



COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS FUND

THE DENVER FOUNDATION

2020 Request for Proposals Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care in Colorado

BACKGROUND

The mission of The Denver Foundation is to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community. Since 1925, The Denver Foundation has helped generous people to be catalysts for good by building charitable legacies. As Colorado's largest and most experienced community foundation, 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. For more information, visit denverfoundation.org.

The Colorado Health Access Fund (the Fund) is a Field of Interest Fund managed by The Denver Foundation, which is entrusted to oversee its grantmaking and evaluation. Established in 2014 with an anonymous gift of \$40 million, the Fund is dedicated to improving health outcomes for underserved Coloradans. Between 2015 and 2022, the fund is charged to distribute grants to increase access to health care and improve health outcomes for populations with high health care needs across the state. We are committed to allocating resources among rural, urban, and suburban areas.

Areas of focus were informed by an asset-and-gap analysis commissioned by The Denver Foundation in 2014. The goal of the analysis, conducted by Colorado Health Institute (CHI), was to glean a solid understanding of Colorado's diverse health care landscape and to guide the development of this Request for Proposals (RFP). The report resulting from this analysis, "Flashpoints and Fixes: An Asset and Gap Analysis of Barriers to Care for Coloradans with High Health Needs," can be found [here](#).

The CHI report noted that the majority of Colorado Health Statistic Regions included mental/behavioral health care as a local public health priority and this was echoed in every community dialogue conducted by CHI. In discussions with health and community foundations, mental health and substance use disorder were identified as the most pressing issues across the state. Thus, **the Colorado Health Access Fund focuses on increasing access to the direct behavioral health treatment.**

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

Overall, the Fund seeks to:

- Increase the number of Coloradans with access to behavioral health treatment;
- Reduce and remove barriers for Coloradans with high behavioral health care needs in accessing behavioral health treatment;
- Build on innovations and investments already in place around behavioral health care treatment and support strategies for sustainability within the communities;
- Support treatment solutions that will benefit and meet the needs of individuals and the local community; and
- Widely share solutions and approaches that improve access to behavioral health care treatment, as well as openly convey “lessons learned.”

The Fund RFP is soliciting proposals for programs that have a wide potential reach and influence in the field of behavioral health. The focus should be on the treatment, rather than on the prevention or identification of behavioral health issues. In proposals applicants should:

- Demonstrate the behavioral health need(s) in their community or focus population via quantitative and qualitative data;
- Demonstrate alignment with The Denver Foundation’s core values of community member engagement and racial equity;
- Provide evidence that they are prepared to tackle their defined behavioral health problems;
- Provide a mechanism to report measurable outcomes and an increase to accessing treatment for focus populations;
- Demonstrate sustainability beyond the term of grant funding;
- Engage community residents, programs, agencies, and key stakeholders in their work to increase access to behavioral health care treatment and to improve outcomes for those with behavioral health challenges at the local level; and
- Be immediately ready to implement their programs. Projects that require planning and extended periods of time before launching are not a good fit.

The Colorado Health Access Fund defines behavioral health care as a continuum of services for individuals suffering from mental, behavioral, or addictive disorders. Behavioral health, as a discipline, refers to mental health, psychiatric, and addictions treatment, and marriage and family counseling. It includes services provided by clinical social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, neurologists, peer groups, and physicians, as well as nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

FOCUS POPULATIONS

The intent of the Fund is to increase access to behavioral health care to Coloradans with high health care needs across the state. Those with high health care needs are defined as those who have an identified behavioral health issue and are a member of at least one of these populations that are known to be un/underserved:

- Persons with multiple chronic or acute health conditions;
- Persons impacted by racial health disparities;
- Individuals enrolled in Health First Colorado;
- Persons who lack health insurance coverage or have significant barriers to accessing coverage;
- Persons who are experiencing homelessness;
- Persons who are justice-involved;
- Persons with a disability; and/or
- Persons whose primary language is other than English.

