

Request for Proposal

2017 Grant Opportunity

Improving Conditions of Community Health in Jeffco

Introduction

Community First Foundation (the Foundation) is pleased to announce a grant opportunity to support nonprofit organizations working to improve conditions of community health in Jefferson County (Jeffco).

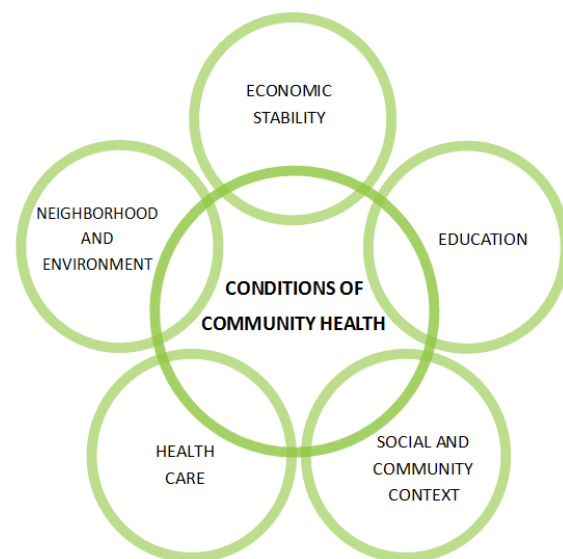
This grant opportunity aims to support a wide-range of organizations, agencies, and groups providing services in Jeffco currently improving conditions of community health such as food security, early childhood development, arts and culture, access to health care and access to affordable housing, to name a few.

In 2017, the Foundation will award grants through an open, competitive process to eligible nonprofit organizations and government entities.

Background and Overview

The Foundation learned from the community that improving quality of life is complex and depends on various conditions at the community level that affect individual health. These conditions are often referred to as “social determinants of health,” and include economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment. These social determinants of health are designed to classify ways to create social and physical environments at the population-level that promote good health for all.¹

The Foundation has adopted the term “conditions of community health” to better reflect the integral role of community in addressing these health factors. We must address each of these conditions to holistically improve the health outcomes of



¹ Healthy People 2020 Approach to Determinants of Health: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

the broad community. The nonprofit sector’s contribution to these conditions of community health are significant and Community First Foundation is committed to supporting this work in Jeffco over the next year.

The Foundation has strong roots and a special relationship with Jefferson County as a result of [our history](#) with Lutheran Medical Center. This creates unique opportunities to make a positive impact in the quality of life in Jefferson County and build a stronger community.

Conditions of Community Health Framework for 2017 Grant Opportunity

Our framework for the Improving Conditions of Community Health in Jeffco grant guides us in selecting appropriate grant recipients. It is modeled after the [Healthy People 2020’s social determinants of health framework](#), which the Foundation believes captures the areas in which many nonprofits working in Jeffco are already improving the community’s health.

Key components help define each of the five main conditions of community health. While the list of key components below is not exhaustive, the framework and our 2017 grant opportunity focus on prevention and intervention.

Conditions of Community Health Framework

Conditions of Community Health	Key Components
Economic Stability	Poverty
	Employment
	Food Security
	Housing Security
Education	High School Graduation
	Enrollment in Higher Education
	Language and Literacy
	Early Childhood Education and Development
Social and Community Context	Social Cohesion
	Civic Participation
	Discrimination
	Incarceration
Health and Health Care	Access to Health Care
	Access to Primary Care
	Health Literacy
	Mental Health
Neighborhood and Built Environment	Access to Healthy Foods
	Quality of Housing
	Crime and Violence
	Environmental Conditions

The conditions of community health are often accompanied by population-level indicators that provide a barometer on how we are doing as a community to improve the ways in which people live, learn, work, play, grow and age. We evaluate our progress toward improving conditions of community health through these population-level indicators, such as life expectancy and birth weight.

Grant Opportunity and Requirements

The 2017 grant opportunity will support nonprofit organizations and government entities whose work is improving the Jeffco community in any of the areas defined by the Conditions of Community Health Framework.

The Foundation will provide up to one year of funding to organizations that can demonstrate strong evidence or a proven track-record of improving the lives of Jeffco residents in one or more conditions of community health. Each application will be rated on the following criteria:

- **Best practices or evidence-informed practices**
 - The organization's approach uses the best available evidence from research and/or local expertise based on evaluation data.
- **Goal-Oriented**
 - The organization can articulate clear, measurable and plausible program and performance goals. The organization demonstrates capacity and will to put in what it takes to achieve goals.
- **Track-Record**
 - The organization demonstrates strong, existing impact in one of more condition(s) of community health with clear organizational capacity to achieve impact.
- **Wide-Web**
 - The impact of the program has a broad reach and the organization is connected and contributing to the larger community network and impact.

Available Funds

Eligible organizations may receive up to 10% of their proposed program/operating budget, however most grant amounts will be in a range of \$5,000 to \$25,000. The grant is a one-time opportunity with the grant period lasting 12 months.

This \$1 million open, competitive grant opportunity is powered by \$500,000 in the Foundation's discretionary funds and \$500,000 from the Lutheran Legacy Fund at Community First Foundation.

There is a limited pool of funds available for this opportunity. Organizations with many programs should consider prioritizing their request based on the limited funds available and the Foundation's goal to have a broad reach in the community.

Eligibility

Organizations wishing to apply to the 2017 grant opportunity must meet the following criteria.

- **Services in Jefferson County.** Organizations must already be providing services in Jefferson County. Organizations do not need to be headquartered in Jefferson County in order to apply.
- **Addressing conditions of community health.** Grant proposals must align with one or more of the conditions of community health detailed above (economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment).
- **Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government equivalent.** Eligible applicants must be recognized by the IRS as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3), government equivalent, or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. The following are not eligible for grants from Community First Foundation:
 - Individuals
 - For profit organizations
 - Fundraising events
 - Private foundations
 - Other foundations or nonprofits that distribute money to recipients of its own selection
 - Endowments
 - Organizations that practice discrimination of any kind
 - Organizations that do not have fiscal responsibility for the proposed project
- **Willing to share data.** The Foundation intends to use the information about the organizations who apply to inform a broader collective impact approach that is in development in Jeffco. Applicants must be willing to allow the Foundation to use or share information contained in the grant application to inform community-level data initiatives and establish a network that will be accessible to a public audience.

Application Procedures

Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit an application for Improving Conditions of Community Health in Jefferson County grant program through the Foundation's online application portal at app.smarterselect.com/programs/39448-Community-First-Foundation

Deadline to Apply

Organizations who meet eligibility requirements may submit applications no later than: **5:00 p.m. MDT on Thursday, July 13, 2017.**

Key Dates

April 17, 2017	Grant opportunity announcement
July 13, 2017	Deadline for application
Sept. 2017	Grantees notified
Oct. 2017- Oct. 2018	Grant period
Nov. 2018	Final reports due

Additional Information

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Paul Mulligan, grants and donor services manager, at pmulligan@CommunityFirstFoundation.org or 720.898.5918.

About Community First Foundation

Since 1975, Community First Foundation has been helping generous donors and innovative nonprofits come together to improve the quality of life and create positive change in Jefferson County, the Denver metropolitan area and beyond. We serve as a connector, partner, collaborator and resource to fuel the power of community for the greater good. We are proud to use our energy, leadership and trusted stewardship of financial resources to energize giving across our state, strengthen nonprofits, support donors and find new ways to address community needs. For more information, visit CommunityFirstFoundation.org.