THE COLORADO TRUST

Community Resilience Initiatives Funding Opportunities: Frequently Asked Questions

These frequently asked questions (FAQs) provide information for applicants regarding The Colorado Trust's 2024-26 strategic plan, focus areas and the application process for Community Resilience Initiatives funding. These FAQs will be updated periodically as new questions are posed and essential information needs to be shared. For any additional queries, please contact us or refer to The Colorado Trust's grantee guidelines.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Why did The Colorado Trust choose food, housing, and mental and behavioral health as issue areas?
The Colorado Trust selected these focus areas based on extensive data analysis during the strategic planning process. These areas consistently emerged as top priorities in surveys, conversations and data points, reflecting critical needs in communities.

2. Is my organization eligible to apply?
Eligible organizations include:
- Nonprofit organizations that are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are classified as "not a private foundation" under Section 509(a)
- Independent, sponsored projects of a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization acting as a fiscal sponsor
- Government and public agencies
- Tribal nations.

For detailed eligibility information, refer to The Colorado Trust's grantee guidelines.

3. Can the same fiscal sponsor apply and be awarded grants from the same funding opportunity?
Yes. While each program can only apply for a single funding opportunity once, a fiscal sponsor can hold the contract for multiple entities.

4. How do I apply for Community Resilience Initiatives funding?
Organizations applying for funding must register with The Colorado Trust's online grants portal by March 1, 2024. An invitation to log in to the online grants portal will be sent by Colorado Trust staff after registration is completed.

Applicants can begin the submission of their application materials on Feb. 15, 2024. All applications must be completed and submitted by 4:59 p.m. MST on March 15, 2024.

The Colorado Trust will host pre-application webinars before the application deadline. The Colorado Trust has templates for fiscal sponsorship agreements, work plans and budgets available.

5. Can I submit my application in a language other than English?
Applications will be available and accepted in both English and Spanish.

6. Do I need matching funds from other funders to apply?
No. Matching funds are not required for any Community Resilience Initiatives funding opportunities.

7. Can grant funds be utilized to match local, state or federal grants?
Yes, as long as all awards meet all stipulations laid out in the request for proposal (RFP) and Colorado Trust grant agreement, and align with the grant initiative objectives.

8. When will I hear back about my application?
If your application is selected for funding, you will receive an award notice in late May or early June 2024. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the end of June 2024. Feedback will be provided to both successful and unsuccessful applicants via electronic communications. Individual meetings will not be held to discuss application decisions and scoring.

9. Are there other funding programs for which I can apply?
The Colorado Trust has an ongoing funding program for event sponsorships.

10. Can I apply for multiple grants from different funding programs?
Yes. Organizations may apply for and receive funding from multiple Community Resilience Initiatives. A successful or unsuccessful application in one funding initiative does not disqualify an organization from receiving funding from another CRI funding opportunity or any other Colorado Trust grant opportunity.

11. Is support available for organizations new to The Colorado Trust or those with limited operating budgets?
Yes. During the application scoring process, The Colorado Trust will offer technical assistance and pre-application webinars. The webinars will take place on February 9th. You can register for each by going through the links on the respective Community Resilience Initiatives pages. The webinar recordings will also be posted to the same link. If you are a new applicant to The Colorado Trust, you may be eligible for additional scoring points under the Community Resilience Initiatives. These points are meant to support organizations that meet specific criteria, such as those with annual operating budgets below $350,000 or those that have been in operation for less than three years. The details of these criteria are included in the initiatives' RFPs.

12. Who reviews my grant application?
The RFPs mention that all Community Resilience Initiatives applications will be scored by Colorado Trust staff on a 100-point scale using an established rubric. Consult the RFPs for more details.

13. Can I speak with a Colorado Trust staff member before I apply?
Colorado Trust staff are limiting meetings with organizations before and during the application and scoring process to avoid providing an unfair advantage to any organization or entity. Please direct all questions to CRI@coloradotrust.org. The questions will be vetted and responses will be emailed back and included in subsequent updated versions of this FAQ document.

14. What if I have a question not covered by this FAQ?
You can direct any questions to CRI@coloradotrust.org. For more information, refer to our grantee guidelines.

15. What if I'm having issues with the grants portal?
You can direct any questions to CRI@coloradotrust.org.

16. What documents will applicants need to complete?
The required documents for a completed application package are outlined in the RFP. These include a project application, work plan, budget, fiscal documentation (depending on the organization's budget size), fiscal sponsor agreement (if applicable), and letters of support (if required). Applicants should refer to the RFP for specific details and templates.

17. If we are funded under the Community Resilience Initiatives, does that mean we are ineligible to apply for or receive other funds from The Colorado Trust?
No. Applicants and grantees would be eligible to pursue and receive other funding from The Colorado Trust.

FUNDING SPECIFICS

1. How will the evaluation team assess progress during the grant period?
The specific evaluation questions for each initiative are listed in the respective RFP. Applicants should speak to how the results of their proposed project will help answer those questions. During the six months of funding in 2024, Colorado Trust evaluation staff will finalize a longer-term evaluation plan and communicate with grantees regarding evaluation expectations.

2. Why is there an increase in funding from year 1 to years 2 and 3?
The funding for year 1 reflects six months of planning in the first year, with subsequent years supporting 12 months of program implementation, which is inherently more expensive.

3. How did you determine only 3-4 grantees for the capacity-building assistance and policy and advocacy initiatives?
These initiatives aim to make a single award to a subject-matter expert organization in each focus area, allowing for larger awards given potential expenses to achieve project goals.

4. How did The Colorado Trust determine to award 15 grants for most of the program and service delivery initiatives?
The number was chosen based on workload considerations, grant size targets, and balancing the generosity of grants with sustainability.

5. How much is The Colorado Trust funding per the three focus areas?
Approximately 36% of the $9 million total funding will be allocated to food, 38% to mental and behavioral health, and 28% to housing in 2024.

6. How did The Colorado Trust determine the potential grantee activities?
The suggested activities are not exhaustive and are based on research. Applicants are not bound to conduct those activities only. Innovation is encouraged to support new ideas and flexibility.

7. Why are rural, people of color, and LGBTQ+ populations specifically mentioned in the mental and behavioral health initiatives?
Research identified these groups as having higher rates of mental and behavioral health issues. The Colorado Trust aims to address these needs by supporting culturally appropriate services.

