

Request for Proposals (RFP)

2023 Bright Futures Roadmap Refresh Grant Opportunity



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About Community First Foundation20





Overview

Community First Foundation is excited to share a grant opportunity to support community partners serving Jefferson County’s youngest children and families. This grant opportunity provides operating support to organizations working to implement the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap strategies and coordinate efforts to ensure Jefferson County families have the support they need to promote their child’s health and well-being.

Prior to COVID-19 a group of diverse stakeholders came together to create a shared community vision to best support the county’s children, prenatal through age eight. Over a year long process, community partners informed the needs, challenges, and opportunities for ensuring that all Jefferson County families have the support they need to promote their child’s health and well-being for sustained success in school and in life. Their process and shared vision were captured in the development of the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap (Roadmap). Last year, Community First Foundation supported a reconvening with community partners to reassess and prioritize actionable steps to implementing the vision to support Jeffco’s children and families.

We learned from our community partners that the Roadmap still aligns with our community’s needs and developed the following action plan based on the current early childhood landscape. The action plan identified outstanding infrastructure needs for Roadmap implementation and priorities for action over the next year. This grant opportunity supports partners advancing the Roadmap strategies and infrastructure needs as outlined in the updated action plan.

Background

Our community prospers when children and families thrive, yet many young children in Jeffco don't benefit from access to early care learning opportunities and support to reach their full potential. Research shows that quality prenatal care and early childhood experiences, delivered in an equitable manner, develop the social emotional and cognitive skills all children need to be successful. To ensure that all Jefferson County families have the support they need to promote their children's health and well-being for sustained success in school and in life, partners must work together across sectors and settings, and over the long-term to provide comprehensive education, prevention, early intervention, and treatment services.



Important Information

Eligibility

Organizations wishing to apply for this grant opportunity must meet the following criteria:

Service to Jeffco residents. Organizations must already be providing services or support to Jeffco residents. Organizations do not need to be headquartered in Jeffco in order to apply.

Registered 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit or government equivalent. Eligible applicants must be recognized by the IRS as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), government equivalent or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity.

Organizations: Organizations preferably with knowledge and expertise in early care and learning programs and promoting child and family social-emotional wellbeing, including schools, school districts or government agencies.

The following are not eligible for grant funding for this opportunity:

- Individuals
- For-profit entities
- Fundraising events
- Private foundations
- Other foundations or nonprofits that distribute money to recipients of their own selection
- Endowments
- Organizations that practice discrimination of any kind
- Organizations that do not have fiscal responsibility for the proposed project

What we'll fund

Funding recommendations will prioritize the following criteria:

- Increase accessibility to school district and community-based early learning programs (child care, after school care), Home Visitation programs, or other early childhood mental health and wellness programs.
- Improve quality of early care and learning programs and social-emotional wellbeing supports.
- Support recruitment, retention, and compensation for early childhood and early childhood mental health workforce.
- Improve families' connection to community support and services to make it easier for families to find and receive the support or intervention for their children.
- Policy opportunities or solutions to sustain the long-term vision of our community.

Willing to share data. The Foundation intends to use the information about organizations that apply to inform our Jeffco network. By submitting a grant request, applicants agree to allow the Foundation to use or share information contained in the grant application to inform community or drive deeper connections within Jeffco.

Award Amounts

Grant awards will range between \$15,000 - \$50,000. We anticipate making up to 20 awards with a six-month grant term.

Key Dates

March 27

Applications Open

April 4, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. MST

Questions about the grant? Register for Office Hours and get your questions answered.

[Register](#)

REGISTER

April 28, 5 p.m.

Deadline for application. 5 p.m. MST

May 31

Award notifications

June 1-December 31

Grant Period

January 31, 2024 Final Reports Due

Application and submission instructions

Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit an online application for the **2023 Bright Futures** grant opportunity through Community First Foundation's application portal, SmarterSelect, beginning March 27, 2023.

APPLY

Additional Resources

[Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap](#)

Contacts



Nazia Hasan
Director of Community Impact
nhasan@communityfirstfoundation.org
720.898.5939



If you have any technical questions about the online application, such as creating an account or uploading an attachment, please contact:

Kelly Degering
Grants Manager
kdegering@CommunityFirstFoundation.org
720.898.5918.

