

An elderly couple is smiling and standing in a field of bright yellow flowers. The woman on the left is wearing a red and black plaid shirt over a dark turtleneck. The man on the right is wearing a grey jacket over a dark shirt. The background is a soft-focus field of similar yellow flowers under a bright sky.

The Comprecare Fund

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



The Denver Foundation

Background

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that inspires people and mobilizes resources to improve life in Metro Denver. In 2021, the foundation and its donors awarded \$115 million in grants. The Denver Foundation has three roles: stewarding an endowment to meet current and future needs for Metro Denver, working with community leaders to address the core challenges that face the community and managing more than 1,000 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families and businesses. To learn more about The Denver Foundation, visit denverfoundation.org.

In 1987, Comprecare Foundation established the Elderly Health Promotion Initiative. This initiative funded many community-based projects that focus on helping older adults maintain their health through self-help and lifestyle changes. The initiative received recognition for its emphasis on innovative, collaborative, community-based efforts. In 2015, Comprecare Foundation closed and entrusted The Denver Foundation with \$4.3 million to lead grant initiatives on aging issues in Colorado. Comprecare staff remains invested in this important work and are key partners in improving the health of seniors.

With the steady increase in the elderly population, there is a continued need to improve the quality of life of older Coloradans by assisting them in developing and maintaining optimal wellness. Research demonstrates that physical activity, good nutrition, and proactive management of chronic conditions are essential to maintaining a healthy quality of life for seniors. Significant public and private funding has been devoted to advancing these components of healthy living in recent years both nationally and in Colorado. The challenge now is to bring these evidence-based interventions to seniors who, heretofore, have not been exposed to them or whose motivation for behavior change is limited. Programs or projects which involve seniors in their planning and administration have the most potential for reaching seniors effectively.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

The Comprecare Fund RFP is soliciting proposals that have a wide potential reach and influence in the field of optimal wellness for seniors in Colorado. The Fund has adopted a broad definition of optimal wellness, and any project that addresses wellness will be considered. Each individual community can decide its focus for wellness. Preference will be given to returning grantees.

Proposals should include the following:

- Engagement of community residents, programs, agencies, and key stakeholders who can increase access to wellness and strive to improve outcomes for seniors.
- Demonstrated need(s) of seniors in their community via quantitative and qualitative data.
- Provide evidence that your organization is collectively prepared to tackle wellness with evidence-based interventions.
- Provide mechanisms to demonstrate measurable outcomes and an increase to accessing treatment.

OUR DEFINITIONS

Seniors. Ages 65+ Priority will be given to projects that seek to serve hard-to-reach seniors, i.e., those seniors who are low-income, isolated and/or have a chronic illness or functional impairment. These seniors face the greatest barriers to accessing the components of healthy living—physical activity, good nutrition and management of chronic health problems.

Evidence-based programming Interventions, treatments, or programs that have been proven effective through outcome evaluations. Those interventions will likely be effective in changing target behavior if implemented with integrity to the model.

Eligible area This is a statewide fund and organizations in rural and urban areas are encouraged to apply.



Types Of Support

The Comprecare Fund is pleased to offer two types of flexible funding support to meet the varying needs across the communities in Colorado.

Project & Program Support

The onus is on the applicant to use both existing quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the need(s) and opportunities in their community that they wish to address. The applicant may apply for funds for evidence-based programming.

General Operating Support

The Comprecare Fund will consider providing grants for general operating support to organizations when:

- The majority of population(s) served by all of the organizations' programs and services are a strong fit with the Fund's target population (i.e., Colorado seniors who are older, low-income, isolated, have a chronically illness and/or are underserved).
- There is a clear strategic agreement between the applicant and the Fund on outcome objectives that align with the intent of the Fund that focuses on optimal wellness of seniors. In other words, 80%-100% of the applicant's everyday work must be focused on senior wellness and care.
- Applicants are already doing exemplary behavioral health care work (i.e., organizations are well established) in their communities and can demonstrate their successes.