8. How much is The Colorado Trust actually investing in program and service delivery at the local level?
For grant year 1, 75% of total CRI funding, and 82% in each of years 2 and 3 will support program and service delivery grants.

9. How long is the grant period and what are the key milestones?
The grant period is 30 months, divided into an initial planning period (up to six months), a 12-month program implementation period, and a final 12-month period for program implementation, wind-down and sustainability activities.

10. Why are there no capital projects or program-related investments planned for 2024?
No funds were allocated for capital projects or program-related investments in 2024. The Colorado Trust will be exploring these avenues in subsequent years.

11. How did The Colorado Trust determine the overall funding commitment for the Community Resilience Initiatives?
The three-year funding commitment was determined to provide substantial grants, attract meaningful applications, and avoid sustainability challenges for grantees after the grant funding ends, in balance with The Colorado Trust's finite resources and overall funding capacity.

12. Why are all program and service delivery grants the same dollar amount?
Uniform grant amounts prevent the appearance of any bias toward any specific focus area. All program and service delivery grants are budgeted for the same ceiling amounts.

13. Does The Colorado Trust have a requirement that a grant cannot surpass a certain percentage of an applicant's annual operating budget?
No. The Colorado Trust recognizes that it is the responsibility of each applicant and grantee to manage their finances and their organization's fiscal situation.

14. My funding request does not fall under any of your programs. How do I submit it?
If your funding request does not align with the programs or initiatives outlined in the RFPs, it may not be eligible for consideration. However, organizations are encouraged to monitor future funding opportunities and align their proposals with The Colorado Trust's strategic priorities.

15. Can I apply if I am a current grantee?
Yes, current Colorado Trust grantees are welcome to apply for funding under the Community Resilience Initiatives.

16. How much money should my organization request?
There is a wide range in the dollar amounts of grant awards available. Awards are not contingent upon the organization's annual operating budget. You should determine the funding you need for your project and apply for that amount.

17. Do you fund general operating requests?
For the Community Resilience Initiatives, The Colorado Trust seeks to fund programmatic requests that fit our priorities. The one exception is under the policy and advocacy funding; please consult that RFP for more information.

18. We are a new organization and don't have all the information requested in the RFP. Can we still apply?
The two-month application window (Jan. 16 – March 15, 2024) provides applicants substantial time to gather all the information required for the application process. Webinars will also be held to assist applicants further, allowing them to ask any questions.

19. Can I submit a proposal with a few items missing and get those items to you after the deadline?
All required fields must be completed in the online application before submission. Additionally, the portal will allow you to log in and save your progress to return to complete any missing information before submission.

20. Does The Colorado Trust consider proposals from faith-based organizations?
The Colorado Trust has funded many faith-based organizations. However, we do not fund religious activities or programs that require religious activity as a condition of receiving services.

21. My organization was declined for funding in previous years. Can I apply again?
Organizations that have been previously declined may apply for these new initiatives. We strongly encourage all organizations to review the RFPs and grant guidelines before applying. You may also contact us to discuss a potential fit before applying.

22. Does The Colorado Trust accept grant proposals from collaborative groups?
We are welcoming all types of collaboratives to apply for a grant. These collaboratives may include a grouping of nonprofit organizations, schools, governmental entities, resident groups, and nonprofit or business partnerships. The application lead should meet all the eligibility criteria, and the selected organization will be responsible for the grant's fiduciary responsibility.

23. Can my organization apply for funding as an individual even though we applied as part of a collaborative?
Organizations may apply for funding as a collaborative or individual entity for multiple opportunities.

24. I already have a grant, or I already registered in the online grants portal with a previous grant. Do I need to register again?
Yes. If you have registered with The Colorado Trust's online grants portal for a previous grant, you will need to register again.

25. My organization is a national organization with services or programs in Colorado. Can I apply for funding?
Carefully review the eligibility requirements and grantee guidelines for the specific RFP that you are interested in applying for to ensure that your organization meets all the necessary criteria.

26. Are there any activities that The Colorado Trust will not support?
The Colorado Trust supports a wide range of activities but does not fund political campaigns, voter registration drives, operating deficits or retirement of debt. For more details, please review the grantee guidelines.

27. What happens if we do not complete the work or expend all of the awarded funds during the grant period?
Per the grantee guidelines, all funds must be spent by the end of the grant cycle. For multiyear grants, grantees can request a formal no-cost extension or return unexpended funds to The Colorado Trust. See the grantee guidelines for more information.

28. Are grantees required to share evaluation data with The Colorado Trust?
In alignment with the grantee guidelines, and the desire of The Colorado Trust to evaluate its funding, grantees may be asked to share their internal programmatic data with The Trust as part of its overall evaluation of the Community Resilience Initiatives.

29. Are applicants required to use data to document their community need?
Applicants are encouraged to look at the different mechanisms and sources available to them to help them describe their local needs. The Equity Data Navigator within the Colorado Equity Compass is a free resource available to all that may be useful to applicants in accessing local data on health and public health issues.

FAQ Update
2/2/24

1. Will The Colorado Trust choose which application to review or fund for organizations that apply for more than one initiative?
Entities that apply for more than one initiative do not have any additional advantages or disadvantages. All complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and scored, and The Colorado Trust will rely first upon the scores received for each application when making funding decisions. The Colorado Trust reserves the right to examine elements of an applicant's organization or proposal (e.g., geography, populations being served) when making decisions to ensure a robust and dynamic grantee cohort.

2. Are subawards and subcontracts permitted?
Yes, subawards and subcontracts are permitted.

3. Are automobiles eligible expenses to apply for under the Community Resilience Initiatives?
Automobiles are an allowable expense. Their purchase and use should be discussed and justified in the project application. In the budget, automobiles would be considered as business equipment (assuming it would cost more than $5,000).

4. Are new collaborations or existing collaborations preferred or weighted differently?
Collaborations, whether new or longstanding, are neither weighted nor scored any differently.

5. How do we know if we are a rural applicant? Does this mean that services are being provided to rural communities, or a percent of program participants are located in rural communities, or something else?

For the sake of the additional scoring points, "rural" is being defined as an applicant entity that is located in one of the counties listed in the request for proposals. Additionally, if an organization is focused on providing services to a rural county, even if the applicant entity is not located in a rural county, this should be described in the application narrative.

