



Giving NETWORK

Aspen, CO



APPLICANT GUIDE



OUR MISSION

Through collaborative learning the Giving Network provides a forum for philanthropists to learn about critical community needs, discuss opportunities and decide where to grant pooled membership funds.

OUR VISION

The Giving Network envisions a region where committed philanthropists are actively engaged in learning about and supporting the local nonprofit sector to address the critical needs from Aspen to Parachute.

OUR MOTTO

LEARN. DISCUSS. DECIDE.



RFP APPLICATION

Members of the Giving Network meet four times throughout the year to learn about the region's issues and needs, discuss their values and decision-making criteria, and decide as a group how to allocate funding.

While the Giving Network does use some of Aspen Community Foundation's administrative support services, the Giving Network makes its own funding decisions.

Approximately \$750,000 is available to grant in 2026 over all three cohorts. Historically the average grant size has been around \$38,000. Organizations may request up to \$100,000, but are encouraged not to ask for more than 10% of their annual operating budget.

We encourage organizations to request funding for a specific, one-time cost or organizational need that strengthens operations or builds capacity. Examples include a program or project expansion or growth, staff professional development or training, technical assistance or upgrades, capital renovations, improvements, or changes.

Organizations may request funding from one of the following three cohort focus areas.



BASIC NEEDS

Financial Stability

Food Security

Housing

Immigrant Support

Social Safety Net

Women's Health



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Academic Support

Career Readiness

Disability Support

Domestic and Family Violence

Early Childhood Education

Social Emotional Wellbeing

Wrap Around Support



MENTAL HEALTH

Creative Arts

Prevention Services

Student Support

Substance Use

Therapy and Treatment

The Giving Network is focused on supporting health and human services organizations or programs that serve the Aspen to Parachute region. Organizations or programs that focus on the following topics may not be competitive or eligible for funding: arts, culture, environment and conservation, international issues, politics, or animal welfare.



2026 APPLICANTS



BASIC NEEDS

Financial Stability

1. Colorado Mountain College Foundation
2. Early Learning Ventures
3. The Savings Collaborative

Food Insecurity

4. Food Bank of the Rockies
5. Harvest For Hunger
6. Highwater Farm
7. LIFT-UP
8. Safe and Abundant Nutrition Alliance
9. UpRoot Colorado

Housing

10. Alpine Legal Services
11. Habitat for Humanity of the Roaring Fork Valley
12. Mountain Valley Developmental Services, Inc.
13. Senior Housing Options
14. West Mountain Regional Housing Coalition
15. Western Slope Veterans Coalition
16. Community Office for Resource Efficiency
17. Aspen Journalism

Immigrant Support

18. Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
19. Carbondale Community Nonprofit Center

Social Safety Net

20. Catholic Charities, Western Slope
21. Mountain Family Health Centers
22. River Center of New Castle, Inc.
23. West Mountain Regional Health Alliance

Women's Health

24. Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative
25. Great Expectations
26. La Clinica Del Pueblo dba The People's Clinic
27. Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, Inc.
28. Pregnancy Resource Center Inc.
29. The Double Helix Doula Project
30. Wellspring Health Access



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Academic Support

31. Access AfterSchool
32. Aspen Public Radio
33. Aspen Science Center
34. Aspen Words
35. Raising A Reader Aspen to Parachute
36. Summit54
37. Theatre Aspen

Career Readiness

- 38. Basalt Education Foundation
- 39. English In Action
- 40. Roaring Fork PreCollegiate
- 41. The Farm Collaborative
- 42. Youthentity

Disability Support

- 43. Ascendigo Autism Services
- 44. Aspen Valley Friendship Circle
- 45. Best Buddies Colorado
- 46. Advocate Safehouse Project

Domestic and Family Violence

- 47. CASA of the Ninth
- 48. Response
- 49. Aspen Center for Environmental Studies

Early Childhood Education

- 50. Blue Lake Preschool
- 51. Early Childhood Network
- 52. Early Learning Center of Aspen
- 53. Emmanuel Lutheran School & Church
- 54. Our School
- 55. Wildwood School

Social Emotional Wellbeing

- 56. FocusedKids
- 57. Reach Out and Read Colorado
- 58. The Buddy Program

Wrap Around Support

- 59. Family Resource Center of the Roaring Fork Schools
- 60. Garfield School District Re-2
- 61. Valley Settlement
- 62. Aspen Family Connections
- 63. Aspen Youth Center
- 64. Colorado River Valley Team



MENTAL HEALTH

Creative Arts

- 65. Andy Zanca Youth Empowerment Program
- 66. Music Therapy Retreats
- 67. Stage of Life (SOL) Theatre Company
- 68. The Art Base
- 69. VOICES

Prevention Services

- 70. AspenOUT
- 71. Garfield County School District #16
- 72. High Country Volunteers
- 73. PFLAG Roaring Fork Valley
- 74. Stepping Stones of the Roaring Fork Valley
- 75. University of Denver

Student Support

- 76. Colorado River BOCES
- 77. Colorado Rocky Mountain School
- 78. COMPASS for Lifelong Discovery
- 79. Kids Connect, Inc.

Substance Use

- 80. Blue Rising
- 81. Health Solutions West Foundation, Inc
- 82. High Rockies Harm Reduction
- 83. Recovery Resources
- 84. The Meeting Place
- 85. YouthZone

Therapy and Treatment

- 86. Aspen Hope Center
- 87. Smiling Goat Ranch
- 88. Two Rivers Community School
- 89. WindWalkers Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Center

BASIC NEEDS

Supports addressing essential human needs for living a dignified life in our region, which includes: financial stability, food security, and access to affordable healthcare and housing.

Co-chairs:

Stephen Sander & Pollyanna Breman

Membership Coordinator:

Katya Sternberg

Total number of Children & Family applicants: **30**

Total amount requested: **\$1,644,000**

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Financial Stability

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Food Security

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Housing

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Immigrant Support

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Social Safety Net

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Women's Health



COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE FOUNDATION

cmcfoundation.org

Mission Statement

To offer accessible, personalized, and affordable programs across a wide array of disciplines for specialized certificate and undergraduate degree programs, adult basic education, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Operating Budget: \$2,020,629

Program Budget: \$21,387

Grant Request: \$37,500

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 students annually

About

Colorado Mountain College (CMC) provides accessible education supporting economic mobility and workforce stability. Through its Bridge programs – including English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency (HSE), GED preparation, and Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) – CMC serves students facing barriers related to language, cost, work schedules, and interrupted education. Bridge programs serve as the first step for students completing foundational education or returning to school to pursue college or workforce training. CMC has strengthened student outcomes through Multilingual Academic Pathways, Advising, and Success (MAPAS), an initiative providing culturally and linguistically responsive support that helps multilingual students access academic and career pathways. Bridge programs serve hundreds of students annually. CMC's vision is a region where foundational education no longer limits upward economic mobility, enabling families to build sustainable futures.

Community Served

Bridge programs serve students working toward foundational education while balancing jobs and family responsibilities. Many are multilingual, first-generation learners, or returning to school after time away from formal education. Key barriers are limited access to technology and tuition costs for entry-level coursework. Programs use online curriculum and remote instruction, requiring computer access. ESL courses build digital literacy needed for education and employment. Expiration of the Adult Education and Literacy Act (AELA) grant and other funding reduced tuition subsidies, and costs are expected to rise. These barriers risk placing foundational education out of reach for students seeking greater economic stability.

Funding Request for Tech/Scholarship Support for CMC Bridge Students

CMC is seeking \$37,500 to increase what we're able to offer and address two urgent barriers within its Bridge programs: technology access and rising tuition costs. Funding will support purchase of 45-50 loaner laptops, IT setup and maintenance, and scholarships offsetting lost tuition subsidies. Computer access is essential as coursework is increasingly digital. Devices will circulate among students across terms, allowing each computer to serve multiple learners annually and increasing participation across programs.

Since 2020, CMC's MAPAS initiative increased Bridge-to-matriculation rates from 1.1% to 4.2%, while students advancing into credit-bearing programs grew from 18 to nearly 80 students annually, even as Bridge enrollment expanded from 830 to over 2,000 students.

Funding will also support tuition and computer basics scholarships, key entry points for academic success. Temporary institutional funding replacing the AELA grant ends this year, and tuition increases will create new enrollment barriers. Scholarships will prioritize students progressing through levels, helping students continue toward diploma completion and further education or workforce opportunities, reinforcing economic stability from Aspen to Parachute.



EARLY LEARNING VENTURES

earlylearningventures.org

Mission Statement

To expand access to high-quality child care across the nation.

Operating Budget: \$10,294,167

Program Budget: \$232,909

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 30 families

About

Early Learning Ventures works alongside child care providers, ensuring high-quality child care through both innovative back-office supports and deeper, relationship-based services as an Early Head Start (EHS) grantee. ELV has leveraged EHS funding to expand services in Colorado, supporting child care providers, families, and children in Garfield County since 2015. ELV partners with approximately 40 child care providers in Adams, Arapahoe, Garfield, Mesa, Morgan, and Pueblo, positively impacting more than 1,500 children across those six counties. Since 85% of child care providers operate as small businesses with limited resources, ELV's approach centers on sustaining the child care ecosystem. By strengthening program quality and reducing administrative burden, ELV helps ensure families experience consistent high-quality care, while educators remain focused on what matters most: nurturing young children.

Community Served

ELV serves Garfield families with young children, including working parents navigating the cost of living with limited financial stability. Many families are vulnerable to unexpected expenses, such as medical bills or housing-related costs, that threaten household stability and the ability to maintain consistent child care. Median household incomes in Garfield County are still about \$8,000 below the household survival budget (Colorado Children's Campaign, 2025), leaving families with limited financial flexibility when unplanned expenses arise.

Funding Request for Garfield County Family Relief Fund

The Family Relief Fund helps ELV's EHS and non-EHS families at Fuller Child Care (12 children, New Castle) and Faith Lutheran Child Care (50 children, Carbondale) maintain access to affordable care during times of financial hardship. Many EHS families live at or below the federal poverty line, and unexpected expenses or income loss can make child care tuition an impossible burden.

ELV will provide short-term financial assistance through an application process for families experiencing hardship. Assistance may include support with child care tuition or essential overdue bills, preventing disruptions in care and supporting parents' ability to remain employed or continue education. This funding will complement existing subsidies or fill gaps when public assistance is unavailable. ELV staff will continue connecting families who receive support with additional resources that promote long-term stability.

This one-time funding strengthens Garfield County child care providers by preventing enrollment disruptions due to temporary financial hardship. Stabilizing access to care helps families maintain employment or education, reduces stress and family conflict, and supports healthy child development during critical early years.



THE SAVINGS COLLABORATIVE

savingscollaborative.org

Mission Statement

Builds financial resilience and generational wealth in low-income and historically excluded communities. We help people build savings, manage debt, plan ahead, and gain financial control—strengthening financial stability today and opening pathways to opportunity.

Operating Budget: \$1,219,900

Program Budget: \$580,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 2,000 Individuals and their families

About

Financial insecurity is widespread in the Roaring Fork Valley, where the high cost of living leaves many individuals and families one disruption away from crisis. The Savings Collaborative's comprehensive approach to financial resilience is to strengthen the financial foundation that helps people start to save, reduce debt, and build credit—often for the first time in their lives. Local ambassadors help bridge the gap between intention and action and reduce financial stress, while our technology and data systems support proactivity and engagement. We deliver services directly and in partnership with basic-needs and human services organizations, complementing and amplifying their impact regionally.