Appendix

Grant Worksheet for Bright Futures Applicants

Use this worksheet to prepare your application. The questions below mirror the official application. We recommend writing and editing in Word, then copying and pasting into the SmarterSelect application.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Grant Contact Full Name *

Grant Contact Job Title *

Grant Contact Phone Number *

Grant Contact Email Address *

CEO/Executive Director Prefix: Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other

CEO/Executive Director Full Name *

CEO/Executive Director Job Title *

CEO/Executive Director Phone Number *

CEO/Executive Director Email Address *

Organization Legal Name

Organization DBA (if applicable)

Organization EIN

Organization Website

Organization Classification

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Organization operating under fiscal sponsorship of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Government entity or government equivalent
- 501(c)(4) social welfare organization
- For-profit organization

Fiscal Sponsor's Name

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement (upload attachment, max file size 10 MB)

Is your organization primarily BIPOC-led or primarily BIPOC-serving? (select all that apply, this answer will not affect your eligibility)

- Primarily BIPOC-led
- Primarily BIPOC-serving
- Neither

Does your organization currently have a profile on Catchafire.org? (If you're unsure, no worries, we will check!) *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Your organization's total operating expenses for the current fiscal year

Your organization's total operating expenses for the last fiscal year

Your organization's operating budget for the current fiscal year (attachment, usually Excel, maybe Word, max file size 10 MB)

Your organization’s financial statements from the most recently completed fiscal year (must include a Statement of Activities/Profit and Loss statement and Balance Sheet) (attachment, usually Excel, maybe Word)

Is there anything you'd like to share with us regarding your overall financial health that may or may not be reflected in the above responses? Max # of words 100

ORGANIZATION IMPACT

We are interested in knowing how many individuals your organization serves annually. Please fill in at least one field below that best aligns with how your organization tracks the number of people you serve. *Note: Prior to submitting your application, please reach out to us if you did not or do not track data related to people served.*

Total # of unduplicated, unique individuals served in the previous recorded year.

Total # of individuals served regardless of duplication.

Type of Output Tracked if Individuals Served is not a function of your business model

Please tell us the percentage of your organization’s work that directly impacts individuals served in Jefferson County.

We understand that some services require multiple interventions or continuous service over time. Please select the best “characterization” of your work in service to Jeffco residents among the following:

- Low Dosage: Serves a larger population of clients who interface for limited or singular purpose in relatively few or irregular interventions
- High Dosage: Typically serves fewer numbers of clients with multiple services or a single type of service over a longer period of time
- Mixed
- Other (please use narrative box below) Max # of words: 250

We are interested in understanding how the impact of your work in Jeffco benefits residents living in corridors with higher concentrations of poverty. Please select from the list below where your organization is providing direct services or working on behalf of residents living in those corridors.

- Arvada Corridor: Between Sheridan on the East and Ward Road on the West and from 41st Avenue South to 60th Street North.
- Wheat Ridge, Edgewater and Lakewood Corridor: Between Sheridan on the East and Simms/South Union St. with westward expansion along 6th Avenue near Denver West on the West and 6th Avenue South to 25th Street North.
- South Lakewood/Golden Corridor: Between Sheridan on the East and Johnson Road in Golden on the West and Jewell Avenue (South) to 6th Avenue (North).
- Unincorporated-Rural Jefferson County: considered the mountain rural area of Jefferson County.
- Do not provide services to these areas.

Help us better understand how your work in Jeffco aligns with our objective of supporting a thriving Jeffco community. Community First Foundation defines a thriving Jeffco community as one where residents live fulfilled lives, are meaningfully involved in matters that affect their community, and where residents connect with, appreciate and support one another. This definition complements our strategic impact work in the areas of Essential Needs, Economic Prosperity, Resilient and Connected Neighborhoods and Civic Engagement.

Please select every category that applies to a program or service you provide for the benefit of Jeffco residents – if your organization is advocacy or policy-focused, please select categories based on the focus of your work in Jeffco. *

- Jeffco residents live fulfilled lives
- Jeffco residents are meaningfully involved in matters that affect their lives and communities
- Jeffco residents connect with, appreciate and support one another

Jeffco Residents Live Fulfilled Lives, sub-categories:

- Employment or Workforce Development
- Housing (any type of service helps a residents find or maintain housing, whether temporary or permanent)
- Early Care and Education (Screening, Home Visitation, Child Care, Early Childhood Mental Health, Early Care Workforce, Resource and Referral, and Parent Education)
- Education – outside of early childhood and specific to K-12, post-secondary and adult life skills (E.g. money/wealth building).
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Food Security – direct food assistance
- Food Security – helping people attain food subsidy.
- Food Security – Local production and delivery of healthy, nutritious food
- Victim Services