TYPES OF SUPPORT

The Colorado Health Access Fund has two funding opportunities: 1.) Project/ Program Support; and 2.) Capital Improvements. Applicants cannot combine requests, such as combining a program and capital request, for example. An organization may apply once per year if they are serving *a distinctly different population and/or geographic area than their active grant*.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to use both quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the behavioral health need(s) in their community. The applicant must demonstrate how they are **increasing and/or expanding access to treatment** for those with high health care needs in the focus population(s) through evidence-based/informed approaches.

Focus Area	Examples of Programs /Capital that align with Focus Areas
Education of those with high health care needs as well as their families/caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of available behavioral health resources and how to navigate them • Increase family understanding of behavioral health issues, treatment, and resources • This is most often combined with other focus areas and is not a stand-alone program
Transitions in Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide behavioral health care across care settings, including justice involved settings • Crisis stabilization services
Innovation of Care Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of behavioral health services in primary care and other settings (dental offices, courts, etc.) • Creating or expanding MAT programs for substance use disorder

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replicating evidence-based practices in peer service delivery for focus populations
Improved Access to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing telehealth/telepsych services Delivering integrated services in schools Increasing office hours to evenings and weekends Obtaining service providers with cultural understanding and diverse language skills Adding behavioral health providers to increase capacity Expanding space to increase BH treatment rooms

Project & Program Support

Please note that the purpose of the table is only to provide *examples* of projects that might fall under each focus area. The types of projects that are likely to be successful are not limited to these examples.

Capital Improvements

Capital Improvements include requests for infrastructure, furniture, fixtures, technology, and equipment that would increase the capacity of a facility to serve those with high behavioral health needs.

GRANT AWARDS

Award Amounts

Grant awards for a 12-month period are expected to range in size from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Grants may be awarded for up to two consecutive years.

Proposal requests must not exceed 25% of the organization's total annual budget.

CHA Fund funding is **limited to no more than 50%** of the total expansion project budget.

Learning and Evaluation

The Colorado Health Access Fund is committed to a rigorous evaluation. The Fund wants to understand the full impact of the work achieved by grantees through this funding, and developed an evaluation report form that can be used a number of ways. The Fund has implemented a long-term plan to evaluate grantmaking throughout its eight-year existence.

Funding for evaluation is expected to be included in the requested budget.

If your organization receives a grant, you must submit a final report (or an annual progress report if it is a multi-year grant).

Funding Cycles

The Fund is unable to provide ongoing, continuous funding. The CHA funding philosophy is to support one program for a maximum of two years.

The Fund uses an annual RFP process, please keep in mind:

- *All Multi-Year Grantees/Awardees:* Organizations that are awarded multi-year grants are not required to resubmit proposals annually. Rather, annual reports are submitted and reviewed by The Denver Foundation staff. Continued funding is contingent upon meeting the terms of the grantee agreement and progress on the proposed work.

WHAT WE DON'T FUND

The Colorado Health Access Fund will not support the following projects or activities:

- Projects that do not serve Coloradans with an identified behavioral health issues and/or do not represent a focus population;
- Screening for behavioral health conditions;
- Projects that focus on prevention of behavioral health issues;
- Electronic medical records. The use of EMR/EHR does not increase access to treatment;
- Grief counseling and hospice;
- Workforce development, including but not limited to: provider training, specialty licensure status, and training of graduate students, etc.;
- Support services for developmentally disabled people that are unrelated to treatment of mental health disorders;
- Social and emotional learning/development of children;
- Awareness, stigma reduction, or marketing projects;
- The formation of new collaboratives;
- For-profit hospitals or the foundation arm of a for-profit hospital;
- Planning grants, or grants that include planning as part of the request;
- Scholarships, stipends, or support for students studying behavioral health care; and,
- Individual insurance coverage or payments, including medications.

In addition, The Denver Foundation 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 in policy or practice;
- 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;
- Conferences, symposia, or related travel (other than the required attendance at the annual Learning Circle event);
- Grants that further political doctrine or religious activities;
- Grants to individuals;
- Scholarships or sponsorships, including special events or fund raisers; or
- Grants to parochial or religious schools.