Community Served

SC primarily serves low-income and historically excluded individuals and families living and working in the Roaring Fork Valley. Many are service-sector workers, immigrants, and older adults who are employed—often in multiple jobs—yet still struggle to make ends meet in a high-cost economy where rent, childcare, healthcare, and transportation consume much of their income. Most live paycheck to paycheck, often without a savings cushion or access to safe credit, leaving them at risk of eviction or utility shutoffs when unexpected expenses or economic shocks arise. Language barriers, age, and disability compound these challenges. 14% of Coloradans are un/underbanked, relying on check-cashing, payday lenders, and other nontraditional services.

Funding Request for Roaring Fork Valley Financial Resilience

Funding will sustain core staff and infrastructure supporting SC's financial resilience services, advancing impact as follows:

- Basic needs stability. SC's multilingual savings app helps families plan across housing, utilities, food, childcare, and transportation, reducing eviction risk, utility shutoffs, and other issues. Measured by aggregate savings and the share of clients who progress from \$1,000 in savings to \$2,500, thresholds associated with reduced financial hardship.
- Debt reduction and hidden cost avoidance. SC coaching and debt management help clients make decisions to avoid overdraft fees, penalties, and high-interest debt. Measured by aggregate debt reduction (over \$500,000 to date), average debt reduction per client, and the number of coaching sessions.
- Safe emergency loans. SC provides low-cost emergency loans as alternatives to predatory and high-cost lending. Measured by responsible loan use and repayment, with defaults at zero to date and projected below 0.5% over the grant period.
- Credit building. One-on-one coaching helps clients establish, build, and repair credit to qualify for safer, lower-cost products. Measured by increased credit scores.
- Long-term opportunity. As people move out of crisis cycles, they are better positioned to pursue goals such as education, homeownership, or small business growth. Measured by goals achieved through ambassador support and educational workshop participation.



FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES

foodbankrockies.org/ws

Mission Statement

To ignite the power of community to nourish people facing hunger.

Operating Budget: \$136,060,426

Program Budget: \$966,143

Grant Request: \$75,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 3,000 Individuals

About

Food Bank of the Rockies has been addressing food insecurity in Colorado for 47+ years. As a critical component of Colorado's charitable food system, we source food at scale and make it accessible in communities of all shapes and sizes. The Food Bank expanded to the Western Slope in 1998 and today serves more than 28,000 neighbors along the Aspen to Parachute corridor each year. Last year we provided more than 3 million pounds of food in the region in collaboration with seven Hunger Relief Partners and through direct service programs, including Mobile Pantries, Totes of Hope (food bags for students), and Everyday Eats (home-delivered food boxes for older adults).

Community Served

Food Bank of the Rockies serves anyone in need of assistance, regardless of their circumstances or background. We collect minimal data from neighbors to reduce barriers to access, however we know that the majority are part of historically under served populations, including BIPOC communities, adults 60+, and rural and mountain communities. Along the Aspen to Parachute corridor, seasonal and service industry employees and their families are a primary focus. We also work to ensure that BIPOC communities receive familiar foods and that food is accessible to people living in remote areas or food deserts.

Funding Request for Nourishing Neighbors from Aspen to Parachute

Funds will support the distribution of fresh, nourishing food to neighbors accessing hunger relief services. We strive to offer a variety of fresh produce and culturally responsive items, such as masa flour, chiles, and other types of fresh produce. We utilize neighbor feedback to guide sourcing and maintain food preference lists, which currently represent 16 populations including many Latino communities from Aspen to Parachute. Fresh produce is made available through the following channels:

- Hunger Relief Partners, who receive all fresh produce at no cost to distribute to neighbors. Orders are delivered directly to partners including: Harvest for Hunger, LIFT-UP, Reach Out Colorado, River Center of New Castle, Teepee Bible Camp, Valley Meals & More, and Rifle Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Church.
- Mobile Pantries, which fill in gaps and make food accessible along the key transit corridor. The El Jebel, Glenwood Springs, and Rifle Mobile Pantries all take place on a weekly basis and are especially critical during ski season. Rates of food insecurity are at their highest in a decade, and reductions to SNAP passed last year in H.R. 1 continue to take effect, exacerbating the issue.



HARVEST FOR HUNGER

harvestforhungerco.org

Mission Statement

To end food insecurity in the Roaring Fork Valley by providing easy access to food through food rescue and access to Stigma Free, Self Service-Food Pantries without judgement or data collection.

Operating Budget: \$325,000

Program Budget: \$325,000

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 862 individuals + families, over 2 months

About

Harvest for Hunger is the only pantry provider in Pitkin County and is unique in that our three pantries are Stigma Free, Self-Service community markets where people have access to delicious food without data collection or judgement. This allows them to shop with dignity and without shame. Because we don't collect data, it allows all our pantries to operate without staff, allowing them to be open 45hrs/week Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Patrons can come before, during, or after work. If you or your family needs food, we are here and our doors are open. Our pantry model allows for a free and easy volunteer experience, with currently 131 volunteers stocking pantries twice a day.

Community Served

We serve anyone and everyone that is food insecure, paycheck to paycheck, recently unemployed or injured, or could just use a leg up. We don't care who you are or where you're from. We offer a place where anyone can seek food with dignity.

2025 Pantry Totals and Food Rescue:

Pantries - 26,979 visits, 162,568lbs distributed

* Aspen Pantry (Opened June 9, 2025): 12,206 visits, 110,418lbs distributed

* Basalt Response Pantry (Opened March 2025): 3,167 visits, 7,616lbs distributed

* Snowmass Pantry: 11,606 visits, 44,534lbs distributed

Food Rescue - 162,840lbs = 135,700 meals (1.2lb/meal)

Pitkin Library (Opened March 2025) - 1,918 - 10oz meals distributed

Basalt Library - 2,168 - 10oz meals distributed

Funding Request for Food Purchase and General Operations

If given funding, we would use \$20,000 to purchase food from the Foodbank of the Rockies to stock our three pantries and \$10,000 towards general operating expenses. Currently we are spending between \$2,500-\$3,000 per week to stock all three pantries with an expected annual food cost of \$130,000. \$20,000 would equate to roughly 2 months of food costs.



HIGHWATER FARM

highwaterfarm.org

Mission Statement

To transform the lives of young people and increase access to healthy food in Garfield County through sustainable agriculture.

Operating Budget: \$411,947

Program Budget: \$196,996

Grant Request: \$35,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 17 individuals

About

Highwater Farm is a nonprofit working farm that provides paid job training, mentorship, and leadership development for young people through regenerative agriculture. Founded in 2019, Highwater was created to address local food security, gaps in youth programming, and foster community connection. Our programs blend hands-on farm work with skill-building, teamwork, and responsibility, supporting youth as they build confidence and pathways to future employment or education. Guided by values of equity, stewardship, and empowerment, Highwater prioritizes program quality, strong relationships, and safe, supportive learning environments. In recent years, our strategic focus has shifted from startup growth to program refinement and sustainability—investing in systems and training that ensure our youth programs remain effective as demand grows. We envision success as young people who feel capable, connected, and prepared to contribute meaningfully to their communities and local workforce.

Community Served

Highwater Farm serves teens from rural and working-class communities who face barriers to employment, transportation, and access to paid skill-building opportunities. Our programs reflect the diversity of our community—50% Latino—and bring youth from different backgrounds together in shared, meaningful work, under trusted adult mentorship. Through our programs and produce, we strengthen the local economy, expand access to fresh foods, and support the next generation of leaders and skilled workers.

Funding Request for Highwater Farm Youth Programs

Funding will support the expansion and refinement of Highwater Farm's Assistant Crew Leader (ACL) model, a leadership pathway for returning youth in our job training program. First piloted in 2024, the ACL model elevated experienced participants into paid leadership roles, strengthening peer mentorship and program quality.

With Giving Network support, four returning youth—Elijah, Maria, Sebastian, and Yami—will be employed as Assistant Crew Leaders beginning in March, extending their contracts into the spring (March–May) with eight paid hours per month focused on relationship-building, leadership development, and program planning. In June, ACLs will complete a dedicated training week before co-leading the summer program in pairs, each supporting a crew of six new crew workers. This model improves staff-to-youth ratios, resulting in safer, higher-quality programming.

Funds will cover \$18,360 in wages for the four ACLs at \$17/hour and support 30% of the Youth Program Coordinator's salary to ensure supervision, training, and evaluation. Additional enhancements include alumni feedback assessments informed by our ED's participation in the ACF Leadership Academy and the Boston Food Project's institute. This one-time investment strengthens a proven program at a pivotal moment, deepening youth leadership and extending impact.



LIFT-UP (LIFE INTER FAITH TEAM ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY)

liftup.org

Mission Statement

To be the leader in providing equitable food security for individuals and families from Parachute to Aspen, Colorado – educating, building understanding, and mobilizing support to end hunger across our service area.

Operating Budget: \$1,760,023

Program Budget: \$1,760,023

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 3,000 Individuals

About

Founded in 1982, LIFT-UP has grown to be the region's trusted food-security first responder and its largest distributor of supplemental food. As a member of Mountain Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security, LIFT-UP helps coordinate regional strategy and has implemented key parts of that strategy. Of note, in 2023 we purchased a central warehouse facility in West Glenwood as the hub for distributing more than 700,000 pounds of food annually; and we are expanding the Mobile Market's range to ensure that no community is more than 25 miles from a food distribution site. For us, success is feeding 100% of those who come to us – with dignity and equity, quality, and choice. In 2025, we sold our thrift stores to consolidate operations in Glenwood and to refocus on our core mission. We are going into 2026 with renewed strength and a new ED, ready to meet the anticipated increased need.

Community Served

LIFT-UP's clients include low-income families with children, seniors, veterans, immigrants, and single-parent households. Most qualify for federal benefits. Many others earn just above eligibility thresholds for SNAP or Medicaid, creating a "benefits cliff" that leaves them heavily reliant on charitable food assistance. Nearly 30% of those we serve are children, and more than half identify as Hispanic/Latino – facing disproportionately high food insecurity due to wage gaps, language barriers, and discrimination. Seniors and veterans on fixed incomes are also at high risk, particularly in remote communities. LIFT-UP's pantries, mobile market, and emergency food programs are designed to equitably meet these needs across the region.

Funding Request for Mobile Market and 72-Hour Bag Program

Support will help LIFT-UP expand two of our most efficient tools for meeting rising food insecurity: the Mobile Market and the 72-Hour Bag program. In 2025, LIFT-UP launched a custom-built Mobile Market – a 24-foot refrigerated pantry on wheels – which currently serves 20-30 households weekly in Silt. The requested funding will support additional service to El Jebel, Aspen and Redstone. In El Jebel, we will synchronize service with Eagle County's MIRA Bus to offer complementary social supports. In Aspen, the Mobile Market will complement existing pantries by offering a choice-based model and fresh produce, meat and eggs through our Farm 2 Food Pantry program. In Redstone, the Mobile Market will extend our reach into the underserved upper Crystal Valley, where a substantial number of residents have been displaced by the high cost of housing in our resort area. Funding will also expand our 72-Hour Bag program, which last year distributed emergency food to 1,100 individuals and families facing sudden crisis through 13 area schools, clinics and county health departments. In 2026 we will increase our roster of partners and double the number of bags distributed. Together, these investments will extend LIFT-UP's reach, preserve dignity and choice, and ensure that all our neighbors in need can access nutritious food – without being turned away – as federal supports continue to erode.



SAFE AND ABUNDANT NUTRITION ALLIANCE (SANA)

sanaco.org

Mission Statement

To ensure equitable access to healthy food, nutrition education, and essential resources for underserved families in the Roaring Fork Valley. We build community-led solutions that improve health, dignity, and long-term stability.