6. Will the size of our annual operating budget impact our application?

The applicant should describe their ability to perform the work proposed and meet the initiative's objectives. Entities can earn five additional points during the scoring process if their annual operating budget is less than $350,000.

7. If I'm a fiscal sponsor but not applying for a grant, what is the expectation from my organization?

If an organization is proposing to serve as the fiscal sponsor for an applicant, it must register for the grants portal and ensure its organization profile in the grants portal is complete (including uploading the requisite financial documentation). The Colorado Trust will be referencing those materials as it reviews the applications. If awarded, the fiscal sponsor will be required to sign the grant agreement and will be responsible for receiving and distributing the payment on behalf of the sponsored entity.

8. If my organization is a fiscally sponsored organization, should my fiscal sponsor submit the application on my behalf?

No, please submit an application for your organization. Fiscal sponsors who do not intend to apply for a grant should still register for the grants portal and complete their organization profile.

9. Will the pre-application webinars on Feb. 9, 2024, be recorded and posted on your website?

Yes. The links to the recordings will be posted on the corresponding initiative website pages as soon as possible after Feb. 9.

10. Will there be a process to appeal funding decisions?

All funding decisions are final, and there will be no appeal process.

11. How will I know if my application has been successfully submitted?

The applicant will receive an automated confirmation email after successfully completing and submitting the application and required documentation in the grants portal. Once submitted, the application will show as "In Review" within the grants portal. If your application's status is listed as "Draft," it has not been submitted.

1. **Can applicants from large institutions (i.e., hospitals, governments, and institutions of higher education) have different departments applying for the same initiative?**
    Yes. This is allowable.

2. **What should we do if we have problems with the Grants Portal?**
    If you are having problems with the Portal and have already looked at the informational elements that are in the Portal to assist you, please send questions or concerns specifically regarding the Grants Portal to FluxxQuestions@coloradotrust.org.

3. **As a local government, are grants from The Colorado Trust grants exempt from the TABOR (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights) Amendment?**
    Grants from organizations like The Colorado Trust are considered "gifts" and, as such, are exempt from the revenue limits under the TABOR Amendment. However, The Colorado Trust encourages all governmental entities wishing to apply for funding to consult with local counsel.

4. **What population(s) are targeted by the Community Resilience Initiatives?**
    While there are no specific populations within the state of Colorado that are named as the target population(s) for the Community Resilience Initiatives, The Colorado Trust would like programs to serve those people within our communities who have been identified as vulnerable, at higher risk, and/or have been historically and systemically marginalized. The RFPs name some groups as examples of these populations. The specific population selected should be named in the application, and the specific needs and/or challenges described with whatever data is accessible and appropriate.

5. **Can I apply for funding if my organization is a for-profit entity (including a for-profit health or behavioral health centers)?**
    At this time, we will only accept applications from for-profit entities if they are fiscally sponsored by an eligible organization and are operating a program that aligns with a charitable purpose. Greater consideration will be given to programs that meet the specific needs of an underserved community or population. Given the reach that for-profit health and behavioral health entities have, especially in rural Colorado, they are eligible to apply, but again only with a fiscal sponsor. Finally, private for-profit health care entities that are part of a national group will not be considered.

6. **Does the Trust have a goal for the geographic distribution of grantees across the CRI portfolio?**
    No. While The Colorado Trust would like grantee cohorts that reach across as much of Colorado as possible, this is not a distinct goal of The Colorado Trust.

7. **Would you be able to share an example of "technology transfer," which is referenced as a possible approach to capacity building?**
    Technology transfer along with the handful of examples provided in the RFP are only a few approaches to capacity building. These are merely suggestions. Please feel free to propose activities that are not listed within the request for proposal in your application.

8. **How will grantees be invited or encouraged to participate in capacity building? Will it be up to the capacity building provider/s to market their services and conduct all outreach or will the Trust be involved? Will any aspects of the capacity building initiative be considered mandatory for grantees?**
Capacity building assistance applicants should address how CRI grantees will be engaged through the grant period within their applications. Successful applicants will work alongside Trust staff to support the timing, provision, and necessity of CBA services based upon the assessed needs of the cohort.

9. **Will all grantees be included in the capacity building support? Is the expectation that all grantees engage with individual and/or group capacity building?**
The capacity building assistance providers will support CRI grantees within the five program and service delivery initiatives. They would respond to requests for individual assistance from CRI grantees or from Colorado Trust staff. These providers would also organize and facilitate learning collaboratives, group webinars, as well as be responsible for organizing grantee meetings and convenings both in person and virtually. Your application should address how CRI grantees will be engaged throughout the grant period. Successful applicants will work alongside Trust staff to support the timing, provision, and necessity of CBA services based upon the assessed needs of the cohort.

10. **"What is the difference between Diverse Approaches to Behavioral Health and Expanding Access to Behavioral Health?"**
Diverse Approaches to Behavioral Health seeks to address the range of techniques, therapies, and practices utilized in addressing mental or behavioral health. This can include alternative approaches like art or music therapy, culturally sensitive treatments that consider the person's cultural background, and integrative practices that combine elements from various methods. Expanding Access to Behavioral Health is about expanding access focuses on reducing barriers to utilize behavioral and mental health care services. It emphasizes increasing the availability of services to underserved populations, like improving insurance coverage, reducing costs for treatment, and leveraging technology like telehealth for remote access. The aim is to ensure that anyone who needs behavioral and or mental health support can access it. In summary, while diverse approaches relate to the 'how' of behavioral health in terms of varied treatment options and methodologies, expanding access concentrates on removing barriers and ensuring that these diverse options are available more.

11. **Would those suffering from alcoholism or substance use disorder be considered "traditionally underserved?"**
People experiencing addiction or substance use disorder are not considered "traditionally underserved".

12. **For the sustaining housing solutions grant opportunity, can funds be distributed directly to clients (for ex. as a downpayment assistance loan or grant, matched savings grant, etc)? Could it be combined with an existing loan fund?**
As part of a rental or mortgage assistance program, which is cited as a potential activity in the RFP, assistance distributed directly to clients would be an allowable use of funds.

13. **What if my organization came into a new budget tier this year, but we don't have the requested financial documentation yet?**
    If your organization moved into a new budget tier during the most recent fiscal year, The Colorado Trust will accept the financial documents from your previous year's organization budget.

