material in its proposal constitutes trade secrets, privileged information, or confidential commercial or financial data, then the applicant should mark those items as confidential or proprietary. Caring for Denver is not bound by the applicant's determination as to whether materials are subject to disclosure under CORA; and reserves the right to independently determine whether the materials are required to be made available for inspection or otherwise produced under CORA. If Caring for Denver receives a request for such information marked as confidential, it will notify the applicant. If a suit is filed to compel disclosure of such information, Caring for Denver will notify the applicant, and the applicant shall be responsible for taking appropriate action to defend against disclosure of its confidential information.