Operating Budget: \$350,578

Program Budget: \$93,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 2,500 Individuals

About

SANA is a community-led nonprofit serving families from Aspen to Parachute through food distribution, SNAP/WIC enrollment, nutrition education, and emergency response. Since 2020, SANA has supported over 24,000 families and become a trusted connector between food banks, clinics, and underserved rural communities where access to services is limited. Our work is guided by dignity, cultural relevance, and trust. We operate mobile food distributions, support public benefit enrollment, and partner with local organizations to address food insecurity, health disparities, and barriers to essential resources. As we continue to meet the needs in the region our ability to build resilient systems and processes is missing strong infrastructure components. As the infrastructure component is developed, we want to build on the strength of our community volunteer network to help us be more effective and develop transferable skills they can take with them to their next opportunity.

Community Served

SANA primarily serves low-income, rural, low-income families who face a high cost of living, limited transportation, language barriers, and travel long distances to get access to grocery stores and food pantries. Recent community survey data shows that 57.3% of families do not access a food pantry, and 67.6% prefer food distribution closer to home due to transportation, work schedules, and safety concerns. Families need flexible, culturally responsive services that reduce barriers to food, healthcare, and basic resources. We continue to expand and provide discreet home deliveries for seniors and families with disabilities, as well as evening and weekend distributions.

Funding Request for Removing Structural Barriers to Food Access

SANA seeks funding to acquire a large, refrigerated delivery vehicle, a forklift, two floor pallet jacks, and essential warehousing and transportation equipment to build long-term food distribution infrastructure across the Roaring Fork Valley. As food deliveries increase, SANA lacks the equipment needed to safely and efficiently handle food at our current scale and future growth. A refrigerated vehicle with a lift gate will allow us to implement a regional hub-and-spoke distribution model across multiple sites, enabling us to move pallet-sized quantities of food quickly and safely. Currently, volunteers transport food in personal vehicles, limiting efficiency, safety, and the number of families we can reach. This investment will support mobile food distributions, discreet home deliveries for seniors and families with disabilities, and rapid emergency response. Equipment such as pallet jacks, tents, tables, and conveyors will improve logistics, safety, and reliability across all operations. Survey data shows 39.5% of Latinx households require food assistance weekly. This one-time infrastructure investment will allow SANA to reach an additional 2,500 individuals annually while strengthening long-term regional food security and improving system resilience during future disruptions.



UPROOT COLORADO

uprootcolorado.org

Mission Statement

To increase the nutrition security of Coloradans by harvesting and redistributing surplus, nutrient-dense foods while supporting the resilience of farmers. We envision a mindful, humane and equitable Colorado food system where farmers are valued for who they are: a cornerstone of our society.

Operating Budget: \$538,816

Program Budget: \$54,000

Grant Request: \$19,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 17 Hunger Relief Sites Served (each site serves many individuals)

About

UpRoot launched in 2017 to provide the service of gleaning—the act of gathering surplus crops from farms or orchards after farmers have commercially harvested them, or when it is not economically viable for farmers to harvest. After recovering surplus nutrient-dense produce, we redistribute it to Coloradans facing food insecurity. UpRoot now partners with over 65 farms, 180 fruit tree stewards, and 100 hunger-relief sites across seven Colorado regions to create a resilient, coordinated response to food insecurity and food loss. UpRoot staff and over 500 volunteers have recovered and redistributed over 668,000 pounds (7.5 million servings) of fresh produce to households experiencing food insecurity.

Community Served

UpRoot primarily serves RFV residents facing nutrition insecurity. Our work is directly informed by our hunger-relief partners, who report that fresh produce is the most requested item by their clients, yet the most difficult to source. We bridge this gap by harvesting surplus crops and redistributing it at no cost.

UpRoot serves three key demographics. Farmers: by providing volunteer labor and delivery to get their crop surplus from field to hunger-relief organizations, and by providing donation receipts so that farmers can easily access related tax incentives. We serve Hunger-Relief Organizations: who are then able to offer more fresh and seasonal produce to clients at no cost and we serve our Volunteers: for whom gleaning creates opportunities to learn about local food systems.

Funding Request for Expanding RFV Gleaning and Fresh Food Access

Funding would support the expansion of our gleaning program in the Roaring Fork Valley and Garfield County. This grant would help us to increase our regional gleaning capacity in two key ways. Firstly, funds would help UpRoot to offer our local Gleaning & Food-Systems Coordinator more hours to enable the planning and coordination of additional gleaning events in 2026. In addition, funds would support the purchase of a shed and new harvest equipment, required to launch our Volunteer Harvest Leader (VHL) program. This new VHL program empowers interested volunteers with the training and harvest equipment to lead gleaning events in their own town or neighborhood. Purchasing new harvest equipment, including orchard ladders, pole fruit pickers, harvest bags, and a shed in which to store equipment, would streamline logistics and make it more feasible for Volunteer Harvest Leaders to borrow equipment nearby their homes and/or where gleaning events will be hosted. Having trained Volunteer Harvest Leaders will allow us to further organize more gleaning events in the RFV region and get more surplus food into the hands of our neighbors facing nutrition insecurity.

ALPINE LEGAL SERVICES

alpinelegalservices.org

Mission Statement

To advance justice in our community and improve lives through legal advocacy, outreach, and education.

Operating Budget: \$826,088

Program Budget: \$103,200

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 208 Individuals

About

Founded in 1987, Alpine Legal Services was created to meet the urgent civil legal needs of indigent members of our community. Local attorneys recognized that access to justice is not a luxury -- it is essential to safety, stability, and dignity.

The legal issues we address, free of charge, profoundly shape the lives of the people we serve. We help stabilize the lives of individuals and families living in crisis by resolving critical legal challenges that threaten their well-being. Through this work, we help restore trust in our civil justice system and reinforce the rule of law for everyone in our community.

Our vision of success is transforming our community by serving as a dependable resource for the pursuit of equal justice. We do this through building connections, promoting healing, empowering our clients, and keeping our civil justice system fair and accessible to all. Current strategic priorities include high-impact legal services like housing stability and family safety.

Community Served

We primarily serve older adults, children, and survivors of domestic violence from Parachute to Aspen. Approximately 40% of our clients are Spanish-speaking. All of the clients we represent are indigent or low-income. Our clients are often disabled, homeless, and living in crisis. We tailor our services to meet the needs of those who are least likely to have access to justice and who are most in need of safety and stability. This is why we created the Housing Stability Attorney position which focuses on keeping people in their homes and improving living conditions for unsafe housing. In addition, upholding the rule of law in a time of increased fear and uncertainty is a pressing challenge we are facing at this time.

Funding Request for Housing Stability Attorney

Housing is a basic human need, and the risk of eviction creates serious ripple effects for families and communities. Research from the National Institutes of Health shows that individuals facing eviction experience increased health risks and harmful coping behaviors. Investment in civil legal aid is a proven, cost-effective way to prevent these outcomes and reduce strain on emergency systems.

Support from the Giving Network allows us to retain our full-time Housing Stability Attorney at a competitive salary. This position, created in 2024 through Giving Network funding, has had measurable regional impact. In 2025 alone, at least 208 individuals received representation, legal advice, or referrals to resolve housing matters. As a result, the majority maintained stable housing or secured remedies for unsafe living conditions.

Sustained Giving Network support ensures retention of an experienced attorney in a competitive market, reducing turnover costs and preserving continuity of services. It also supports continuing legal education, strengthening expertise and efficiency. This funding will allow our Housing Stability Attorney to serve 200+ individuals annually, prevent evictions, and ensure access to safe, stable housing for those who need it most.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

habitatroaringfork.org

Mission Statement

To advocate for affordable housing and reuse of locally donated items at our ReStore to generate revenue that enables the development of affordable ownership housing for families and individuals.

Operating Budget: \$24,031,662

Program Budget: \$37,820,121

Grant Request: \$80,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 132 Individuals and families, avg of 1.5 per unit

About

Habitat for Humanity of the Roaring Fork Valley was founded in 1999 when a group of concerned residents set out on a mission to build homes in partnership with local families in need of affordable ownership housing. Around 2017, it became clear that building one to two houses a year was no longer enough to make a meaningful difference in our region's housing ecosystem. We shifted to larger projects, innovative construction methods, and new homeownership models serving our whole community. We completed 27 units of affordable housing in Basalt in 2021 in partnership with RFSD and Pitkin County. We completed 20 units of affordable homeownership in Rifle in 2025 with panelized modular construction. We are now pioneering volumetric modular construction with The Confluence in Glenwood Springs, as well as a new development-neutral conversion model, offering 88 units of homeownership at The Carter.

Community Served

Today, if you are working in the Roaring Fork Valley, almost all cannot afford to live there. Whether you are a doctor, a teacher, a bus driver or a banker, you likely cannot afford it. At least 85% of our community are struggling to build stable roots here.

At The Carter, we are proud that it is serving a wide variety of individuals and families that struggle to "check all of the boxes" required for APCHA, Garfield County Housing, or other affordable programs. We see retirees, formerly homeless, young professionals getting started, as well as unique situations where locals can buy a home for their kids who still need support, and vice versa where adult children can purchase a home where their parents can age in place with dignity.

Funding Request for A Sustainable Approach at The Carter

A grant right now helps us stabilize this project in its most vulnerable stage. During this "sales" period, which will last most of 2026, our expenses will be greater than our revenues. As the building fills, the project moves to above water at which point Habitat takes two actions.

First, we fund the HOA with \$1M in seed funding to ensure the long-term stability for Carter homeowners. Second, we put any further profits into the next Habitat development.

We are extremely proud of the financial sustainability of The Carter. Housing developments in our valley that cost far more to build than what they can affordably sell for. Wapiti Commons cost ~\$250,000 more per unit to build than its sales price. The Confluence is closer to \$400,000 of subsidy. Estimates of Lumberyard are much higher than that. We are proud that The Carter requires just a ~\$70,000 per unit subsidy, of which half of that was covered by the sale of Priorities to local municipalities and employers.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

mtnvalley.org

Mission Statement

To encourage and support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, enhancing their ability to live, learn, and work in an independent and inclusive manner, and to educate the community about their contributions and capabilities.

Operating Budget: \$13,934,133

Program Budget: \$90,000

Grant Request: \$70,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 30 Adult individuals with intellectual and developmental disorders

About

Since 1973, Mountain Valley Developmental Services, Inc. has served people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are stable, experienced and unique in several ways including the daily implementation of our signature Early Intervention and Adult Services programs. We provide services from birth to end of care for those with I/DD throughout the Roaring Fork, Colorado River and Eagle River Valleys. In the EI program, we work with 350 families, at no cost, when children are diagnosed with an established condition or demonstrate developmental delays. From ages 18 to end of care, MVDS supports adults with I/DD through its Adult Services programs currently supporting 150 individuals: residential, supported employment and enrichment. AS programs are focused on person-centered care where individuals with I/DD are encouraged to make their own choices. Also unique, we have in-house medical professionals and a fleet of electric and gas-powered ADA-compliant and work vehicles.

Community Served

We serve those with I/DD in Garfield, Pitkin, Lake and Eagle Counties; this request will serve adults in Garfield County. In AS, a person wakes up in their own room, eats a healthy breakfast, grabs their packed lunch and is transported to a Day Program where they either go to work or decide what they'd like to do that day. The choices can include staying in the Day Program to enjoy art, music and being with friends, maybe head out to an appointment, or to engage in a Community Connections activity. Thursday is the best day because it's horseback riding day! After a day of enriching experiences out in community, they are transported home to eat a delicious meal together, discuss the day's events, and enjoy companionship in their cozy homes.