14. **Is an audit required? Our organization's operating budget is large enough to require an audit, but we have yet to actually conduct an audit. Are we still eligible?"**
    An audit is not required for all applications. Please refer to the financial documentation section of the RFPs to know if an audit is required based on your operating budget size. The Trust has structured its asks for documentation based on different operating budget sizes. If an organization has not conducted an audit, we will accept any third-party-reviewed financial statements, such as audited financial statements with audit management letter for most recent audit, review, or examination, as well as 990 forms. And as far as the 990 is concerned, you can submit the completed one for the most recent tax year (if not available yet for 2024 or 2023).

15. **When is the last opportunity we can update our organization profile?**
    Applicants can update your organization profile until the application deadline, which is March 15th at 4:59 PM MT.

16. **What is the difference between "Access to Healthy Foods" and "Building Food Systems"?**
    Access to Healthy foods seeks to support the efforts it takes to get food to an individual. This RFP seeks to support projects addressing food security needs for individuals. Examples include food pantry assistance, cooking and gardening classes, inclusion of traditional and cultural foods, increasing access to healthy foods and produce, etc. Building Food Systems seeks to support the efforts it takes to bring food to a community. This RFP seeks to reduce barriers to reduce food insecurity in a community. This could look like expanding working with farmers to accept SNAP/WIC, farm to consumer initiatives, agricultural workers support, transportation related to food access, etc.

17. **Can the funding be used to pass through to capacity building funding to smaller nonprofits?**
    Subawards and subcontracts are an allowable expense. The Trust encourages all applicants for the capacity building assistance grant to propose their approach to the provision of capacity building assistance. During the first 6 months (the funded 6 months in 2024), there'll be an opportunity to engage with Trust staff for those successful applicants to refine what they proposed, which could include small capacity building subawards provided.

18. **Is the Capacity Building Assistance initiative to fund providers of capacity building assistance rather than for entities seeking to obtain capacity building assistance?**
    Yes, we are seeking capacity building assistance providers to support the community resilience initiative grantees that are funded to deliver programs and services. So again, what we're looking for are spending opportunities that are intended to support the cohorts of grantees funded under program service delivery initiatives.

19. **Are you looking for grantee partners that are serving the entire state or is a collaborative regional approach acceptable?**
    The Trust is looking for applicants in the capacity building assistance initiative that have the capacity, either through themselves or through constructed network, to provide services across the entire state.

20. Will this initiative reopen in following years? Or this is a one-time opportunity?
This is a one-time opportunity for the 30-month grant period. There will not be an opportunity to recompute or reapply for these same initiatives in subsequent years. The Community Resilience Initiatives represent the Trust's funding priorities for this year, 2025, and 2026. They will not be the only funding opportunities provided by the color of a trust. During this time, however, they will comprise the vast majority of where we are putting our support in the achievement of our newly released Strategic plan.

21. Can you share more about how you are envisioning the awardees of the different initiatives to interact with one another?
In regard to the provision of an assessment during the provision of capacity building assistance, Capacity Building Assistance grantees will work closely with Trust staff to liaise and coordinate the delivery of capacity building assistance with the successful applicants underneath each of the program and service delivery initiatives.

22. Is there a list of grantees from past Trust awards?
Yes, The Colorado maintains an online, searchable database of past grants and grantees. That can be accessed through the Colorado Trust homepage. There, search under "Our Initiatives in Action," there's a list of Past Initiatives as well as grantees.

23. Can you expand on the expectations of the bank of capacity-building assistance providers to support the Community Resilience Initiatives grantees?
The capacity building assistance providers would respond to requests for one-on-one, tailored assistance from the CRI grantees under the program and service delivery initiatives as well as respond and work directly with Trust staff. The proposed project should explain and address how CRI grantees will be engaged throughout the grant period.

24. Can the application be completed in the portal? The current landing page *[on February 9th]* offers links, these links produce PDFs. These PDFs are static, not live and not fillable.
Applicants will be able to submit applications online after February 15th. Up until that point, The Colorado Trust has supplied the templates for the application so that you can prepare them offline and then submit them online on or after February 15th.

25. Do you encourage organizational partnerships in the approach and implementation to this project?
The Colorado Trust is neither encouraging nor discouraging organizational partnerships. Applicants really need to look to their workplan, the objectives of the RFP, and the needs of their communities that they're seeking to meet and determine if a partnership is the best approach. Collaborations and partnerships are allowable. There can be only one primary applicant, though, and then it would be up to the primary applicant to provide any subawards or subcontracts or payments to their partnerships and collaborators.

26. Will the portal have character counts and/or word counts listed?
The templates and the portal do not have these because there are no character counts or limits in the application. We only request that applicants limit the abstract to 500 words or less.

27. About how many grantees will there be in each program/service initiative?

For the housing initiative there will be up to 20 grantees. There are 2 initiatives focused on food, and there will be up to 15 in each of those for a total of 30. And there are 2 initiatives focused on mental and behavioral health. Each of those as well will have up to 15 for a total of 30. In total we will be looking at around 80 program and service delivery grantees.

28. **If we have a large array of services and programs under our umbrella, would it be better to treat each one as a sub-project or supporting the organizations capacity to support all of them? What level of detail do you want with regard to sub programs?**
It may be best to capture all of what the applicant would consider these sub projects underneath a single work plan. And all applicants should submit a level of detail that they believe communicates their merit as an applicant.

29. **If an organization is looking to build its capacity, is that permissible to bolster programs?**
The Trust is looking for capacity building providers to specifically support the capacity of the Community Resilience Initiatives grantees under our programs and service delivery initiatives. The grant is not specifically to build a capacity of a capacity building provider, but to build the capacity of the CRI grantees under our program and service delivery initiatives.

30. **Can you provide any more detail on the expected budget size / stage of development for the CRI grantees that will receive the capacity building support (i.e., will these primarily be grassroots, local nonprofits or larger established organizations?)?**
The Trust encourages anybody applying for the CBA initiative to read the actual published RFPs for the program and service delivery grantees. Those contain the details and the budget size of their particular objectives, as well as eligible entities, and that would be the best resource for people to answer that question.