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 that the community outcomes in behavioral health care for those with high health care needs will be met through the expansion project.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to incorporate health care practices that are based upon scientific evidence and demonstrate effective health outcomes, or new practices that have the strong potential for effective behavioral health outcomes based upon current literature.
- Organizations with revenues that exceed \$500,000 are required to have a financial audit conducted and to submit their most recent audit with their proposal.
- Over the life of the Fund, no less than 20% of the grant funds allocated annually will be distributed for the benefit of rural populations. Up to 80% of the grant funds allocated annually will be distributed for the benefit of urban/suburban populations. Your grant request does not need to have the split between rural and urban/suburban areas. It is the responsibility of the Fund to ensure the equitable distribution of monies.
 - Rural is defined by the donor to include the following counties: Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, La Plata, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Ouray, Phillips, Pitkin, Prowers, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, and Yuma.
 - When asked to identify your geographic area of focus, indicate where you provide the services outlined in your funding request, regardless of where your headquarters might be located.

TIMELINE - 2020

Thursday, January 2	Request for Proposals released and online application open RFP Q&A Webinar – details available on the webpage
Tuesday, February 25	Last day for content questions
Thursday, February 27	Last day to register with The Denver Foundation's web-based application system. No exceptions.
Tuesday, March 3	Last day for technical questions related to the online application
Friday, March 6	Proposals due by 5:00 pm
Before the end of August	All applicants will be notified of their status
Monday, September 2	Grant cycle begins for awardees

Q&A WEBINAR

A Webinar will be available for your review on the CHA Fund website. Participation is optional, but strongly encouraged. Please check our webpage for updates to participate at <http://www.denverfoundation.org/Community/Special-Projects-Funds/Colorado-Health-Access-Fund>.

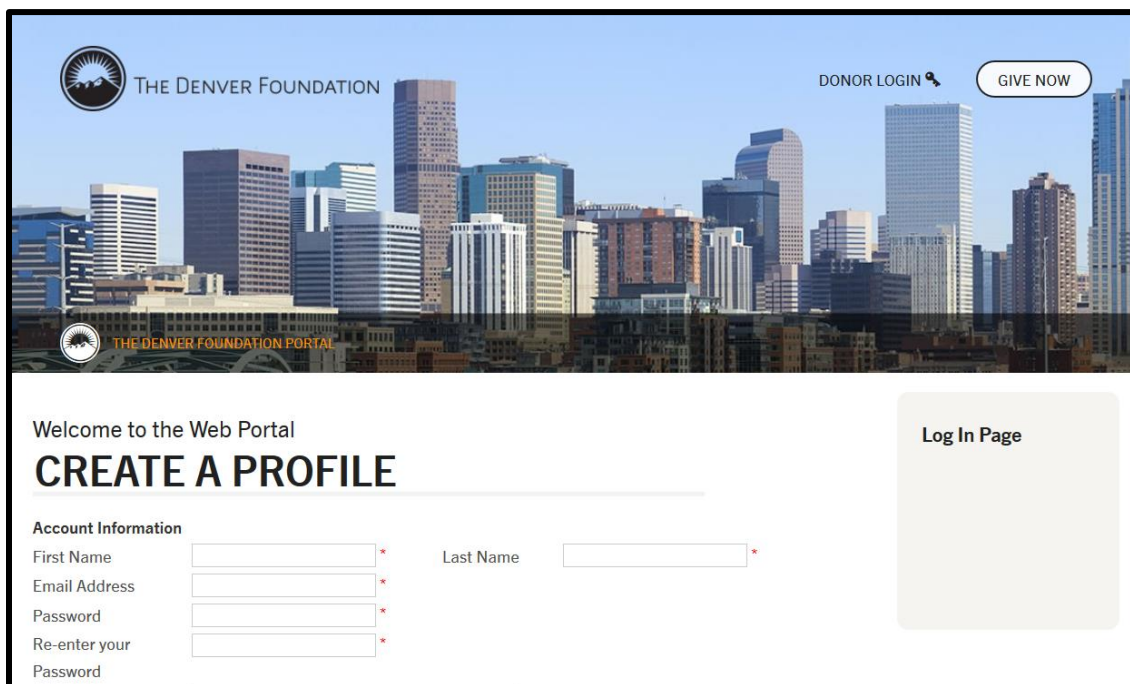
Questions after you've listened to the webinar? Please call or email our team at cha@denverfoundation.org prior to Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

WEB-BASED APPLICATION

The Denver Foundation utilizes a web-based application for the CHA Fund. **Registration is required and the deadline to register is Thursday, February 27, 2020.** Organizations must anticipate and allow 48 hours for The Denver Foundation to approve their registration request.