Funding Request for Property Maintenance

Eighteen energy efficient windows at Oakhurst cost about \$1,400 each for materials, installation and contingency costs, totaling \$25,200. We estimate the cost to install 48 new windows in three homes will be about \$70,000 including a reasonable unforeseen cost cushion. Both Grand and Yampah were built in 1989, and Pitkin in 1975; all have leaky, single-pained windows which elevate utility costs and result in a chilly home space. Our residents pay for their room and board through Medicaid waivers and Social Security payments. Rent this year in our residential units is \$810/month for a private room, a few shared baths and three meals a day, which is covered by MVDS fundraising. Complying recently with updated Fire Safety regulations, increases in property and health insurance premiums, utilities, food, and vehicle and property repairs have put a strain on our finances. Unpredictable Federal regulations, grants, and Medicaid has added ambiguity and uncertainty to day-to-day operations. Funding will help our adult residents continue to live in a comfortable and cozy home environment that enhances their ability to live, learn, and work in an independent and inclusive manner.

SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

seniorhousingoptions.org

Mission Statement

To provide residential communities and caring services to enrich the lives of older adults in Colorado.

Operating Budget: \$1,843,000

Program Budget: \$40,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 40 Assisted living Individuals

About

Senior Housing Options (SHO) provides residential communities and caring services to enrich the lives of low-income older adults and those with disabilities. Our vision is that Colorado's older adults live and thrive in a safe, caring community, regardless of their financial means. We're a quality resource for low-income older adults, and managerial excellence in Assisted Living Residences and Affordable Apartments and federally subsidized. We're the premier provider in our category in Colorado with our specific focus as a nonprofit. We provide housing for 359 residents, 85% who qualify for Medicaid, at 9 properties throughout the state in both rural and urban areas. We're one of the few remaining Medicaid accepting housing entities; we utilize Medicaid HCBS funding and Project-Based Section 8 funding. Our property, Mesa Vista in Battlement Mesa, north of Parachute, is a SHO assisted living complex that offers a supportive community of safe, quality, affordable housing options for 40 individuals.

Community Served

Resident demographics: 88% are low income, 58% have one or more disabilities, 10% identify as LGBTQIA+, and approximately 38% identify as BIPOC. At Mesa Vista specifically, average age of a resident is 76. 48% identify as male, 52% identify as female, and average income is \$15,082. Some SHO residents have previously experienced being unhoused. We recognize how the intersectionality factors of a person's life, such as community of origin, race, class, age, disability, can determine one's access to housing, healthcare, and caregiving options.

Funding Request for Mesa Vista Garden & Grounds Beautification Project

The residents of Mesa Vista would like to have a garden to grow both flowers and vegetables, create a more robust raised bed area, repair/rebuild the gazebo, enhance the patio spaces and furniture to accommodate individuals with a variety of mobility needs, and refresh the landscape areas to best meet adaptive mobility needs in an outdoor setting. A grant would support material supplies, construction and maintenance of outdoor areas. Residents hope to eat the vegetables from their own garden, assisting with the need for fresh produce. Support will enable us to enhance a loved feature of our community, one that also has tremendous health value to residents. Engaging in gardening and outdoor experiences are inclusive and accessible helpful forms of low impact exercise and mental health stimulation for our residents that stimulate the brain's ability to adapt and form new connections between neurons, increasing levels of BDNF—a protein essential for neuronal growth and survival in older adults (Park et al., 2019).

WEST MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HOUSING COALITION

wmrhousing.org

Mission Statement

To increase the availability and accessibility of affordable community housing within Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys through regional collaboration.

Operating Budget: \$296,000

Program Budget: \$250,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 550 Individuals

About

WMRHC is a regional nonprofit created to address housing challenges that no single jurisdiction or entity can solve alone. Founded in 2022, we serve as the backbone organization for workforce housing for our region. Our unique role is to think regionally, explore innovations, fill critical gaps, align partners, and act quickly to preserve long-term affordability before opportunities are lost.

Our strategic priorities center on preservation of and access to existing housing stock. We achieve and secure permanent affordability of free-market housing through deed restrictions, land banking, and innovative acquisition tools. We lead complex, multi-jurisdictional preservation efforts, such as mobile home park acquisitions, that require coordinated public, philanthropic, and private investment. Success means permanent housing outcomes, aligned regional systems, and a durable housing framework that allows the people who power our communities to remain rooted here.

Community Served

WMRHC serves those who earn local wages but struggle to find housing they can afford. Housing prices in our region are driven by outside wealth and second-home demand, not local incomes, leaving workers across the income spectrum unable to compete in the free market. These pressures squeeze residents out of housing that would traditionally serve them, creating intense competition for the lowest-priced options and leaving >40% of residents cost-burdened, spending too much on housing and too little on other basic needs. Informed by regional data and collaboration with local governments and employers, WMRHC preserves workforce housing through deed restrictions, buy-downs, land banking, and other tools that keep homes attainable over time.

Funding Request for Housing Navigator Research and Development

The current system for finding affordable housing in our region is fragmented, time-intensive, and inequitable. While market-rate shoppers have centralized tools like Zillow, workforce households must navigate multiple portals, outdated listings, and complex eligibility rules, often relying on insider knowledge to succeed. Limited supply and complicated processes create unnecessary barriers and stress. Simply put, people cannot secure housing they cannot find. WMRHC seeks funding to develop a centralized, app-based housing navigation platform that would allow users to input basic household, income, and employment information, be filtered for eligibility, and be matched with appropriate housing programs (and eventually available units) in one place. Demand is clear. Major employers, including Aspen One, Roaring Fork and Aspen School Districts, CMC, RFTA, and local governments, have requested this tool to support employee recruitment and retention. Similar platforms already operate in San Francisco and Massachusetts. Funding would provide WMRHC and partners with insights to inform program design, target investments, anticipate emerging gaps, and plan more effectively for future housing needs. GN support would provide seed funding for platform and vendor evaluation, customization, and launch.



WESTERN SLOPE VETERANS COALITION

westernslopeveterans.org

Mission Statement

To prevent veteran suicide by fostering a supportive community where veterans feel valued, connected and cared for, providing critical points of connection to other veterans and all veteran-related services.

Operating Budget: \$706,810

Program Budget: \$6,000,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 32-50 Individuals

About

In 2015, after the suicides of two Marine Corps Combat Veterans Jesse Beckius and Casey Owens, a group of veterans from the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys banded together to assist fellow Veterans, to reduce and eventually stop veteran suicides. To address mental health concerns, the team soon realized homelessness and financial stability were also serious issues for veterans. Therefore, we began providing direct emergency services. Payments are made directly to local vendors to assist with stable housing, food and shelter, medical expenses not covered by VA benefits, transportation and car repairs.

The WSVC also runs a Resource Center in Glenwood Springs (the only one of its kind between Grand Junction and Denver), a hub for information and access to: veteran eligibility determination, HUD-VA supportive housing connections, counseling space, an accessible computer lab, weekly Coffee and Donut events, and writers workshops to promote social interaction and creative expression.

Community Served

According to the latest census reports, 2,089 veterans reside in Eagle County, 2,663 in Garfield County and 672 in Pitkin County, for a total of 5,424 veterans living in the region. According to COHMIS service records, about 6% of individuals seeking homelessness-related services in CO are veterans. Housing has become the most urgent challenge facing local veterans, driven by extremely high living costs, so we are working toward a more long-term solution.

Funding Request for Western Slope Veterans Community Cottages

In 2022, The Western Slope Veterans Coalition (WSVC) received a \$100,000 donation from the Denver VFW to begin the process of building affordable housing for veterans who are currently unhoused or are at risk of becoming unhoused. WSVC has secured an ideal two-acre parcel for the tiny home community project in Silt. Support services will be provided onsite on demand through a 24/7/365 onsite manager residence.

When completed, the community will have twenty two 390 sq ft tiny houses; two 1500 sq ft family units; and one 1500 sq ft house for the project's Housing Manager. The project also includes an 1800 sq ft community center that will be used for education programming, community meals and events. This design is critical to mental health as it fosters connection and reduces social isolation. The site is close to the Colorado River, offering another outlet to support the mental and physical health of veterans and their families. The design is published at siltveteranshousing.com

The project has received strong support from local partners including the Town of Silt, Garfield County Housing Authority, and many local individual and corporate donors who have contributed to the campaign's "silent phase." The WSVC is requesting a generous \$50,000 donation from the Aspen Giving Network to support housing construction and will subsequently name one of the family houses after the Network in recognition of the gift.

COMMUNITY OFFICE FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

aspencore.org

Mission Statement

To urgently reduce carbon emissions through optimizing efficiency, electrification, and resiliency of the built environment, while advancing innovative climate-saving solutions.

Operating Budget: \$4,356,788

Program Budget: \$900,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 30 Households

About

CORE has over thirty years of experience delivering carbon-reduction initiatives that improve the resiliency, health, and sustainability of communities across Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield Counties. Once funded entirely through the Renewable Energy Mitigation Program (REMP), CORE now relies on philanthropic support to continue making an impact. CORE provides technical advising and financial assistance for energy-efficiency projects in new and existing buildings that improve indoor air quality, enhance safety, and reduce utility bills. By making upgrades more affordable and accessible, we strengthen housing quality and long-term community resilience. Last year, CORE provided \$2.5 million in grants and rebates to advance more than 200 projects. CORE's two top strategic goals are to support under-resourced and workforce communities by expanding healthy, safe, and affordable housing opportunities and to achieve verifiable and community-focused reductions in carbon emissions.

Community Served

CORE serves homeowners and residents throughout the Valley by funding energy retrofits and new housing construction. This request focuses on underserved Garfield County residents, where philanthropic support is most needed. Last year, CORE invested \$1.2M into Garfield County, including \$892,733 for workforce and low-income residents, completing 75 projects. CORE also provided \$100,000 for Canyone Vista, an 80-unit all-electric workforce housing complex with fixed utility rates. This year, only \$400,000 is available despite continued need. With limited housing supply and aging infrastructure, CORE's investments improve housing quality, expand availability, and enhance regional livability.

Funding Request for Low-Income Housing Program

CORE seeks funding to sustain and expand its impact in Garfield County. This investment will support energy retrofits and new housing construction for the local workforce, income-qualified households, and multifamily properties. An additional \$50,000 will extend support beyond the \$400,000 currently allocated to the region, ensuring continued access to electrification and retrofit projects that improve health and safety, lower utility costs, and expand low-carbon housing options.

The funding will support these individuals and their households, who are vital to the region's economy, yet face disproportionate energy burdens. In a remote mountain region where both living and construction costs are high, energy upgrades are often financially out of reach. The anticipated outcomes of this program are: Healthier homes through the elimination of harmful pollutants and improvement of indoor air quality: Safer homes through reduced reliance on outdated and dangerous gas infrastructure: Reduced energy costs for low-income households: Improved financial stability through reduced emergency repair costs, such as a failed heating system: Increased participation from historically underserved communities: Increasing or updating the housing stock.



ASPEN JOURNALISM

aspenjournalism.org

Mission Statement

To pull back the veil on complex issues so they are more clearly understood through in-depth, independent reporting.

Operating Budget: \$596,754

Program Budget: \$35,000

Grant Request: \$35,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 134,140 Residents of Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield Counties

About

Aspen Journalism is the only nonprofit, independent newsroom in the region devoted solely to in-depth, investigative reporting; our collaborative ethos drives our operations, and we work closely with peer news organizations in the Roaring Fork Valley and Colorado to amplify the reach and efficiency of input into our stories. We provide our work, in most cases for no charge, to newspapers across the state to share with their readers. In 2011, our ProPublica-inspired model was established on a local level as an antidote to contracting resources facing newsrooms. We pursue reporting that other publications cannot, due to budgetary and time constraints, as well as ownership or advertisers limiting editorial independence. We seek to build empathy, understanding and accountability.

Community Served

The Social Justice Desk focuses on the Aspen-to-Parachute region, home to approx. 100,000 residents, with 30% identifying as Latino/a/x. We translate all stories to Spanish and are working with El Sol del Valle to publish the work, as well as broadcasting stories to expand access to the non-literate and working commuters. We host listening calls, participate in nonprofit media events and use our best analytic efforts to understand the most pressing issues facing local communities and direct our editorial operations accordingly. Responding to the pressures driven by increasing inequality, reporting has focused on problems and solutions related to housing, community, workforce, childcare, development and immigration.