31. **As an applicant for the capacity building assistance grant, our organization must be involved in food, housing <u>and</u> mental/behavioral health? Or, we must support program and service delivery grantees?**
The capacity building assistance initiative applicants should demonstrate their ability, their expertise, their experience in one, if not more than one of the four areas: food, housing, mental and behavioral health, and organizational development.

32. **If a single CBA grant is awarded to provide services across all initiative areas, what would the budget cap be (e.g., would it still be $300,000 per year for each full program year?**
No, we've allocated the budget, floor and ceiling for each of our 4 potential grantees. So if any entity is applying to provide capacity building assistance for all 4 of those areas, housing, food, mental behavior, health and organizational development, then they would be able to take that floor and ceiling and multiply it by however many of the four areas for which they are applying. They would then submit one application for the larger amount. The same is true for policy and advocacy applicants seeking to apply for two or three of the focus areas under that initiative.

33. **Regarding a university, can the financial documents be submitted for the specific college that will be the recipient of the grant funds, rather than the overall university?**
Yes, that would be okay, as long as the chosen department would be the most suitable entity that for the application.

34. **Is The Colorado Trust open to innovative proposals in this space that would build new a capacity building structure, like a network of grantees to develop skills and partnerships together?**

Yes, we're open to looking at new ways of providing capacity building assistance.

35. **Can a proposal be regional in focus but of course aligned with the statewide effort?**
For the capacity building assistance initiatives, The Colorado Trust is looking for applicants that can provide services across the entire state and not just to a single region of the state.

36. **Will capacity building organizations also be providing technical assistance and capacity building support to the policy and advocacy CRI grantees?**
While that is possible, The Colorado Trust does not anticipate our capacity building assistance grantees to be providing assistance to our policy and advocacy grantees.

37. **What if a capacity building organization recruits nonprofits that work in the food, housing, and mental health, but they are not in the CRI cohort, does that disqualify that capacity building organization?**
The ultimate objective is for the capacity building assistance providers to provide services to the CRI grantees. If the term "recruit" here mans that they would like to recruit other organizations to help them implement or provide capacity building assistance (as a partner or subcontractor), then that is allowable.

38. **Can a collaborative submit a proposal to provide capacity building across all initiative focus areas including nonprofit operating?**
Yes, that is, that is permissible. If entities believe they have the capacity and expertise, then they can apply to provide assistance for all of those areas underneath the Capacity Building Assistance initiative.

39. **Can this be used as a start-up for a new non-profit?**
If the applicant meets all of the criteria, are mission-aligned, and have the capacity to meet all the objectives and the work that is proposed in the RFP, then yes, a new nonprofit is eligible and welcome to apply.

40. **If you are a startup and do not fulfill the eligibility, can you go under another non-profit that can be your fiscal sponsor?**
Yes, you can be a fiscally sponsored organization as long as the organization that is fiscally sponsoring you is eligible.

41. **Will the awardee of the nonprofit capacity award be expected to offer capacity building to all grantees?**
No, the expectation is that the capacity building assistance provider for each of these 3 program and service delivery areas (food, housing, mental and behavioral health) will be providing services to those respective 15 to 20 grantees. The capacity building assistance Provider working on organizational development will work directly with Trust staff to determine the best methods to provide assistance.

42. **Regarding the Policy and Advocacy grant focus, the purpose of this initiative is to fund entities to provide policy-related services, as well as policy-related support to other CRI grantees. Can you describe what you mean by "policy-related services and support"?**
Policy-related services and support refer to various forms of assistance offered by organizations to other organizations that are part of Community Resilience Initiatives in the areas of food, housing, mental and behavioral health. This support can look many different ways, but it could

include providing information on policies, guidance and compliance requirements, advocacy, efforts, educational resources and programs, and resources for effective policy implementation.

43. **Regarding the Policy & Advocacy funding opportunity, the RFP mentions there will be up to 3 grants made in this area. Is it your intention to fund one Policy & Advocacy grantee to work with service and delivery grantees in each of the 3 focus areas (Housing, Mental and Behavioral Health, Food)?**
The intention is to either fund one policy advocacy grantee that will work collaboratively, with service and delivery grantees across all 3 focus areas. Or alternatively to fund 1 or 2 organizations. But remember, applicants need to be able to describe in the application proficiency, expertise, and acumen working in the specific areas for which the applicant is applying.

44. **Is the Policy & Advocacy grant considered a project-restricted grant (is this grant a project or general operating support)?**
The Policy & Advocacy grant would be a hybrid. As mentioned in the budget section, a minimum of 60% of the Policy and Advocacy grants would be for project-based, project-specific activities. And then there is also the opportunity to apply for up to 40% in general operating funds as well. This is the only one of the Community Resilience Initiatives that has a hybrid budget. Organizations may continue to undertake their own policy work through the general operating support or even through programmatic fund support as long as it aligns with the approved work plan.

45. **If you already are on the portal for previous grants, do you need to reregister again and by March 1st?**
Yes, you do need to re-register, and by March 1st.

46. **Can organizations apply to the capacity building grant opportunity AND the policy and advocacy grant opportunity?**
Yes, they can. Entities can only submit one application per initiative. But as those are 2 separate initiatives, yes, an entity could apply to both.

47. **Does the Trust have a preference for applicants that focus on one focus area vs. the three policy areas?**
The Trust does not have a preference for one over the other. The Trust encourages applicants to describe their merit and their ability to either serve one focus area, or, if they are applying for more than one, their capacity to do such.

48. **If submitting an application for multiple areas under the Policy & Advocacy initiative, are the budget floors and ceilings for just one focus area (and therefore should be multiplied for other areas)?**
For both the policy and advocacy or capacity building initiatives, the budget and floor ceiling amounts are just for one focus area. If submitting an application for multiple areas under either the policy and advocacy or the capacity building assistance initiative, applicants should consider the stated floors and ceilings their range of potential funding per focus area for which they are applying. So, if an organization is applying for more than one, they would need to multiply that budget to account for multiple focus areas.

49. **Can this funding be used for the cost of our lobbyist?**

The answer is no. The Colorado Trust encourages people to look at what are the restrictions for private, philanthropic organizations when it comes to advocacy and policy work. Trust funds cannot be used for lobbying or voter registration.

50. **Do the activities we propose in the 60% of the project budget have to specifically support grantees of the program and service delivery grant? If so, what are examples of what that looks like?**
Yes, it does. This can include supporting ideas for policy implementation, analysis of current policies.