Create Your Profile

The Colorado Health Access Fund is using one online application for all types of proposals. You are strongly encouraged to register, utilize the pre-screening tool, and explore the application early. Begin your registration and create a profile here: <https://apply.denverfoundation.org/>

The image is a screenshot of a web portal for 'THE DENVER FOUNDATION'. The header features the foundation's logo on the left, the text 'THE DENVER FOUNDATION' in the center, and 'DONOR LOGIN' with a magnifying glass icon on the right. A 'GIVE NOW' button is also visible. The background of the header is a city skyline. Below the header, the main content area has a white background. It starts with 'Welcome to the Web Portal' and a large heading 'CREATE A PROFILE'. Under this heading is a form titled 'Account Information' with four input fields: 'First Name', 'Email Address', 'Password', and 'Re-enter your Password'. Each field has a red asterisk to its right. There is also a 'Last Name' field with a red asterisk. To the right of the form is a grey box with the text 'Log In Page'.

Please remember

- The Denver Foundation needs 48 hours to approve your registration.

- The deadline to register is **February 27, 2020**. No exceptions.
- After your registration is approved you will have full access to the application.
- You must download the required budget template from the Colorado Health Access webpage here: <http://www.denverfoundation.org/Community/Special-Projects-Funds/Colorado-Health-Access-Fund/CHA-Funding-Opportunities>

The Application

The application is laid out in tabs, as displayed in the snapshot here. The questions and character limits are detailed in the pages below. There is a pre-screening which is for your benefit only and not recorded by the Foundation. Many of the proposal questions use skip logic so some questions will appear (or disappear) based on your responses. Questions and character limits are laid out similarly to how they appear online.

Technical Issues

If you have technical challenges, please reach out to cha@denverfoundation.org no later than Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Content Questions

Do you have a question after reading the RFP and listening to the webinar? Please reach out to cha@denverfoundation.org no later than Tuesday, February 25, 2020 to have content or proposal concept questions answered.

Grant Request Info

Narrative

1. ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND.

Discuss the founding and development of the organization. Explain the original issue and/or opportunity the organization was founded to address and how that may have changed over time.

(2100 Characters)

2. GOALS.

Describe the organization's current goals.

(1800 Characters)

3. CURRENT PROGRAMS.

Provide a brief description of the organization's current programs. Include population and numbers served (past year and cumulative, if available), as well as expected results for this program year. *If this request is for a specific program, describe the organization's other programs here. Describe the program for which you are seeking funding in Question 5.*

(3000 Characters)

4. FOCUS POPULATION SERVED.

Describe the focus population being served. Applicants must describe the population they are addressing in the community via existing quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the need.

(2100 Characters)

5. SUMMARY OF PROJECT/PROGRAM

Provide a summary of how you plan to address the behavioral health treatment need in your community. Explain why the organization is approaching the behavioral health issue and/or opportunity in this way including how the organization is incorporating health care practices that have demonstrated effective outcomes, or new practices that have the strong potential for effective behavioral health outcomes based upon current early evidence.

(3500 Characters)

6. EXPLANATION OF INCREASED ACCESS.

Describe how your request is increasing access to behavioral health to Coloradans with identified behavioral health issues. Strong applications will clearly demonstrate an increase in accessing and/or expanding treatment to the Fund's focus population(s) and include the rationale for the expected number of increased access.

(1800 Characters)

7. CAPACITY.

Describe which staff person(s) will be designing and implementing this project, as well as their role(s) in the organization. Identify the individual(s) who will be involved with the work (whether it is overseeing or implementing), as well as a brief overview of their background and experience.

Do not include resumes, licensure information, or other documents.

(1800 Characters)

8. SUSTAINABILITY.

A project or program's potential for sustainability after CHA funding increases its competitiveness. Describe your strategies either during and/or after the grant period on how to support the sustainability of the activities or demonstrated outcomes. What funding mechanisms will be used to push this work forward after CHA funding ends?