Jeffco residents are meaningfully involved in matters that affect their lives and communities, sub-categories:

- Political efficacy
- Volunteering
- Civic Engagement
- Changes to neighborhood design (physical)
- Involvement in community groups

Jeffco residents connect with, appreciate and support one another, sub-categories:

- Supporting community involvement in decision making
- Participation in events and groups
- Equitable access to arts and culture
- Improving the built environment
- Social mixing
- Building Social capital
- Creating a sense of belonging
- “Neighbor-liness”

COMMUNITY WORK

Grant request amount

What is your funding proposal? As succinctly as possible, please describe a brief summary (Max # of words:250) of your proposal. Funding recommendations will prioritize the following criteria:

- Increase accessibility to school district and community-based early learning programs (child care, after school care), Home Visitation programs, or other early childhood mental health and wellness programs.
- Improve quality of early care and learning programs and social-emotional wellbeing supports.
- Support recruitment, retention, and compensation for early childhood and early childhood mental health workforce.
- Improve families' connection to community support and services to make it easier for families to find and receive the support or intervention for their children.
- Policy opportunities or solutions to sustain the long-term vision of our community.

Please estimate how many unduplicated Jeffco residents you serve on an annual basis?

We have a commitment to tracking data to demonstrate success in serving Jeffco organizations advancing our Bright Futures mission. If awarded, to the best of your ability, please include your current numbers served and if funded, projected numbers served for the data below that applies to your application. Please enter data that is applicable to your application and the Cornerstones and strategies you're seeking to advance.

We are asking for data related to the following:

- Jeffco parents with low to moderate household income have access to child care that meets their needs to remain employed.
- Jeffco's Early Care and Learning sector recruit and retain early care and learning educators and early childhood mental health workers.
- Increased quality of early care and learning programs in Jeffco as defined by Colorado Shines Quality Rating Standards.
- Increased community-based enrichment programs available to children between the ages of birth to 8 in Jeffco.
- Jeffco families have access to coordinated resources and services that promote social and emotional wellbeing for their children and themselves.
- Advocacy efforts or policy development to advance the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap.

For "current," please provide actuals as of 12/31/22. For "projected," please provide anticipated numbers for the grant term for this opportunity (June - December 2023).

Current number of early care programs offered outside standard business hours of operation in Jeffco: *

Projected number of early care programs offered outside standard business hours of operation in Jeffco: *

Current number of qualified early care educators: *

Projected number of qualified early care educators: *

Current number of early childhood mental health workers: *

Projected number of early childhood mental health workers: *

Current early care educators' retention rate (educator retention rates are defined by the number of educators serving Jeffco families retained in the profession for one year or more): *

Projected early care educators' retention rate (educator retention rates are defined by the number of educators serving Jeffco families retained in the profession for one year or more): *

Current retention rate for early childhood mental health workers (early childhood mental health workers' rates are defined by the number of early childhood mental health workers serving Jeffco families retained in the profession for one year or more): *

Projected retention rate for early childhood mental health workers (early childhood mental health workers' rates are defined by the number of early childhood mental health workers serving Jeffco families retained in the profession for one year or more): *

Current Colorado Shines Quality Rating level *

Projected number of early care and learning initiatives or efforts completed to make progress to increase Colorado Shines Rating level: *

Please provide a brief description of the above efforts, if needed. (max # of words:250)

Current number of community-based enrichment programs available to children between the ages of birth to 8 in Jeffco: *

Projected number of community-based enrichment programs available to children between the ages of birth to 8 in Jeffco: *

Number of community partnerships formed to increase coordination of resources available to families: *

Number of communications and outreach materials developed for families to increase their awareness of social and emotional resources available to them: *

Number of partnerships formed to make progress on action steps to advance Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap strategies: *

Number of advocacy efforts completed to advance Roadmap activities: *

Number of actionable policy strategies outlined in Roadmap completed: *

In service to the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap, what are the primary activities you will undertake to achieve your intended outcomes in this one-year grant period? Please select all that apply.