51. **Are you open to funding peer support specialists focused on housing navigation for individuals living in supportive housing programs?**
What would be helpful is taking a look at the objectives under each individual RFP. It sounds like this, for example, would be considered wraparound housing services. If an application can speak to how a program or proposed project, in this case, the peer support specialists, would address these outcomes, then it would be eligible.

52. **If you are applying for 2 RFP's, how do you do that in the portal?**
So the online project application will be available for applicants to begin completing and uploading application materials after February 15th. When beginning to do this, applicants will see a question that asks for which specific initiative they are applying. Applicants should select the initiative they want to list first and then click save for that application. That will make sure they are answering all the right questions for the right initiative. We suggest, in order to avoid confusion, to complete the work on that first application and submit it. After applicants have submitted the first one, they can begin to work on a second application and select the second initiative for which they would like to apply. Selecting the new initiative, will ensure that applicants are seeing the correct questions for that initiative's application.

53. **If we do not currently have a physical office location, but currently provide behavioral telehealth services in one of the counties listed, are we still eligible to apply?**
Yes. The Colorado Trust encourages all applicants to take a look at the eligibility criteria that were listed in the RFP. If you are serving organizations in multiple states, the funding does need to support work completed in Colorado. The funding cannot go to other states.

54. **Do we only have access to the application draft option once the organizational info is complete?**
So, in the grants portal right now, for the application is a pdf version. The Trust posted that so that applicants can work on applications offline until February 15th. At which point, applicants will be able to submit an actual application, and then can save as they go.

55. **Can we edit the organizational profile page after submitting - specifically the last 3 questions?**
Applicants will be able to work on their application(s) or organization profile from now until March 15th.

56. **If an organization has multiple projects that fit different priority areas, can it submit multiple proposals?**
Each entity or organization can submit one application per each of the 5 different initiatives. So the answer to that question is, Yes.

57. **If a program is open to the general public but serves a large number of marginalized populations, should it select those populations as "target groups" in the application, or is that only if the services are exclusively for those groups?**
There is an option in the application to select general population. The Trust would encourage that an applicant look at their particular programs and ask for whom they actually are designed. If they are designed specifically for distinct populations or subgroups or elements of the community, then those population should be selected. But, indeed, if they are created for the general population, then select general population.

58. **Related to the advance payments for each budget year, will 3 separate award letters be given, and are subsequent years guaranteed?**
This grant application for this award is for 30 months of funding. There will be one award letter and one grant agreement for the 30 months. Subsequent year funding is guaranteed, barring any performance or other issues or concerns.

59. **Can institutional overhead be included in applications?**
Yes, there is an option to be able to claim up to 25% indirect costs (or overhead) based upon the direct cost that an applicant has for the program. And there is some more information on how that's calculated in the budget template and in the grantee resources as well.

60. **Why is there such a lag between notifying successful and unsuccessful grant applications?**
Successful grant applicants will have the opportunity to either accept or turn down the grant award. And so we need to be able to process those first to determine the unsuccessful applicants.

61. **Help me understand the process to be provided a portal log-in.**
Regardless of whether you are new to The Trust or not, organizations and applicants need to re-register their organizations for a portal login again (regardless of whether they have been granted funds by us before or not). If an organization is new, then they will need to register, as well. There is a link on the CRI web page to register organizations. Organizations will need to supply the organization's name, tax ID, fiscal sponsor's name and tax ID (if relevant), and then submit the registration. The Colorado Trust will approve that registration. Once we do, then the organization will receive an invitation to log on to that portal. Again, check out the CRI landing page for the Grants Portal link or click here.

62. **Can we apply for General Operating costs?**
The 5 initiatives in our program and service delivery CRI opportunities are only for programmatic costs. So no, applicants cannot apply for general operating costs under the five programmatic initiatives for housing, food, and mental and behavioral health. This is true for the capacity building assistance initiative, as well. The policy & advocacy initiative allows for a maximum of 40% for general operating costs and a minimum of 60% for programmatic support.

63. **If an organization is in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status, are we eligible to apply?**
Yes, the organization would have to have a draft some sort of documentation confirming that they've begun this process and will need to have secured their status in time of the award.

64. **If applying as a collaboration with other organizations, should the Organization Profile describe only the primary applicant, or all organizations in the collaborative?**

The organization profile, and the Grants portal should contain information just on the primary applicant and the other collaborating partners can be described in their project Application.

65. **Do the projects or programs have to be completely new?**
No, the initiative will support existing projects and also new projects.

66. **To make sure I understand, salaries are considered an indirect cost and cannot exceed 25% of the total request?**
That is incorrect. Salaries for staff working directly on the proposed work are considered direct costs (aka programmatic costs). The 25% figure is the maximum amount of indirect costs that are allowed to be drawn from the total amount of the direct costs. Please refer to the budget template instructions and the grantee guidelines for more guidance.

67. **Are salaries, training and consultant fees able to be considered direct program expenses if there is a strong justification for the expense?**
The answer to this question is, yes. Training and consultant fees and salaries, as long as they're directly related to the proposed work in the work plan are considered direct program expenses (aka direct costs).

68. **Do programs/projects need to be focused on serving one specific marginalized community or marginalized communities in general?**
It is a required element of the grant to serve historically marginalized populations in our state. Insofar as this question is concerned, The Trust would encourage that applicants look at the needs within their community and what can be reasonably accomplished with the available funds to answer that question for themselves.

69. **Did you say that we cannot get in touch with a Trust staff member to get guidance on which opportunity we are best suited for?**
The Trust staff is not available for individual consultation on proposed projects, potential projects, potential activities and questions regarding if their organization or project would be a good fit for the funding. The Trust is encouraging each potential applicant to look to their own mission, their own community, their own organizations to determine those responses themselves.

70. **If we submit under one opportunity, but the Trust believes it's a better fit for another opportunity, is it possible we could be transferred into that pool?**
The Trust will not be transferring applications between initiatives as part of our review process. We are trying to maintain fidelity to our particular scoring process as well as our timeline. It is incumbent upon the applicant to determine in advance which initiative or initiatives they believe they are best suited to apply for. It is up to each individual applicant if they want to submit more than one applicant application to more than one initiative.

