



STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

THE DENVER FOUNDATION

# Grants Guidelines



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## STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

Founded in 1996, Strengthening Neighborhoods is centered on the belief that residents have the best insight into how to improve life in their communities. Through this program, The Denver Foundation has long supported policy and advocacy work at the grassroots through community organizing, coalition building, and leadership development. This experience will inform our work as we look to the community for guidance and partnership around issues that matter most.

## WHAT IS THE DENVER FOUNDATION?

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that improves life for people in the seven-county Metro Denver region. Our mission is to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community.

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.

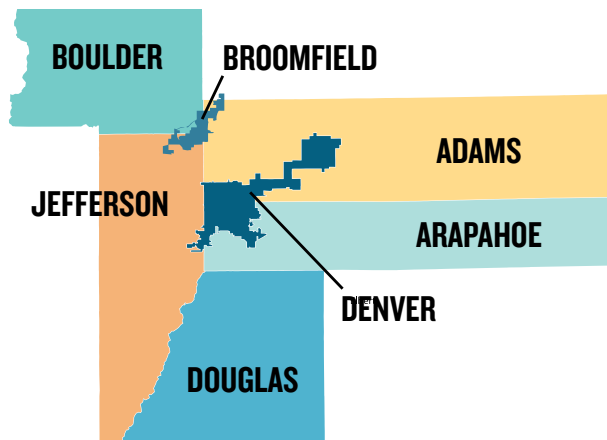


## STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

# 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 and/or have a significant Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community.



## WHAT WE FUND

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 BIPOC-led. We also work to expand the leadership skills of community members.

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

We value the work of community connectors/navigators in building community relationships, helping immigrant, refugee and BIPOC communities connect to new found rights, and identifying and overcoming systemic barriers to services and opportunities that all community members merit.

We support capacity building in the areas of community organizing, navigation, worker-owned cooperative development, and other community-identified areas requiring technical assistance. We also support coalition and alliance-building work across communities and geographies, with the goal of building power and learning.

*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-than-average incomes, we invite you to apply for a grant through an online application. If you have not already done so, please register your organization through our application portal:

[apply.denverfoundation.org](http://apply.denverfoundation.org)

If you need assistance, email us at [sn@denverfoundation.org](mailto:sn@denverfoundation.org) or call us at 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to the Strengthening Neighborhoods Officer.

## GRANT SIZE

\$5,000 is usually the maximum grant size for Strengthening Neighborhoods grants, with an average grant size of \$2,500.

## WHEN TO APPLY

Please turn in your application at least six weeks before your project or campaign starts. Strengthening Neighborhoods grant applications are approved or declined within four 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 will be included in grant award packets. You may be invited to share pictures and stories of your work, either digitally or through small learning gatherings, 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, email us at [sn@denverfoundation.org](mailto:sn@denverfoundation.org) or call us at 303.300.1790 and ask to speak to the Strengthening Neighborhoods Officer.



The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation  
1009 Grant Street  
Denver, CO 80203

@TDFcommunity

