Aspen Community Foundation (ACF) provides funding to strengthen the capacity of nonprofit organizations that help make the Aspen to Parachute region diverse, culturally rich, and a place where all people have equitable opportunities to thrive.

APPLYING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/CAPACITY BUILDING

Please contact Scott Kenner, Grants Manager, by email or call 970.925.9300 for the grant application. You can expect a decision within four weeks of submitting your application.

Requests of up to $4,000 may be submitted. Please note, as a practice, ACF will not fund the entire cost of an organization's technical assistance/capacity building request, even if it is $4,000 or under. For the work to be successful, we believe an organization should be willing to invest its own dollars in the technical assistance/capacity building project. Prior to applying, applicants should have chosen a consultant and have a scope of work already outlined for the project. If you need recommendations for consultants, please click here. This is not an exhaustive list and may not completely capture the consultant's array of services. We encourage you to contact the consultants individually to learn more.

REQUEST TYPES
1. Professional consultation to develop strategic plans such as
   a. Theory of change
   b. Organizational
   c. Fundraising
   d. Program expansion
2. Leadership development
   a. Executive coaching
   b. Board development

ELIGIBILITY
1. Aspen Community Foundation support is limited to nonprofit organizations located in and whose work primarily serves the residents of Pitkin and Garfield counties and the Roaring Fork Valley portion of Eagle County.
2. Applicants must be tax exempt under the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. Although each proposal is reviewed separately, grants are usually not considered for:
   a. Organizations outside ACF's service area
   b. Projects which have been completed prior to allocation decisions
   c. Political campaigns
   d. Fundraising events
   e. Individual schools, classrooms, departments, programs or education foundations/committees that have not coordinated the request with their central school district/university administration or fundraising arm
   f. Start-up organizations (less than 1 year from receipt of 501(c)(3) approval)
   g. Organizations primarily supported by tax-derived funding unless the funding supports a new program outside of the organization's operating budget
4. Technical assistance/capacity building funding is limited to one request per organization per year. Requests for similar purposes submitted within a five-year period will not be considered.
5. Aspen Community Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sexual preference, physical circumstances or national origin. Applicants must hold similar standards. Grant applications from organizations known to have discriminatory policies will not be considered.
6. Organizations receiving funding will be required to sign an agreement setting forth the grant's terms and conditions. The agreement will include marketing and reporting requirements, limitations on the grant funds, disposition of unused funds and other conditions.

CRITERIA

Requests will be vetted using a rubric with the following criteria:

- Alignment with one or more of ACF's current focus areas
  - Early Childhood
  - Youth Empowerment
  - Community Leadership
- Project description
  - How the project will advance the organization and why it is being undertaken at this time
  - Why ACF's funding is needed
  - How this project benefits the community

Total possible score: 12 points

CRITERIA	EXCELLENT – 3	AVERAGE – 2	POOR - 1
Focus Area Alignment	Aligns strongly with an ACF focus area	Aligns tangentially with an ACF focus area	Does not align with an ACF focus area
Why the Project and Why Now	Will strongly advance the organization's mission; strongly demonstrated the need and reason for undertaking now	Will somewhat advance the organization's mission; adequately demonstrated the need and reason for undertaking now	Not clear how it will advance the organization's mission; the need and reason for undertaking now are unclear
Need for ACF Funding	Demonstrated a strong need for ACF funding; project will not happen without ACF's support	ACF funding would be helpful, but project will continue without it	Not clear why ACF's funding is needed
Benefit to Community	Critical benefit to community	Good benefit to community	No clear benefit to community