Funding Request for Full-time Multimedia Social Justice Reporter

Funding would directly support the growth of our bilingual, multimedia Social Justice Desk from a part-time to full-time reporter. This position represents the only role in the local news ecosystem dedicated solely to covering social justice, including the concerns of immigrant communities, housing challenges, fairness in the workplace, equity and inclusion for LGBTQ communities, education issues and access to libraries. In collaboration with Aspen Public Radio this unique funding opportunity employs a reporter, Eleanor Bennett, as well as interpreters and translators, with AJ and APR sharing editorial oversight responsibilities. In its first year, the collaboration resulted in 31 in-depth articles, all of which were translated into Spanish. El Sol del Valle published the Spanish version of at least 24 of the stories as well as 14 full-length radio features, 52 shorter radio stories, and 26 news briefs. Both organizations are increasing contributions to make the role full-time, up from $\frac{3}{4}$ time last year. This work gives a voice to communities that are not often represented in traditional media, informs and bridges cultural divides.



COLORADO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION

coloradoimmigrant.org

Mission Statement

To build community power through organizing and leadership development within immigrant communities in Colorado, winning fair and humane public policies, providing legal services and educational workshops, and implementing nonpartisan civic engagement programs.

Operating Budget: \$2,936,632

Program Budget: \$48,950

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 200 Individuals

About

In late 2024, CIRC launched the Keep Families Together initiative to address the rising threats of deportation, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric. We equip immigrant families by offering in-person and virtual Know Your Rights (KYR) workshops, distributing multilingual family preparedness packets, and connecting immigrants with local resources and services such as our 24/7 rapid response hotline. When an ICE incident is reported to the hotline, trained volunteer confirmers are deployed to verify whether ICE is present and to provide impacted families with critical KYR information and legal resources. These workshops and trainings provide critical tools for safety and preparedness and create trusted spaces for immigrant families to gather and share experiences. Our vision of success is a community where families feel informed, prepared, and supported, and where accurate information moves through trusted networks, so families remain connected to schools, work, and community life.

Community Served

CIRC serves immigrant individuals and families across Colorado, including those living and working in the Aspen–Parachute region. Families face heightened fear, misinformation, language barriers, and isolation as immigration enforcement increases. Parents share concerns about school drop-off, driving to work, and accessing services without risking family separation. Our local programs are shaped by direct community listening through post-workshop surveys, follow-up conversations, and local partnerships. Families consistently ask for accurate, in-language information and practical tools to prepare for emergencies, protect their children, and remain connected to schools, work, and community life.

Funding Request for Expanding Education to Immigrant Communities

Funding will enable CIRC to conduct ten trainings in the Aspen–Parachute region, including Know Your Rights (KYR) trainings, Family Preparedness workshops and packet distribution, and Confirmer trainings. Each session will engage at least 20 participants, directly reaching a minimum of 200 individuals. The impact will extend far beyond those participants, as trained community members and shared materials will continue to circulate accurate information through trusted networks across the region.

CIRC's KYR trainings provide clear, practical information about individual rights, including how to recognize a valid judicial warrant, what to do if enforcement occurs at home, work, or in public spaces, and how to avoid common misinformation. Family Preparedness workshops help families create concrete plans to protect children and loved ones during emergencies and include distributing packets that lay out next steps. Confirmer trainings equip trusted community allies to respond when enforcement is reported through the Colorado Rapid Response Network (CORRN) hotline that CIRC manages by helping verify information, reduce rumors, and share accurate guidance.



CARBONDALE COMMUNITY NONPROFIT CENTER

thirdstreetcenter.net

Mission Statement

To build community and a sustainable future through a multi-tenant, mixed-use facility that models sustainability in design and practice. We house nearly three dozen nonprofits, artists, and small businesses, providing long-term, affordable space and fostering collaboration.

Operating Budget: \$932,597

Program Budget: \$80,000

Grant Request: \$80,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 20,000 Individuals

About

Third Street Center is more than a building—it's a community catalyst. By renovating the old Carbondale Elementary School into a multi-purpose building, we provide affordable, sustainable space, and enable dozens of nonprofits to collaborate and serve the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys. Lower rent means more resources directed to public health, environmental stewardship, youth development, arts and culture, food security, and other programs that reach thousands of residents. The Center also serves as an inclusive civic hub, hosting public meetings, cultural events, performances, and community dialogue for people of all ages and incomes. As commercial space becomes increasingly unaffordable, our role as a collaborative, accessible home for mission-driven work is more critical than ever and a model for other communities,

Key indicators of our impact: • 36 tenants • 85 jobs supported / 2 Center employees • 76,300 annual visitors • Over 2,000 youth served through tenant programming

Community Served

Third Street Center serves workers and residents from mainly Basalt to Rifle. Many individuals accessing services through our tenant partners are working families, seniors, immigrant community members, and individuals facing financial instability. Rising housing costs, transportation barriers, and limited affordable commercial space create challenges for both service providers and those seeking help. By providing stable, affordable space for organizations addressing food security, healthcare access, youth development, and economic support, we help ensure that critical services remain available and geographically accessible.

Funding Request for Renovation and Upgrade of Two Multi-User Restrooms

Funding will support renovation of two outdated restrooms located in the Long Hall north wing of Third Street Center. These facilities were built in the late 1960s and were not included in the original 2010 renovation. Today, they serve some of the building's highest-impact health and human service tenants, including La Clínica del Pueblo and Lift-Up, as well as thousands of residents accessing healthcare, food distribution, case management, and community services. The existing facilities are old, inefficient, and do not reflect the level of care and professionalism our tenant partners provide. Renovations will include ADA-compliant stalls, new water efficient sinks and fixtures, updated plumbing, improved lighting, new flooring and enhanced ventilation, and electric hand dryers. These upgrades will improve sanitation, accessibility, durability, and long-term operational efficiency. Because these restrooms directly support individuals accessing healthcare and food security services, this infrastructure investment strengthens the delivery of essential basic needs in an environment of dignity, safety, and respect.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, WESTERN SLOPE

ccdenvver.org

Mission Statement

As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Denver, and inspired by God's love and compassion, we extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to the poor and those in need, serving people of all faiths, backgrounds, and cultures.

Operating Budget: \$45,676,519

Program Budget: \$1,737,562

Grant Request: \$64,500

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 935 Individuals

About

Catholic Charities was founded as an emergency assistance program in 1927. The agency has become one of Colorado's largest non-profit social service providers. Catholic Charities opened its Western Slope regional office in Glenwood Springs in 2000. We serve individuals and families throughout Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties. Our first programming in the Western Slope focused on two critical needs: homeless prevention services and services for the immigrant community. We established three programs to meet these needs: Emergency Assistance (EA), Homeless Prevention (HP), and Community Integration Services (CIS).

Community Served

At Catholic Charities we serve the most vulnerable in the community, focusing on helping women and children, older adults, veterans, and the poor. However, we assist anyone in need regardless of their religious preference, race, sexuality, or income. As rents continue to rise in our region, wages have not kept pace. The suggested ratio of housing costs to income is one-third. Many individuals and families in the community pay up to 50% of their income on housing; some more. With money so tight, any unexpected expense can send families into a financial crisis that requires assistance to pay their debts and successfully move forward.

Funding Request for Catholic Charities Western Slope Office Renovation

Funding will help us create a healthier, more efficient, and welcoming environment for clients and staff in our Western Slope office. Our team handles high-stress situations daily, yet our outdated layout, worn furniture, and aging equipment limit our ability to provide effective services and a dignified space. Cloth chairs in our reception and conference areas have endured years of spills and exposure to bodily fluids; though cleaned regularly, they cannot be fully disinfected. Replacing them with easy-to-sanitize, ergonomic seating would improve safety. Our computers and monitors are at the end of their lifecycle, and upgrading to modern wireless technology would streamline operations and enhance client experience. Our 79-year-old building also has persistent ventilation and dust issues, and adding air purifiers and fans would improve air quality for staff and clients, especially those with sensitivities. Because most grants we receive are restricted to direct assistance, we lack resources for these upgrades. Funding would allow us to replace worn furniture, modernize technology, and install air purifiers (estimated \$19,500), as well as remodel the reception area and repaint the building (\$45,000). These improvements would reduce health risks, boost morale and retention, and create a more professional, dignified space. .



MOUNTAIN FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS

mountainfamily.org

Mission Statement

To improve the health of our community by providing affordable medical, behavioral, and dental healthcare for all. We also provide family planning services, pediatric care, and discounted pharmacy access for our patients.

Operating Budget: \$25,053,687

Program Budget: \$452,744

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 225 Unique patients served (18 and under)

About

Since 1978, MFHC has provided healthcare for all, especially patients who are uninsured and/or underinsured. We provide integrated, comprehensive care at health center hubs in Basalt, Glenwood Springs, Rifle, Gypsum, and Avon, and at three school-based health centers (SBHCs). SBHCs are offered in partnership with local school districts and are designed to provide accessible, integrated healthcare to students in need. We also provide dental clinics, behavioral health programs, and pharmacy care in accessible locations.

MFHC is the only organization in the region providing comprehensive, integrated (medical, dental, behavioral) care, as well as screenings regarding the social determinants of health and referrals. Our services are held to the highest standards by medical governing boards and our funders, including HRSA and the state of Colorado.

Community Served

Of our current pediatric patients, only about 11% identify as Not Hispanic or Latino. About 30% speak English as their primary language with 66% speaking Spanish and the remainder identifying as bilingual (English/Spanish) or speaking another language. Currently, 28% are uninsured and 48% are on Medicaid.

We expect our patients on Medicaid to be impacted by upcoming enrollment verification changes and data sharing between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and ICE, including information about patient citizenship and immigration status, address, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID. These developments are likely to reduce Medicaid enrollment and leave more families and children uninsured.

Funding Request for Critical Pediatric Health Services 2026-27

Across our Basalt, Glenwood Springs, and Rifle clinics, approximately 40% of patients are uninsured and another 30% are on Medicaid/CHP+. Children and minority groups are disproportionately affected. Funding would ensure kids from lower income households who are uninsured – including families and those who are working steadily but not earning enough to afford quality care – can have access to high-quality, integrated pediatric care. Currently, care is provided on a sliding fee scale, which allows patients to pay what they can based on their income. But this leaves a gap in coverage for MFHC, as they generally only reimburse at 20% of the total cost. Funding would cover this gap, allowing us to serve more patients with low-cost, preventative care. The project goals are to provide access to quality, affordable healthcare for children aged 18 and under, helping to increase child health and reduce ER and specialist visits due to the preventative nature of our work. The program provides well child exams, physicals, and sports physicals; acute care for issues such as illness, injuries; chronic illness management such as asthma; immunizations and vaccines; labs and other diagnostic tests; plus case management services which include help finding financial support, referrals, and outreach/enrollment.



RIVER CENTER OF NEW CASTLE, INC.

rivercenternewcastle.org

Mission Statement

To identify and address the unmet needs of the community through compassionate volunteerism.

Operating Budget: \$419,164

Program Budget: \$90,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,004 Individuals and/or their families.

About

The River Center meets human service needs within New Castle & Silt by providing assistance to low-income families, striving to help those families become self-sufficient. We aid with rent/mortgage, utilities, transportation, medical, food, and clothing. We promote healthy family relationships through education, partnership with Garfield Re2 school district, and volunteer opportunities for individuals and families. We serve seniors in our community with a weekly luncheon including presentations as well as a monthly activity.