71. **In the RFP it says "Current year operating budget, with differentiation between program vs. fundraising expenses," what is meant by "program vs. fundraising" expenses?**
This is based on how forms like the 990 are set up. So program expenses would be those direct costs that are related to a program or an activity regarding your larger charitable mission, whereas fundraising expenses would be similar to the management end of things. That would be more overhead, and not those direct program costs. The wording of that, again, is similar to the language used on governmental forms (like the 990) that we look at to make sure that we can understand just generally financial, organizational health and things like that.

72. If you are collaborating with smaller non-profits and businesses, do all of them need to be in the portal?
Any entity that is directly applying for the grant must be registered in the grants portal. If you are fiscally sponsored by another organization, both your organization and the fiscal sponsor must be registered in the grants portal. If you are submitting as part of a collaborative effort, only the primary applicant needs to be registered in the portal (the partnering organizations do not need to be).

73. In the application: can we save our work and return to it later?
Yes, you can.

74. Is there a way that Year 2 and Year 3 funding can be distributed at the same time, or will funds only be allocated at the start of the grant year?
Funds will only be disseminated to the grantees at the beginning of each grant year for that corresponding grant year.

75. For the additional 5 points, can the organization be in Denver but service rural areas or does it have to also be located in rural areas?
Yes, if you serve the rural areas, you can be eligible for the 5 Points. But you do need to conduct the majority of the work in the rural areas.

76. Are capital purchases (ie vehicles, walk in freezers, etc) allowable costs?
I would encourage people to read and look into the grantee guidelines published online and linked into the RFPs for more specific details. Automobiles and walk-in freezers would be considered business equipment in this grant and as such are examples of allowable expenses.

77. As far as the 5 additional points, if a collaboration in applying, do all partners need to meet the criteria to gain a point or do they apply to the primary applicant?
The criteria for the additional points will only be applied to the primary applicant. So not all partners, but the organization with whom our contract will be the entity to align with one of the requirements for the 5 additional points.

78. Are religious organizations or organizations sponsored by religious organizations eligible to apply?
Yes, they are eligible to apply.

79. Where can we find the rubric and the qualifications for the bonus points?
It is located underneath the scoring section in each individual RFP. This appears approximately on page 6 and 7 of the 5 program and service delivery RFPs.

80. If you have a fiscal sponsor, then what financials are required from the sponsor and for the grantee?
For the fiscal sponsor and fiscally sponsored organization, the applicant should look at the required financial documentation in the RFP. It'll specifically break down what documentation is requested. The Trust structured that based on operating budget size to try to help alleviate the burden of making sure that smaller nonprofits don't have to submit the same financial documentation that maybe an entity with a much larger budget would have to.

81. Do public school districts require fiscal sponsorship?

Public school districts who fit in within a government entity category are not required to have a fiscal sponsor. They can apply themselves without a fiscal sponsor.

82. **Applicants are only submitting the first 18 months of a budget, but the award will be 30 months?**
Yes, that is correct. For the initial application, The Trust is only asking applicants to submit a work plan and a budget both for the first 18 months.

83. **Do you all do non-compete clauses for future grants if accepted for this one?**
No, being a successful applicant and awardee in one grant initiative from The Colorado Trust does not disqualify an entity from applying or receiving an award under a future initiative.

84. **My CEO has applied for a portal log in, but she will not be the one writing the grant application. Do I need to register independently as the primary contact for the application?**
That will be up to the organization, and how your organization likes to complete submissions. If your CEO is willing to lend their login credentials to you, then that is an option. However, you can also get your own separate account, and your CEO can add users in the portal. So the moderator for your account can add users. Your CEO can add you and anyone else that is appropriate to include in your application organization profile process.

85. **Is the expectation that applicants meet all outcomes noted in the individual RFP. What if their activities meet one, and partner community organizations meet the others?**
Each of the individual initiatives have stated outcomes/objectives that The Trust is working towards over the 30 months. Those outcomes reflect our longer-term goals as reflected in our three-year strategic plan. The Trust encourages applicants to explore how their activities link to those, whether they will be conducting those activities individually or through a collaborative partnership.

FAQ Update

03/01/24

1. **Looking at the individual Community Resilience Initiatives (CRI) grant initiatives, it appears that there could be up to 75-80 grantees. Is this the number of organizations that will need capacity-building support? Do you have any rough details on the size or stage of these grantees?**
The expectation is that capacity-building providers will provide services based on need within their application's focus area(s), including food, housing, mental and behavioral health, and organizational development. The food and mental and behavioral health initiatives could fund up to 30 grantees each. The housing initiative could fund up to 20 grantees. Providers focused on organizational development would support all three focus areas and work alongside Colorado Trust staff to determine the best methods to provide assistance, to whom, and when. There are no details at this time on the size or stage of the grantees.

2. **Can an individual capacity-building consultant be included in multiple applications?**
Yes.

3. **Does "behavioral health" include "physical" health?**
The Colorado Trust is seeking to increase and improve access to quality mental and behavioral health care for those who face barriers to living a long and healthy life. Applicants under both mental and behavioral health proposals should seek to address their selected populations' mental and behavioral health issues.

4. **What kind of technical assistance should the capacity-building project provide to the grantees? Is that for the applicant to propose, or does The Colorado Trust already have an idea of what kind of assistance grantees might need?**
It is up to applicants to propose a work plan. Applicants should submit a work plan outlining their proposed objectives, activities, deliverables and timeframes to build a cohesive capacity-building program for their chosen focus area(s).

5. **Is The Colorado Trust expecting the capacity-building assistance to be split evenly across the program and service delivery grantees, or will it vary significantly based on need?**
The expectation is that capacity-building providers will provide services based on need within their application's focus area(s), including food, housing, mental and behavioral health, and organizational development.

6. **Have all grantees already been chosen and awarded under the main areas (food, housing, mental and behavioral health)?**
No. All CRI applicants are working on the same application and notification timeline.

7. **Can the funding be used to hire grant writers, consultants and internship infrastructure?**
All expenditures in the budget must be reasonable and justified in the project work plan. Per the grantee guidelines, consultants are an allowable expense. The Colorado Trust also permits a portion of grant monies to support sustainability activities (e.g., a grant writer). Additionally, capacity-building assistance project budgets can include sub-awards to contract with additional partners to conduct capacity-building assistance activities.