If all the applicants' programs and services are not a strong fit for both the target population and focus areas of the Fund, please consider applying for a program grant for those programs that are a strong fit.

Grant Awards

Award Amounts

Awards will range from \$7,500 to \$20,000. Applicants that can combine funds from other sources toward a common outcome/issue are strongly encouraged. Diversified funding speaks to the sustainability of programming, which is a best practice. Approximately half of awardees will come from rural communities.

Funding Cycles

The Comprecare Fund plans to release an RFP annually. Preference will be given to returning grantees who are required to submit a final report in addition to a new application, on or before August 8, 2022. Future funding is dependent on progress and is not guaranteed.

TIMELINE

August 8, 2022

Proposals due at 5:00 pm MST.

Late applications will be declined.

Mid-October

All applicants will be notified of their status.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Grants will be awarded primarily to nonprofit organizations. Grants may be awarded to government agencies if they collaborate with a nonprofit and can demonstrate the community outcomes for seniors in the areas of physical health, good nutrition, and management of chronic health conditions.

Applicants that can combine funds from other sources toward a common health care outcome/issue are encouraged. This speaks to sustainability and the diversification of funding sources, which is a best practice.

Application & Submission Instructions

Before you apply:

1. Learn about our new online grant application portal, **TDF Grant Manager**.
2. Create an account on TDF Grant Manager.
3. **Review the guidelines** for the funding opportunity you are interested in.

Please note: Registration takes approximately one business day to process. We strongly urge any organization interested in submitting an online application to complete the registration process no later than August 1 to meet the August 8 deadline.

Interested in learning more about our grants? Questions about submitting through our online portal? **Find answers to common questions** about our grants process and **additional funding sources**. You can also contact us at grants@denverfoundation.org or call us at 303-300-1790 and ask to speak to a member of the Impact Group about grant applications.

**Incomplete applications or final reports will not be considered.
Applications must be received by 5:00pm MST on August 8, 2022.**

Please note: An application to the Comprecare Fund does not disqualify an application to the Community Grants Program of The Denver Foundation. If you meet the guidelines for both, you may apply for each. Please note that the objectives for the Comprecare Fund and the Community Grants Program differ, as does the geographic reach.

WHAT WE DON'T FUND

The Comprecare Fund will not support the following projects or activities:

- Projects that focus on policy and/or advocacy, even if in the field of senior wellness.
- Projects that do not fall within one of the focus areas.
- Capital campaigns.
- For-profit hospitals or care facilities or the foundation arm of a for-profit hospital or care facility.
- Planning grants, or grants that include planning as part of the request.
- Multiple applications from the same organization in the same grant cycle.
- Scholarships, stipends or related support for students studying in the areas of geriatric care.
- Individual insurance coverage or payments, co-pays, or medications expenses.

In addition, the Fund does not support:

- Organizations with fund balance deficits, as indicated on the balance sheet, for their most recently completed fiscal year (i.e., an organization cannot have a negative balance in any of the net asset line items on their balance sheet).
- Funding to an organization and/or program that discriminates on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, except to serve a historically disadvantaged group.
- Activities, projects, or programs that will have been completed before funding becomes available (no retroactive funding).
- Endowments or other reserve funds.
- Membership or affiliation campaigns, dinners, or special events.
- Grants that further political doctrine or religious activities.
- Grants to individuals.
- Scholarships or sponsorships, including special events or fund raisers.
- Grants to parochial or religious schools.

SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Demography Office has data mapping and tools. They also published a report, *Aging in Colorado* (2012), that may be helpful.

colorado.gov/pacific/dola/state-demography-office

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Health Aging site has information on health disparities, mental health, and many other topics.

cdc.gov/aging/data/index.htm

National Institute on Aging has resources for professional care providers, including but not limited to publications, training tools, and initiatives like Go4Life.

nia.nih.gov

DRCOG is the Area Agency on Aging and will have information, data, and survey results about localities in the Denver Metro area as well as Clear Creek County, Idaho Springs, Firestone, and others.

drcog.org/programs/area-agency-aging

