WE POWER THE INNOVATORS.

Accelerating new solutions for mental wellness.













CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Community First Foundation is seeking nonprofits impacting the Denver metropolitan area to participate in The Innovators Society, an experience committed to improving mental wellness by investing in fresh, new ideas to improve awareness, foster well-being and change perceptions of mental illness.

1 in 4
adults copes with mental illness in a given year.

1,058
deaths by suicide in Colorado in 2014

The Innovators Society experience threads mental wellness into the fabric of society by identifying and funding promising, but not proven, approaches to mental wellness. Selected nonprofits participate in a year-long accelerator program to develop their ideas. The Society provides guidance and coaching to create strong, strategic plans. After nine months of preparation and practice, nonprofits present their program to a broader audience at The Community Pitch Showdown. Community First Foundation grant dollars are awarded based on real-time voting using cell phone technology. Voting is guided by the merit of the ideas presented and demonstrated need for funding.

The Innovators Society Key Dates

- Application Deadline October 13, 2015
- Selection and Notification November 19, 2015
- Nonprofit & Coach Matching Event
 December 10, 2015
- Coaching and Scrimmages
 January September 2016
- The Innovators Society's Pitch Scrimmage May 17, 2016
- Community Pitch Showdown September 30, 2016

We're Seeking Mental Wellness Innovations

If your nonprofit organization has an innovative idea with potential to change the face of mental wellness in the community, we want to hear from you.

We are looking for mental wellness innovations in one of these areas:

- 1. Early childhood mental wellness
- 2. Systems improvement
- 3. Changing the perceptions of mental health and mental illness

APPLY NOW!

Apply by Tuesday, October 13, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. MDT CommunityFirstFoundation.org/Innovators





WE BELIEVE IN THE INFINITE POWER OF PEOPLE.









Details

Four to six nonprofits are selected to participate in The Innovators Society's annual program. Participation requirements:

- Applicants must be a designated 501 (c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization, government equivalent or have a fiscal sponsor.
- Ideas must have an impact in the seven county Denver metropolitan area.
- Programs must align with at least one of Community First Foundation's mental wellness strategic priorities, which are early childhood mental wellness, systems improvement to mental wellness or changing perceptions of mental health and mental illness.
- Proposals must demonstrate a promising, but not yet proven, approach to mental wellness. Your idea must be developed beyond the concept phase, but may lack funding or the resources to pursue the idea further.

Program Timeline



CULTIVATE
October December
2015







Nonprofits with promising, but not proven, approaches to mental wellness apply to participate in The Innovators Society.

Applications are due by Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Four to six organizations are selected to participate in The Innovators Society.

Each receives a \$25,000 grant for coaching support. Coaches work with the nonprofits for approximately nine months on strategic planning, marketing and branding and preparing a presentation pitch.

Three practice pitch scrimmages are held in January, March and April.

The final practice scrimmage, called The Innovators Society Pitch Scrimmage, is an opportunity for the nonprofits to receive guidance and feedback from community leaders and experts in the field of mental wellness. This special event helps prepare each organization for the final event, The Community Pitch

Showdown.

The Community
Pitch Showdown is a
theater-style event
during which
The Innovators
Society and a group
of community
leaders, investors
and funders vote
on the final
presentation
pitches.

Up to \$500,000 in Community First Foundation grant dollars are awarded based on real-time voting.

The Innovators Society is one way Community First Foundation is powering community. We believe opportunities for innovative and impactful work in mental wellness exist.

Please visit The Innovators Society webpage for more information and details on the application process at **CommunityFirstFoundation.org/Innovators** or contact us at **720.898.5900**.