Community Served

The two communities that we serve the most are New Castle & Silt. Our programs include Financial Assistance, Totes of Hope, Meal Monkey, Senior Luncheon, Community Gardens, Enrichment Classes, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Scholarships, Volunteer New Castle & Silt, Supplemental Snack Program, Angel Tree and our Handyman Committee. We work closely with the 5 schools located in our two towns to gather information about existing and new needs that we can meet. We also work closely with Catholic Charities and Salvation Army to meeting basic needs in our community.

Funding Request for General Operations / ADA Ramp

By building an ADA ramp to our downstairs facilities we will be utilizing the River Center building to its full capacity, with additional potential growth in the future. We would first move the Lift-Up food bank downstairs because they have no more room upstairs to store food and their pantry is small compared to the space available for them downstairs. They would have plenty of room for expansion, a larger storage area for food and a nice large pantry for clientele to shop. Moving Lift-Up downstairs will allow us to bring in extra income by potentially renting out the newly created office space that will become available upstairs.

The River Center would also be able to have all three of their staff offices upstairs in a common space so the staff has cohesiveness throughout the work day. Currently we have two staff upstairs and the Executive Director downstairs as there is limited office space for staff to be together. This causes a breakdown in the communication it takes to run the River Center efficiently.

Right now, the only entrance to the building is through the main door upstairs, so this ramp would allow us to build another main entry to the downstairs. Both entrances would be beneficial to the daily operations of the River Center, and we would have the appropriate signage outside to direct people to their destination.



WEST MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

westmountainhealthalliance.org

Mission Statement

By coordinating cross-sector partnerships that address the region's most pressing needs — including housing stability, food security, and access to care, WMHRA is a backbone organization that aligns systems and resources so individuals and families are efficiently connected to the right services at the right time, ensuring vulnerable community members can achieve and maintain optimal health.

Operating Budget: \$794,675

Program Budget: \$50,000

Grant Request: \$15,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 750 Individuals who are working in healthcare, community and government.

About

WMRHA serves a unique backbone role in our rural mountain region — bringing together healthcare providers, housing organizations, food networks, governments, and nonprofits to solve problems no single organization can address alone. Founded to overcome fragmented systems, WMRHA convenes cross-sector coalitions, aligns data and procures shared funding, and amplifies a shared voice so people facing hardship are not left to navigate complex systems on their own. Our strategic priorities focus on the Vital Conditions for Well-Being — food security, humane housing, basic needs, and coordinated community resources — ensuring that neighbors can move from crisis to stability and from survival to thriving. Our vision of success is that every person across Aspen to Parachute has access to the opportunities, services, and support needed to live a healthy, secure life, no matter their income or circumstances — a future where compassion, coordination, and community make wellbeing possible for all.

Community Served

WMRHA serves residents in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin county who face the greatest barriers to health and stability — including low-income workers, seniors, families, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, immigrants, and those living paycheck to paycheck in high-cost resort communities. Our work is guided by real-time data, partner input, and direct community feedback, ensuring solutions reflect lived experience, not assumptions. The most pressing challenges include severe housing instability, food insecurity, gaps in access to care, and fragmented systems that make it difficult to find help. WMRHA coordinates partners so residents can access the right support quickly, with dignity and without falling through the cracks.

Funding Request for WMRHA Health & Human Service Convenings/Trainings

Funds will support WMRHA's quarterly regional meetings, which convene 60–80 leaders from human services, healthcare, education, philanthropy, and government to coordinate responses to the region's most pressing needs. These gatherings strengthen relationships, align strategies, share data and resources, and provide trainings that improve the effectiveness of frontline services across Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin counties. This funding will also expand WMRHA's capacity to offer additional convenings and skill-building opportunities while launching a sustainable membership model. Membership will provide partners with structured engagement, shared learning, and access to tools that support coordinated service delivery, resource alignment, and collective action. Together, these investments will strengthen regional collaboration, reduce duplication, and ensure that residents facing food insecurity, housing instability, and barriers to care are connected to the right support more quickly and effectively.



COLORADO PERINATAL CARE QUALITY COLLABORATIVE

cpcqc.org

Mission Statement

To improve the safety, quality, and equity of care pregnant/postpartum mothers and babies receive and end preventable maternal and infant death and injury.

Operating Budget: \$3,686,875

Program Budget: \$98,000

Grant Request: \$60,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,081 Pregnant people

About

The Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative (CPCQC) envisions a Colorado where every parent, infant, and family has a healthy, safe, and culturally respectful pregnancy and birth experience. All Colorado birthing hospitals participate in our quality improvement initiatives, reaching 59,335 births annually—including nearly every birth in Pitkin, Garfield, and Eagle Counties.

While statewide in reach, our work is locally driven, adapting to the needs of labor and delivery units and their communities. In this region, Aspen Valley Health, Vail Health, and Valley View Hospital all participate in at least one CPCQC program. Our initiatives reduce first-time, low-risk c-sections; promote universal screening and stigma-free care for substance use and mental health conditions; model infant safe sleep; and strengthen postpartum care through standardized discharge education, early warning sign identification, and timely follow-up, ensuring families have a safe, respectful start.

Community Served

In 2024, 1,252 people gave birth in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties; 1,081 delivered at Aspen Valley Health, Vail Health, or Valley View Hospital. CPCQC programs influence every birth at all three. Through our work, we know families in the region face interconnected challenges. Rural provider shortages often limit access to high-quality, culturally respectful care, disproportionately affecting Black, Indigenous, and other parents of color. The region's families also travel an average of 28 minutes to give birth—more than twice the state average—raising risks for both maternal and infant health.

Funding Request for Safer Pregnancy and Birth From Aspen to Parachute

Families from Aspen to Parachute deserve a strong health system where every pregnant person can give birth safely and every infant has a healthy start. CPCQC advances this vision through quality improvement—using evidence-based processes, protocols, and data to strengthen care.

An investment of \$20,000 per hospital per year uplifts quality improvement infrastructure and surrounds families and providers with coordinated support. Through this request, The Giving Network could strengthen CPCQC's work at Aspen Valley Health, Vail Health, and Valley View Hospital, reaching nearly 1,100 families annually. Additional funding would expand training, tailored coaching, and data analysis, which are the backbone of sustainable improvement. This includes counseling families on safe infant sleep at Aspen Valley Health and Vail Health, promoting stigma-free care for substance use and standardized discharge education at Valley View, and reducing unnecessary first-time c-sections at all three hospitals.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

greatexpectations.co

Mission Statement

To strengthen and empower families, foster the optimum development of children, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Operating Budget: \$1,773,908

Program Budget: \$539,954

Grant Request: \$58,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Families

About

Great Expectations has supported expectant & new parents in the RFV for over 40 years. We started in 1983 with a simple goal: provide services for all families welcoming babies in our region, using an evidence-based approach that works. Nurse-Family Partnership pairs registered nurses with first-time mothers from pregnancy to their child's second birthday, while our parent groups provide settings where parents share experiences & build networks. Our work is effective because staff show up consistently, building trust that allows families to be honest about what they're facing. Whether a family needs help understanding their baby's development, connecting to mental health services, or navigating postpartum depression, we walk alongside them. This year we strengthened clinical leadership, deepened hospital partnerships through Family Connects, & developed better systems for tracking & responding to needs.

Community Served

We serve families who are navigating significant challenges. About 91% qualify for Medicaid. Many are led by single mothers, often under age 25. More than a third have less than a high school education. 62% speak Spanish. The cost of living creates unique pressures. Parents often commute up to two hours daily to afford housing & childcare. These demands make it hard to prioritize the health & well-being of mother & baby, and can lead to increased stress, maternal depression & challenges in building strong parent-child connections that help families thrive. Our programs are voluntary & provided at no cost. We meet families where they are, providing support that respects their strengths while connecting them to needed resources.

Funding Request for Strengthening Capacity for Waitlist Families

Right now, 250 families are on our waitlist. This past year brought measurable progress. We hired an experienced NFP Program Manager with 30 years of nursing experience. We've stabilized our home visiting team after turnover challenges. We're finalizing MOUs with area hospitals & built a better referral system. We're ready to serve more families but need infrastructure to do it responsibly. This \$58,000 investment funds three capacity-building priorities: Partnership Infrastructure (\$24,000): Systems to manage increased referrals including digital coordination tools, standardized intake processes & sustainable relationship structures. Quality Enhancement (\$20,000): Strengthened clinical supervision, fidelity monitoring for evidence-based programs, outcomes measurement tools & staff retention strategies. Staff Training (\$14,000): Staff are pursuing infant mental health endorsements through Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. This supports endorsement fees, reflective supervision & trauma-informed care training. Funding will build our capacity to serve more families without compromising quality, investing in infrastructure that will make our work more efficient and sustainable.



LA CLINICA DEL PUEBLO DBA THE PEOPLE'S CLINIC

laclinicadelpueblo.care

Mission Statement

To deliver high-quality, bilingual medical care and preventive health education to uninsured and underserved populations.

Operating Budget: \$1,000,639

Program Budget: \$256,500

Grant Request: \$65,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,000 Women and families

About

La Clínica, founded in 2016, is a Community Health Hub and the only free healthcare facility of its kind in the region, making it an irreplaceable resource for the valley's uninsured, immigrant workforce and families. We remove barriers to healthcare by providing bilingual, culturally responsive medical care, behavioral health services, and education.

La Clinica started in a 650 sq. ft. space, providing approximately 70 patient visits a year in 2017. Since then, we have grown exponentially seeing: 483 patients in 2023, 901 patients in 2024 and 2,422 patients in 2025!

Community Served

We serve uninsured, immigrant communities, from Parachute to Aspen. Our staff is bilingual. We maintain community engagement through surveys, follow-up calls, and patient-informed programming. Heightened fear has led to increased stress, worsening chronic conditions, and delayed care. Because we do not accept federal funding, we are able to operate independently of regulations that can create barriers allowing us to be a trusted source of care. A challenge we face includes limited funding and resources amid a rising demand for essential health care services. Additional staffing is required. To add one more Medical Provider to our staff, we could increase our patient load by 100-200 people, costing approx. \$100,000.

Funding Request for Women's Health Services and General Operations

Funding would be used to expand and strengthen Women's Health services. 60% of our patients are women. This equates to about 400 new female patients in 2025 and it's growing. We expect to double this in 2026. We are working on a Sustainability plan this year and believe we can sustain this program for years to come through grants, donations and some earned income.

Services provided include:

- Reproductive Health: birth control options, pregnancy testing, and ongoing support. 10% of GN funding will be allocated toward this.
- Biopsies and Diagnostic Services: in-house laboratory work with timely diagnosis and follow-up. We are currently raising funding to provide mammograms for up to 220 women a year@ \$500 per patient. We would use 30% of GN Funding to kickstart this program.
- Primary Care, Chronic Disease Management and Urgent Care: Primary care is the foundation of good health. This funding will allow us to be open 9-5, five days a week. 50% of GN Funding will help pay the salary of one additional Medical Provider@ \$100,000.
- Health Education: We deliver web-based and in-person workshops focusing on Fatty Liver, contraception, cancer and menopause. Our Stress Management workshops from last year have reached over 10,000 viewers. We would put 10% of GN funding into our female focused educational programs.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, INC.

plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-rocky-mountains

Mission Statement

To provide education, advocacy, and patient-centered sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion care.