- Cornerstone 1: Families in Jeffco have a variety of high-quality early care and education options that meet their needs and are provided through a mixed-delivery system.**
- Cornerstone 2: Families in Jeffco are supported in their roles as children's first and most important teachers through an array of home visitation services that meet their diverse needs.**
- Cornerstone 3: Programs and providers in Jeffco have access to mental health consultation in order to fully support families' social-emotional well-being.**
- Cornerstone 4: Jeffco has a robust screening, assessment, and referral system that addresses social-emotional, behavioral, and social determinants of health.**

Cornerstone 1, sub-categories:

- To increase the availability of quality early care and education**
 - Desired outcomes: Increased number of eligible early care and education programs in Jeffco *and* increased number of early care and education initiatives in Jeffco receiving public funding**
- To recruit, retain, and support a qualified workforce**
 - Desired outcomes: Increased number of qualified early care and education workforce members *and* increased retention rate of early care and education providers**
- To ensure parents have access to additional enrichment opportunities for their children**
- Desired outcome: Increased number of accessible community-based enrichment programs and activities**

Cornerstone 2, sub-categories:

- To increase families' access to home visitation programs**
 - Desired outcome: Increased number of families enrolled in home visitation programs**
- To support families in choosing the type of program that best fits their unique needs**
 - Desired outcome: Increased coordination and supportive processes for connecting families with home visitation programs**
- To recruit, retain, and support a strong home visitation workforce**
 - Desired outcome: Increased number of qualified home visitation workforce members and increased retention rate of home visitors**

Cornerstone 3, sub-categories:

- To build public awareness about the importance of social-emotional well-being of young children**
 - **Desired outcome: Increased number of Roadmap partners agreed to utilize consistent messaging**
- To recruit, retain, and support early childhood mental health consultants**
 - **Desired outcome: Increased number of qualified mental health consultants and increased retention rate of mental health consultants**
- To assure mental health consultation is available where children learn, grow, and develop**
 - **Desired outcome: Increased number of child care, preschool, and medical settings that have access to mental health consultation**

Cornerstone 4, sub-categories:

- To create coordinated early childhood development screening, assessment, and referral systems**
 - **Desired outcome: Increased number of children screened using screening guidelines**
- To develop consumer-facing, cross-agency data sharing solutions**
 - **Desired outcome: Successful pilot of data sharing solution with two partners**
- To improve families' connection to community supports and services to make it easier for families to find and receive the support or intervention for their children**
 - **Desired outcome: Increased number of early childhood navigators participating in the collaborative utilize guidelines and processes**

**Describe what success looks like in the longer term (ie, sustainability beyond the grant period).
Max Number of Words: 250**

**To what extent will the communities most impacted inform and guide the work of the organization (ie, how we implement the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap)?
Max Number of Words: 250**

How does your organization plan to work in close partnership with other organizations or groups in carrying out your approach to the project (ie, collaboration with Triad Bright Futures Project)? Max Number of Words: 250

Please provide detailed information about any relevant organizations you collaborate with and how you collaborate with them to achieve your work for this specific project, including the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Please do not provide in your response solely a list of partners. Max Number of Words: 250

Community First Foundation has adopted the Results-Based Accountability framework for measuring the performance of our grants (useful guidance located [here](#)). The following measures should follow these guidelines.

Performance Measure 1: "What will we do?" List expected outputs you will accomplish by the end of your grant timeframe such as number clients served, number of activities performed, etc. Max Number of Words: 50

Performance Measure 2: "How well will we do it?" List process measures and/or quality measures such as percent of timely actions, percent of complete actions, client-to-staff ratio, staff turnover rate, unit cost, etc. Max Number of Words: 50

Performance Measure 3: "How will we know anyone is better off?" List outcome measures such as number and percent of clients who will show improvement in skills/knowledge, attitude, behavior or circumstance. Max Number of Words: 50

About Community First Foundation

Community First Foundation has been connecting donors and innovative Colorado nonprofits since 1975. As the community foundation serving Jefferson County, we are committed to connecting ideas, people and nonprofits so that all Jeffco communities have the opportunity to thrive. We help donors with philanthropic planning, support nonprofits with grants and resources, and together, build resilient and connected communities.

We believe it is hard to thrive when you cannot meet your most essential needs and that when our neighbors are economically secure, everyone benefits. We believe that resilient and connected neighborhoods are the backbone of a strong community, and that civil discourse and social justice is key to strengthening this place we call home.

We are passionate, we are hungry, and we love tough problems and new challenges. We set big goals that require the long view, but we know that our work today is the first step toward a better tomorrow. Let's dream big and together, make good happen!