(3000 Characters)

9A. DESCRIPTION OF MEASURABILITY.

Describe how the organization measures impact. If this is a program or project request, describe how impact is measured for the program that is the subject of this proposal. It is expected that 10%-15% of your budget will be dedicated to evaluation.

(3000 Characters)

9B. SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RESULTS.

Summarize key and/or recent evaluation results or findings that demonstrate the potential impact of this proposal. Indicate the time frame for the results or findings. Demonstrate alignment between the outcomes of your proposed work and the Fund's purpose to increase access to behavioral health care to Coloradans with high health care needs.

(3000 Characters)

10. COLLABORATION.

Describe the organization's most significant interactions with other organizations and efforts and how community residents, other programs, agencies and key stakeholders are engaged. For program and project requests, address this question with respect to that program or project only.

(1800 Characters)

11. INCLUSIVENESS.

What forms of diversity (gender, racial, cultural, ethnic, religious, immigrant/refugee background, linguistic, economic, etc.) do you think are important for strengthening the quality of work proposed and why? Does your organization's staff and governance reflect this diversity?

(1800 Characters)

12. BOARD/GOVERNANCE.

Describe the role of the board of directors in advancing the mission of the organization. Include the key issues related to board effectiveness that is being addressed this year, the organization's policy regarding board terms, and the percentage of the board that contributes financially to the organization.

(1200 Characters)

13. PLANNING.

Describe the challenges and opportunities facing the organization in the next three to five years. Additionally, describe how the organization engages in planning and describe the focus of any

current planning efforts.

(2400 Characters)

CORE VALUES QUESTIONS

These core values are at the heart of The Denver Foundation grantmaking programs. Please respond to the four questions below. Every nonprofit's starting place, progress, and challenges are unique. Please be candid in sharing your nonprofit's internal and external experiences. It will help us to understand how you are thinking and evolving, and what practices you are putting into place. We want to learn more about your approach to community member engagement and racial equity.

14. CORE VALUE QUESTION 1

How does your nonprofit engage community members and constituents in planning, programming, and making decisions?

(1800 Characters)

15. CORE VALUE QUESTION 2

What challenges, if any, have you encountered in engaging community members and constituents? What are you doing to overcome them?

(1800 Characters)

16. CORE VALUE QUESTION 3

How does your nonprofit advance racial equity?

(1800 Characters)

17. CORE VALUE QUESTION 4

What challenges, if any, have you encountered to advancing racial equity? What are you doing to overcome them?

(1800 Characters)

18. OPTIONAL.

If there is additional information that is vital to convey in this proposal, do so here.

(1200 Characters)

Project Work Plan

Instructions: The purpose of the Project Work Plan is for the Colorado Health Access Fund to ascertain how you will implement and measure the impact of your request. You may download this form here: <http://www.denverfoundation.org/Community/Special-Projects-Funds/Colorado-Health-Access-Fund/CHA-Funding-Opportunities>

Goal (General long-term purpose of project)

Objectives (SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound)

Activities to Accomplish Objective (List major steps, expected completion date/results)

Activities	Expected Completion Date	Expected Results

Measurement Tools (List and describe the tools and methods that will be used to measure the objectives)

Deliverables (List any tangible objects produced as a result of the activity)

Attachments

Please note that only files uploaded as a .PDF will be accepted. This helps ensure that your documents maintain their intended formatting and can be viewed on any operating system.

Internal financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year – OR -

Previous year's audit (if revenues exceed \$500,000)

Current Organizational Budget with Revenue and Expenses

Project/Program or Capital Requests Budget Template (use template provided)

Project/Program or Capital Requests Budget Narrative

Statement of Financial Position, a.k.a. Balance Sheet, dated in the last three months

Statement of Activities, a.k.a. Income Statement or Profit & Loss, dated in the last three months

Major contributors and amounts of contributions for last two fiscal years

Board of Directors list with affiliations and skill sets

Anti-discrimination statement adopted by the board of directors

Letter(s) of Support. No more than 6 pages total in one PDF.