Operating Budget: \$66,114,648

Program Budget: \$1,337,660

Grant Request: \$65,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,600 Individual patients

About

In 1916, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM) was founded on the radical idea that sexual and reproductive health care and information could change lives, communities, and the world. Since 1979, PPRM's Glenwood Springs health center has provided clinically superior, patient-centered, and cost-effective reproductive and sexual health care across the Roaring Fork Valley (RFV). PPRM's vision is a future where all people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, zip code, income, or race, can access the full spectrum of reproductive and sexual health care. We improve health care outcomes, while empowering our patients to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Community Served

RFV communities are facing some of the highest living costs in the nation. The rural-based Glenwood Springs health center can provide care for individuals facing unemployment, living on low incomes, and those without insurance. PPRM ensures people can access life-saving care through our avenues of assistance, often by telehealth to reduce travel burdens. Of the 1,687 patients served last year, 56% were uninsured or underinsured and 14% were Spanish-speaking, many requiring Spanish-language medical interpretation. Glenwood Springs employs Spanish speakers certified in medical interpretation to meet patient need and improve health outcomes. PPRM continuously incorporates patient feedback and community assessments in data driven ways.

Funding Request for Patient Comfort & Safety in Glenwood Springs

Funding from the Giving Network will enable PPRM to quickly enhance our facility and upgrade security measures at the Glenwood Springs health center to ensure that our over 1,600 patients feel safe and welcome while accessing much needed care, and staff feel confident providing that care. Heightened security measures are imperative given the hostile environment to reproductive and sexual health care in our country. We believe all patients, some of whom travel hours across rural regions, deserve to receive care in a facility where security is sophisticated but subtle. By upgrading security systems at the health center, PPRM will modernize our aged infrastructure and meet the needs of the current operating environment. Facility improvements would include an upgraded cryotherapy system, and updated rooms to widen our capacity for family planning services and telehealth offerings. The Glenwood Springs health center has been a leader in telehealth services across the entire PPRM agency and is the leading health center in our growing advancements of all telehealth offerings including gender affirming care. With GN support, PPRM can continue to meet the RFV community with affordable and quality care amidst growing inequities.



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER INC.

pregnancycolorado.org

Mission Statement

To help women navigate through planned and unplanned pregnancies, empowering them to confidently explore their options and make informed decisions through sexual risk avoidance education and sexual health testing and treatment.

Operating Budget: \$443,161

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 600 Additional Individuals

About

PRC has served at-risk clients on the Western Slope with their pregnancy-related needs since 1985. We began in Aspen & moved to Glenwood Springs in 1995. Our priority has always been to provide a supportive, nonjudgmental space in which trained advocates & nurse sonographers walk alongside clients as they face life-changing decisions in early pregnancy. We recently moved into a larger medical office next to GSHS which allows a greater level of privacy and improved accessibility. We also provide presentations in public and private schools, and youth groups, to educate students about sexual health & risk avoidance. Our services are not limited by age, race, sexual orientation, income, or religious beliefs, & are free of charge.

Community Served

PRC serves a target demographic of clients with compromised sexual health who are under 25 years old, low-income, and uninsured. Our bi-lingual services are offered at no charge to the client, helping at-risk individuals and families receive prompt and necessary medical attention for their sexual health, without financial barriers. Our pregnancy-related services are available in both English and Spanish, 24/7, via a nurse chat that our younger clients prefer for communication and scheduling. Our convenient location in Glenwood Springs and our mobile medical unit make our services easily accessible to communities from Aspen to Parachute.

Funding Request for General Operations

PRC requests \$40,000 to help meet our projected 2026 operating budget. This grant will directly impact our efficacy by helping to provide much-needed health care for the underserved in our area. We have experienced a 35% increase in client visits over the last 3 years, anticipating serving 700+ unique clients with our pregnancy-related services, after serving 600 clients in 2025 via our Glenwood Center & Mobile Medical Unit. We gave 394 medical-grade pregnancy tests, 298 ultrasounds, 344 STI tests & treatment when needed, & 843 baby necessities such as packages of diapers & wipes, car seats, cribs, formula, & clothing.

In 2022, we began a sexual risk educational program that has reached about 600 students annually during their health classes in our public & private schools, & at youth group meetings. In 2026 we expect our sexual health program to reach approximately 700 students.

Our new office has 3 counseling rooms, a comfortable waiting room and a larger ultrasound room that allows for more privacy & the ability to meet with more clients. A grant will help hire a nurse sonographer, male counselor & additional full-time bilingual advocate so we can be open more hours/days each week, fully utilizing our medical facility. We also plan to use funding to increase visibility through print & online marketing, social media, & Google advertising.



THE DOUBLE HELIX DOULA PROJECT

doublehelixdoulaproject.org

Mission Statement

To build a movement of women supporting women through birth by training doulas to ensure positive, transformative birth experiences that create lifelong empowerment and collective change.

Operating Budget: \$400,000 in projected expenses for 2026

Grant Request: \$35,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: a projected 1,750 mothers, babies, and doulas

About

The Double Helix Doula Project (DHDP) is a new, innovative program that bridges the gap in perinatal care by providing the missing and crucial piece of the perinatal continuum, allowing any woman in labor who walks into the hospital access to a doula. Women will be trained as doulas, paid for their work and work in shifts allowing women of all ages and backgrounds to support women through pregnancy. The project will empower and train women to give back: for example women in recovery can train to be doulas for women with substance issues, teen moms can be doulas for teens, and Latina women can be doulas for immigrants. Childcare will also be available to support working doulas.

Community Served

DHDP serves pregnant/laboring women who walk into VVH. The US ranks 54th in the world for maternal mortality, last among developed countries. 84% of pregnancy related deaths are thought to be preventable. These numbers are even higher for women who are immigrants, minorities, survivors of trauma or sexual abuse, and from low income and rural communities. These women are more likely to experience negative births, distrust medical institutions, and face increased maternal and infant mortality. Doulas provide continuous physical and emotional support and are the bridge between the woman and clinical team. Research shows that doula support leads to much better birth outcomes, far fewer medical interventions, and greater trust and communication.

Funding Request for General Operations

Funding will be used to get DHDP off the ground and is crucial in order to start its programs. Every dollar given will be used directly for program costs which will fill a gap in care and create lifelong empowerment for women in the Valley. From my prior experience founding a nonprofit and launching several award winning programs, the ED role, in a new non profit, is an essential part of the program costs and directly leads to its success. My role as the ED is to build and implement the program, train doulas, coordinate shifts with VVH, and coordinate childcare for the working doulas.

To ensure that DHDP is rooted in strong nonprofit practices and to understand how to best serve the community, I attended the Nonprofit Academy put on by the ACF in January. As a doula working in the Valley the past 8 years, I have seen first hand the profound impact of a doula in the births and lives of families. Research shows increased access to doula care, especially in under-resourced and under insured communities, improves health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower cesarian rates, decrease maternal anxiety and depression, and increases confidence in postpartum care. Peer-based doula support is invaluable especially for women in recovery, survivors of trauma or abuse, those at higher risk, or living in rural areas. As doulas work in their communities, it strengthens care for mothers, babies and families, and promotes further healing and empowerment for the doulas themselves.



WELLSPRING HEALTH ACCESS

wellspringaccess.org

Mission Statement

To bring access to quality reproductive healthcare to patients in abortion deserts. We believe everyone deserves bodily autonomy regardless of circumstance.

Operating Budget: \$4,500,000

Program Budget: \$2,470,003

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 300 Patients in first year

About

Our organization will fill the need for procedural abortion care in the region. On the Western Slope of Colorado there is no procedural abortion care, requiring patients to travel a minimum of 198 miles to Denver. Despite having legal protection, there is a lack of abortion care, leaving thousands of people without access to safe quality reproductive healthcare. Our flagship clinic in Casper Wyoming has been a vital source of procedural abortion care in the West serving over 1,500 patients since opening in 2023. Direct service is a priority, but we have also defended abortion access in the Wyoming courts, and just recently won a victory in the Wyoming Supreme Court after a four-year battle and we have another ongoing lawsuit which will be heard in March 2026. Wellspring Health Access is the only organization to have opened an abortion clinic in a state that banned abortion since Roe fell in 2022.

Community Served

The Grand Junction metro area is home to around 162,000 people, with more than 18% of them women of childbearing age and 21% enrolled in Medicaid. Importantly, Grand Junction serves as a health care hub for over 500,000 residents in the region. The planned location in Grand Junction represents a critical opportunity to reach people who face the greatest barriers to care. We have a no turn away policy, 80% of our current patients need financial support, we already have strong connections with funders that provide financial assistance to those who need help covering the cost of care.

Funding Request for Grand Junction Abortion Clinic

We are seeking a grant of \$100,000 to support and expand Wellspring Health Access' medical, telemedical and procedural abortion, contraception, gynecology, and gender-affirming care into the Mountain West where limited procedural abortion options are available.

Funding will directly help open a new clinic in Grand Junction, CO. The projected cost for this new clinic's start-up is \$2,470,000 and includes a building down payment, renovations, furniture, equipment, supplies, first year operations, licensing, and credentialing. This grant would go directly towards beginning renovations on our new clinic. In December 2025, we entered into contract on a building and began working in earnest on the next steps, such as due diligence and raising funds for the project. We plan to start providing services during the first quarter of 2027. With this clinic, WHA will extend our services from Casper, WY to the Western Slope of Colorado which has no access to procedural abortion within 245 miles of Grand Junction and no access to in-person medication abortion within 87 miles (Glenwood Springs).

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Supports fostering the safety, stability and development of youth and their families with a focus on building capacity, resilience, equity and access.

Co-chairs:

Amanda Hirsh & Jayne Banks

Membership Coordinator:

Lauren Chazen

Total number of Children & Family applicants: **34**

Total amount requested: **\$1,331,470**

31

Academic Support

38

Career Readiness

43

Disability Support

46

Domestic and Family Violence

49

Early Childhood Education

56

Social Emotional Wellbeing

59

Wrap-around Support



ACCESS AFTERSCHOOL

accessafterschool.org

Mission Statement

To enrich the lives of youth, support working families, and build healthy communities by providing high quality afterschool and summer programs.

Operating Budget: \$1,100,000

Program Budget: \$65,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 112 Liaison and instructors

About

Since 2009 Access has partnered with individual schools, districts, parents and youth to develop and expand three high-quality out of school time (OST) program models that are responsive to the needs of its most vulnerable community members. The organization provides a continuum of afterschool options for youth ages 5-14 on-site at five elementary schools and seven middle schools throughout the Colorado and Roaring Fork River Valleys. It's award winning BoostCamp engages youth in a full day of academic, physically engaging and fun activities for five weeks during the summer. Access prioritizes activities that impact the academic success of youth participants through: improved social-emotional health and confidence, the ability to actively make healthy choices, increased motivation and engagement in school, the ability to build relationships with positive adult mentors and diverse peers, a strong academic foundation for high school, college and their career.

Community Served

Access aims to provide the highest quality OST programs to all youth who could benefit and plans to continue to fill the gap in availability of programs in towns where higher percentages of residents live with low incomes. Enrollment data from the most recent school year shows that 61% of families live with incomes below 300% of the federal poverty level and 51% identify as Hispanic. In order to tailor services to meet the needs of participants, Access solicits direct feedback through regular surveys and one-on-one communication with youth, their families, teachers/instructors and the community at large. To promote effective communication, Access's Program Director, School Liaisons and 30% of instructors are bilingual.

Funding Request for Training Experts to Serve Youth After School

Last year's support from the Giving Network allowed Access to increase the number of days that homework help is offered at seven middle schools; leading to an increased enrollment for our Second Shift program. Building on that success, the team is motivated to infuse more creative and fun ways to engage youth in academic learning and increase enrollment. A grant from the Giving Network this year would be used for professional development; to visit and forge strategic partnerships with like minded OST programs that operate in rural Colorado; and engage the twelve school Liaisons and 100+ instructors more regularly in trainings and convenings for shared learning. Specifically, funds will be used to cover the cost for the following activities. Professional development opportunities offered by the Colorado Afterschool Partnership and/or Afterschool Alliance, both recognized and state and national leaders in the field. Overnight travel to visit and explore collaboration with Riverside Education Center - Grand Junction, YouthPower 365 - Eagle/Vail Valley and/or Summit54 - Aspen Valley. Host convenings, training sessions and community events to share information, elicit feedback and foster trust among those most involved; Access's School Liaisons, Instructors, parents and youth. Enlist the support of a consultant to offer individual leadership coaching session for staff and to develop and/or lead alignment sessions among stakeholders throughout the year.