8. **Are B Corps or consulting firms already working in these core focus areas eligible to apply?**
Organizations must have a 501(c)(3) designation or be government or tribal entities—which may include quasi-governmental organizations, special taxing districts, etc.—to apply. Organizations not meeting the eligibility criteria must work with an eligible fiscal sponsor.

9. **We are a 501(c)(6) in Colorado; are we eligible to apply for this grant? Are we allowed to contract with a for-profit organization that would directly serve the Colorado community?**
Organizations must have a 501(c)(3) designation or be government or tribal entities—which can include quasi-governmental organizations, special taxing districts, etc.—to apply. Organizations not meeting the eligibility criteria must work with an eligible fiscal sponsor.

10. **Does the scope of the application need to involve completely new programming, or can it expand/sustain existing programming?**
The Community Resilience Initiatives will fund new and existing projects.

11. **If you are a smaller nonprofit, are you likely to be considered for funding if the minimum grant amount per year is larger than your current total budget?**
The Colorado Trust will not disqualify any organization based on its annual operating budget size.

12. **If a nonprofit wants to partner with a for-profit organization for this grant, would it be best to write the grant proposal together or ask them for a letter of support?**
Organizations must have a 501(c)(3) designation or be government or tribal entities—which can include quasi-governmental organizations, special taxing districts, etc.—to apply. Organizations not meeting the eligibility criteria must work with an eligible fiscal sponsor.

13. **Could you please reiterate the payment schedule (percentages of payout throughout the length of the grant) should an organization be awarded?**
The payment schedule is not based on percentages. The payment schedule will be based upon the three distinct grant years (listed below), the budget submitted for the application for the first 18 months (which is grant years 1 and 2), and the remaining balance of the total request (which is grant year 3). This will vary for most grantees.

    - July 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024: Payment made on or around July 2024
    - Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025: Payment made on or around January 2025
    - Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026: Payment made on or around January 2026.

14. **In the budget template, it asks for the annual salary amount. Should we be requesting the total salary amount for the 30-month period? Or break it out by year 1, 2, and 3? This might be addressed in the grantee guidelines.**
Applicants only need to submit a detailed budget with narrative explanations (template provided) for the first 18 months as part of the initial application. For those awarded, subsequent years' budgets will be requested as part of the renewal process.

15. **If full-time staff/leadership must hire part-time staff to deliver programming, is this part-time hire a programmatic expense?**

Salaries directly related to programmatic activities would be considered a direct program expense. This should be entered in the personnel section of the budget template and would be part of the direct cost calculations used to determine the indirect cost.

16. **Are these initiative grants "reimbursable" or directly funded? Does the organization have to put up the money first and then get reimbursed? Or will the monies be directly given to the organization?**
Payments for CRI grants will be advance payments (not reimbursement) made directly to the grantee organization (or fiscal sponsor) and follow the payment schedule below. Grantees do not need to show The Colorado proof of expenses but should have a clear tracking method to show how funds were spent if requested.

- July 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024: Payment made on or around July 2024
- Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025: Payment made on or around January 2025
- Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026: Payment on or around January 2026.

17. **CDPHE has a Financial Risk Assessment Management system with our LPHA's scoring. Are any of the financial forms waived since this information is tracked/monitored/scored?**
No. The submission of financial documentation per the guidelines laid out in the requests for proposals is required.

18. **Will The Trust only consider the scope of our application as written, or is it possible that The Trust could choose to grant us funds for only one or two areas, even if we applied for all three (food, housing, mental and behavioral health)?**
The Trust's funding strategy for policy and advocacy concerning the Community Resiliency Initiative involves an examination of proposals within our three areas of interest: food, housing and mental and behavioral health. While organizations are permitted to submit proposals that encompass one or more of these focus areas, the allocation of funds remains at the sole discretion of The Trust and may be directed toward one or several distinct proposals accordingly. Consequently, each proposal should be articulated to enable it to be considered for funding on its own merits within any of the specified areas of interest.

19. **In the course of providing "policy-related services" and/or "policy-related supports," is the intent that the Policy and Advocacy grantees provide the other CRI grantees with the support they need to advocate for specific policies under their own organizational banners, or is it also intended that the Policy and Advocacy grantee would advocate for said policies alongside CRI grantee under the Policy and Advocacy grantee's organizational banner?**
The intent of the Policy and Advocacy funding is multifaceted. We expect the Policy and Advocacy grantees to provide a spectrum of support to fellow CRI grantees. This may range from aiding grantees in bolstering their capacity for advocacy and public policy work under their own banners to, where appropriate and mutually agreed upon, advocating alongside them under the Policy and Advocacy grantee's banner. The level and nature of support will be tailored to suit the specific needs and strategic aims of each grantee engaging in policy advocacy during the grant cycle.

20. **For applicants applying to provide capacity-building services, would they not need to know to whom you have made grants in your three focus areas before they could answer**

the question of what specific community and capacity-building needs will be met through capacity building, or what the specific capacity-building needs of these organizations are?
No, capacity-building assistance applicants will not know which organizations were awarded CRI program and service delivery grants before submitting their applications. Capacity-building applicants should submit a work plan and narrative that addresses how CRI grantees will be engaged throughout the grant period, which includes explaining how grantee needs will be assessed. The six-month planning period can be used to determine grantee needs and solidify capacity-building assistance plans for the entire grant period.

21. **I am aware the Community Resilience Initiatives will not support capital grants. Can you give me guidance to determine whether my grant application would be considered a capital grant?**
Suppose the primary objective of the expenses is capital in nature (e.g., more than $5,000 for improvement of property, purchases of equipment with a life value of more than one year). In that case, the request is considered capital. If the request has a component of a capital/business expense, but the request overall is for programming, then it is a programmatic grant. An example of a programmatic request with capital expenses could be purchasing a vehicle ($25,000) in a total programmatic request of $100,000 to support mobile food provision efforts. If the request were to renovate a vehicle ($100,000), it would be a capital grant.

22. **Is bulk food purchasing for free distribution an allowable expense?**
Yes, purchasing food for free distribution would be an allowable activity and expense.

23. **Can an organization budget for a staff role for grant oversight, or is that considered administrative and covered in indirect costs?**
Grant oversight is an element of project management and grantsmanship and, as such, can be justified as a direct expense.