



STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

THE DENVER FOUNDATION



GRANTS GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Please read these guidelines completely if you're a new applicant to The Denver Foundation or if you've applied in the past. After you read these guidelines, if you have any questions please call The Denver Foundation at 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to a Strengthening Neighborhoods grants manager.

What Is The Denver Foundation?

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that improves life for people in the seven-county Metro Denver region. We invest charitable funds for individuals, families, and businesses. We also oversee a permanent endowment called The Fund for Denver. This is a pool of money contributed by thousands of generous people since 1925. The Fund for Denver is used for Community Grants and Strengthening Neighborhoods.

Community Grants

The Denver Foundation makes grants in four focus areas: **Basic Human Needs, Economic Opportunity, Education, and Leadership & Equity.**

In each of these areas, the Foundation works with nonprofits and community volunteers and leaders to develop specific strategies to help us achieve the goals in our strategic plan. Each year, we adjust our strategies based on community feedback and what we've learned.

The Foundation is committed to decreasing differences

in opportunity based on race, ethnicity, and income. We believe every person should have equitable opportunities.

Full descriptions of our community impact goals for grantmaking are available at denverfoundation.org.

Strengthening Neighborhoods

The Denver Foundation makes grants and supports community members through its Strengthening Neighborhoods program. This program supports neighborhood residents who want to make a difference in their own communities.

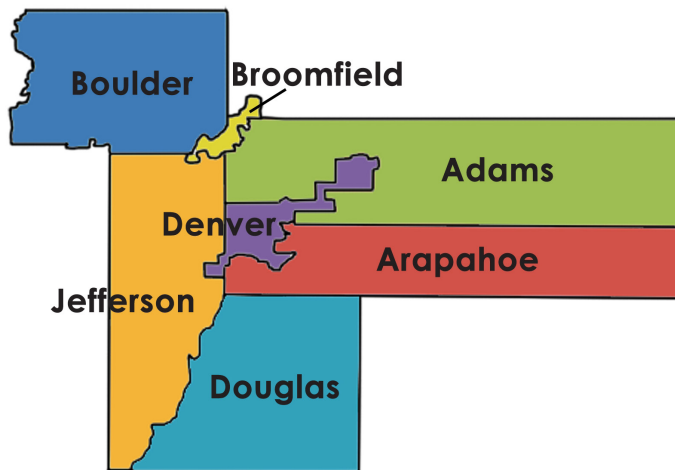
We recognize that community members usually have the best ideas for improving life in their communities. We believe that all communities have strengths, including their people, schools, businesses, and other public assets. Our goal is to help more people work together to strengthen their communities.

These guidelines include an overview of Strengthening Neighborhoods and information about grant eligibility.

Strengthening Neighborhoods Grant Application Instructions

Where We Fund

Strengthening Neighborhoods grants are available to groups located in the seven counties of Metro Denver. We prioritize improving the lives of people who live in communities where people have lower average incomes, with a focus on people of color.



A community group does NOT need to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to apply. Any group of three or more unrelated community members with an idea for a project or campaign in their own community that fits within the guidelines is eligible to apply.

How to Apply

If you live in a community where people have lower average incomes, we invite you to apply for a grant through a written application. You can download the application from our website. If you need us to send you the application form, please call us at 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to a Strengthening Neighborhoods grants manager.

How Much

There is a \$5,000 maximum for Strengthening Neighborhoods grants.

When to Apply

Please turn in your application at least eight weeks before your project or campaign starts. Strengthening Neighborhoods grant applications are approved or declined within six weeks of receipt.

Final Reports

If you receive a grant, you must submit a final report when the project or campaign is complete. The report instructions are included in your grant award packet. You may also be invited to:

- Participate in gatherings to share learning with others.
- Provide stories and pictures of your work so we can share your story with others.

Questions

If you have questions about how your work or ideas fit with these guidelines, or if you need help completing the application, please call 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to a Strengthening Neighborhoods grants manager.

What We Fund

We make grants in four focus areas: **Basic Human Needs, Economic Opportunity, Education, and Leadership & Equity**. Our goals in these areas are described on the following two pages.

Strengthening Neighborhoods supports community-led projects and campaigns that decrease differences based on race, ethnicity, and income. We support groups that value everyone's contributions and are able to build strong relationships between people.

We prioritize programs and organizations that are led by people living in poverty, immigrants and refugees, and people of color. We also work to expand the leadership skills of community members.

Our Strengthening Neighborhoods grants help groups of community members to organize and create positive change in their communities. We fund projects and campaigns that encourage people to take action.

We also connect groups across neighborhoods so they can learn from each other and take action on common concerns and opportunities for improvement.

Our Four Focus Areas for Grantmaking



BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Grants in Basic Human Needs improve the lives of people who are hungry, homeless, need basic medical care, or have violence in the home.

Goals:

- People with extreme needs are able to get urgent help.
- People with extreme needs are able to get ongoing help.
- It is easier for people to meet basic human needs.
- People try new ideas to help people meet basic human needs.
- There is support for programs where there are no services.
- There is support for programs that provide the only services in an area.
- There is support for community organizing and leadership.

Example Grant:

Training community members in Montbello to help their neighbors find safety from domestic violence.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Grants in Economic Opportunity help people who live in communities with lower incomes with job training, getting a job, and owning a business.

Goals:

- People have job training and skills to compete for good jobs.
- There is support for starting neighborhood-based small businesses.
- There is support for small businesses that train and hire residents from the local community.
- People experiment with new ideas such as worker ownership and creating connections to major employers in a neighborhood.
- Community members play a leadership role in building wealth within their community.
- There is support for community organizing and leadership.

Example Grant:

Supporting the development of a worker-owned coop on Westwood.

Our Four Focus Areas for Grantmaking



EDUCATION

Grants in Education help students in grades P-12 succeed.

Goals:

- Children have access to programs that develop social and academic growth.
- There is support for projects that help students succeed, such as:
 - Arts education
 - Drop-out prevention
 - Parent engagement
 - Early childhood education in school and in homes
 - Restorative Practices and Restorative Justice in schools
- There is support for community organizing and leadership.

Example Grant:

Organizing a parent group in Sheridan to teach parents who are recent immigrants how to navigate the school system.



LEADERSHIP & EQUITY

Grants in Leadership & Equity support the leadership skills of people of color.

Goals:

- More people of color are in leadership roles.
- More people of color have the skills to lead.
- Members of communities choose the most important issues and solutions.
- People lead projects in their own communities.
- Communities learn from each other.
- More programs ask people who receive services for advice on how to improve.
- There is support for community organizing and leadership.

Example Grant:

Leaders in a mobile home park in Adams County working to buy the mobile home park.



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