ASPEN PUBLIC RADIO

aspenpublicradio.org

Mission Statement

To support, nourish, and enrich our community by providing informative, entertaining, and educational radio and digital programming in a reliable and professional manner.

Operating Budget: \$2,208,545

Program Budget: \$50,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 6,500 Middle and High School Students

About

For 45 years, Aspen Public Radio (APR) has served as the Roaring Fork Valley's essential educator, convener, and connector. As the only public broadcaster based in Pitkin County, we provide 18,000 weekly listeners with free, accessible reporting that strengthens our community through shared learning. Our strategic priority is to leverage our journalistic power for youth advocacy and civic health. Guided by values of truth, accuracy, and inclusivity, we envision a community where every resident—from Aspen to Parachute—is empowered with the information needed to be an active participant in local democracy. Our unique role is providing a nuanced context often overlooked in other media, offering a platform for local stakeholders to share their voices. Success for APR is defined by creating a more informed, connected, and resilient region where media literacy is a cornerstone of civic life. We serve as a vital link in the regional "human services" ecosystem by ensuring information equity.

Community Served

We serve the Aspen to Parachute corridor, specifically targeting youth and families who face barriers to academic support and civic engagement. Our region's rural mountain lifestyle often isolates disengaged or under-resourced students from traditional educational mentorship. These communities face a "digital divide" and a rise in harmful online misinformation. To meet these needs, our programs are tailored for bilingual accessibility (English/Spanish) and delivered via formats youth prefer, such as digital audio and social media. By grounding our work in local reporting—such as Halle Zander's award-winning education coverage—we validate the lived realities of our diverse student population, fostering social capital and resilience.

Funding Request for Aspen Public Radio Youth Media Literacy Project

APR requests funding to launch our Youth Media Literacy Project, a capacity-building initiative designed as an "Academic Support" program. This project transforms our local reporting into a weekly educational deliverable for civics and social studies classrooms. Funding will allow us to provide teachers with high-quality, local resources to discuss sourcing, credibility, and bias. This project builds "social capital" by offering mentorship from media professionals and career pathways in research and critical thinking. Media literacy is a proven catalyst for academic and civic success. Data shows that students engaged in these programs are 40% more likely to contact news organizations to correct factual errors and 66% more likely to vote. We will measure success through:

- Reach: Number of educators and students utilizing the bilingual digital/audio curriculum.
- Engagement: Participation in the APR Nonprofit Volunteer Fair
- Efficiency: Shifting from passive broadcasting to an active educational tool, by empowering youth to deconstruct media and resist misinformation.

We are addressing a critical "human service" need: the mental and social-emotional well-being of a generation navigating a complex information landscape.



ASPEN SCIENCE CENTER

aspensciencecenter.org

Mission Statement

To advance public understanding of science through lifelong discovery, exploration, and education, by providing hands-on, engaging, and relevant Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs for people of all ages.

Operating Budget: \$878,023

Program Budget: \$54,000

Grant Request: \$52,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 5,494 K-5th grade students

About

ASC is the only regional nonprofit focusing specifically on STEM education, serving the diverse populations of residents and visitors across the greater RFV with innovative and accessible programs and events. Founded in 2005 by a group of science and social justice-minded individuals, ASC, based out of a centrally-located Discovery Center in Carbondale, has greatly expanded its community impact in the last 6 years, emerging from COVID-related shutdowns to become a reliable resource for STEM education region-wide. Our hands-on, engaging, bilingual programming is designed to spark curiosity, cultivate critical thinking, and illustrate how STEM helps to better understand and enhance the world we live in. ASC's current strategic priorities are to address disparities in access to STEM education for people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly for communities historically marginalized in STEM fields, to promote lifelong learning, and to contribute to building a STEM-empowered citizenry.

Community Served

Every child in the greater RFV region deserves access to quality STEM education, which is limited and inconsistent in local public schools, and under increased threat with federal budget cuts. In 2025, ASC surveyed teachers from every school district and piloted 5 different STEM programs for 5 elementary grades. Teachers reported ASC's programs provided highly impactful learning experiences, but cited the largest barrier to participation was extremely limited school funding. ASC's standards-based, culturally-relevant elementary school STEM programs provide equitable and critical early exposure to STEM learning that builds children's confidence in STEM and lays key foundations for them to continue learning STEM beyond their elementary years.

Funding Request for K-5th Grade School STEM Programs Expansion

Funding will provide every K-5th grade public school classroom from Aspen to Parachute access to at least one ASC standards-based, culturally-relevant, and bilingual (when possible) STEM program in the 2026-27 school year, helping to close the disparities in access to quality STEM learning for students in our region. Demand for ASC's STEM programs is rapidly increasing from area elementary teachers, who are eager to improve their students' science learning experiences but who lack the resources required to meet their students' needs. In 2025, ASC's 5 pilot STEM programs for 5 schools in the Roaring Fork School District impacted 532 1st-5th grade students. Feedback from teachers and students was extremely positive, but school funding poses the greatest barrier to participation in ASC's programs. Funding will help to underwrite ASC's costs associated with these programs (marketing, development and delivery, purchasing of high-quality materials and supplies, travel costs to schools or field trip sites for program delivery, and venue rentals for field trips when needed), and thus enable ASC to subsidize these programs, making them affordable for every public elementary class from Aspen to Parachute. Removing the cost barrier for public schools to participate will effectively enable ASC to expand its existing K-5 programs to impact almost 6,000 K-5th grade students from the region's 13 public elementary schools with hands-on, relevant, STEM learning.



ASPEN WORDS

aspenwords.org

Mission Statement

To encourage writers, inspire readers, and connect people through the power of stories.

Operating Budget: \$2,425,000

Program Budget: \$139,975

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 744 Students

About

Aspen Words plays a unique role in the Roaring Fork Valley as the region's only literary nonprofit, connecting writers and readers of all ages through affordable and free literary arts events, workshops, and educational offerings. By bringing accomplished writers into deep engagement with the community—both on stage and in classrooms—Aspen Words' connects people through story, builds empathy, and elevates underrepresented voices. Guided by strategic priorities of access and artistic excellence, Aspen Words nurtures emerging writers by embedding literature in local schools through programs like the Youth Poetry Project. AW's vision of success is a community where storytelling is a shared civic value—one that strengthens communication, empathy, and creative confidence across generations.

Community Served

AW serves residents of the Roaring Fork Valley through year-round literary programs that expand access to high-quality creative and educational opportunities. The Youth Poetry Project, for which we seek Giving Network funding, primarily serves middle school students in Basalt and Carbondale and is shaped by ongoing input from students, educators, and families. Schools identify challenges around reading and writing engagement, social-emotional development in an increasingly digital world, and cultural isolation among students from Spanish-speaking families. The Youth Poetry Project addresses these needs by fostering literacy, confidence, and self-expression, while bilingual poets affirm dual-language skills and celebrate cultural identity.

Funding Request for Roaring Fork Valley Youth Poetry

Grant funding will support Aspen Words' Youth Poetry Project by delivering weeklong, in-school writing workshops at Basalt and Carbondale Middle Schools in fall 2026, culminating in a public showcase of student work at Basalt Middle School's auditorium. Funds will underwrite the engagement of four accomplished bilingual teaching artists and professional poets, including curriculum development, travel and lodging, and competitive artist compensation. Every student at both middle schools will participate in a minimum of two workshops, engaging with live performances by professional poets, learning tools for creative self-expression, and writing and performing original poetry. The project will include a minimum of 70 workshops across two schools, reaching close to 750 students. We anticipate a total of 80 student performers at assemblies and the culminating showcase. Through sustained mentorship and inclusive, culturally responsive instruction, the project strengthens literacy skills, amplifies student voice, and builds confidence—empowering young people to see themselves as writers, performers, and storytellers. Funding will enable the program to return to Basalt and Carbondale Middle Schools after successful residencies in 2024 and 2025, deepening its impact through sustained, annual engagement. Support from the Giving Network will also fund the creation of a short impact video in 2026, helping AW document outcomes and leverage this investment to secure future support.



RAISING A READER ASPEN TO PARACHUTE

rar4kids.org

Mission Statement

To engage children from birth to age five in a routine of daily book sharing with their parents to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding, and early literacy skills critical for school and life success.

Operating Budget: \$350,000

Program Budget: \$34,000

Grant Request: \$34,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,800 Children ages 0-5 and their families

About

Raising a Reader was founded in 2004 to address the learning gap that arises when young children lack access to language-rich environments, books, and reading time with caregivers. We are committed to ensuring equitable access to early literacy resources in families' languages to address this learning gap and support family well-being.

Central to our work is the Red Book Bag program, which delivers weekly book bags to 600+ children. In 2012, we expanded our reach to Spanish-speaking families with Bolsitas Rojas, a weekly program for children without preschool access. Today, we offer 10 programs empowering parents and children to engage in early learning.

In 2018, we launched 123 Let's Read, which provides monthly books and guidance to preschool teachers and children, serving 885 children. In 2020, we introduced 2-generation, Spanish-language summer camps and now offer 6 camps each June. In 2022, we established the Children's Arts and Literacy Festival, which had 700+ attendees by 2025.

Community Served

Research shows that early literacy is the strongest predictor of academic success and earning potential. Yet, 40% of children living in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys lack basic literacy and language skills needed in kindergarten, the majority of whom are under-resourced Latino students who lack access to preschool experiences.

Raising A Reader's vision is that every child in our region will enter kindergarten prepared for learning and excited about reading. Our programming is based on research showing that children's school readiness and academic performance improve when caregivers are consistently involved.

Funding Request for Onboarding and Training for Bilingual Assistant Director

Raising A Reader has experienced consistent program growth over the past four years, increasing from serving 900 to 1800 children per year. Our programming growth reflects increased program demand, expanded partnerships, and greater community impact beyond early literacy to health and well-being of families, including food security, community-building, and dental and health needs. The Executive Director cannot sustain the organization's growth while serving as the sole leader, so we will be hiring a Bilingual Assistant Director to support our increased capacity. Funding from the Giving Network will help offset the initial costs of onboarding and training a new Bilingual Assistant Director to provide expanded leadership to coordinate our growing Spanish-language 2-generation programming; bilingual communications with families, volunteers, and partners; and a new tech system to streamline organizational work. In tandem, RAR will engage a leadership team development coach to support this time-limited transition, ensuring that expanded leadership capacity and systems are effective and sustainable as RAR enters its next phase of growth.



SUMMIT54

Summit54.org

Mission Statement

To improve Colorado's economy and society through effective, efficient and accountable investments in education.

Operating Budget: \$1,200,000

Program Budget: \$1,080,000

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,050 Elementary students and teachers

About

Summit54 is the ONLY provider of FREE summer academic and life enrichment programming for elementary school students in our lower Valley and the ONLY provider of FREE after-school tutoring for elementary-aged children in our Lower Valley. Our goal is to develop a strong academic foundation for elementary students so they can continue to succeed in school and life.

Beginning in fourth grade, 50% of the information children need to learn is provided to them in a written format. If they can't read at grade level when entering 4th grade, it is extremely difficult for them to succeed. Not surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between third-grade literacy rates and high school dropout rates. There is also a strong correlation between high school dropout rates and incarceration.

Without access to a high-quality summer academic program, young students typically regress 2.5 to 4 months academically during the summer break. Our students advance 2.5 to 4 months -- a 6 month difference!

Community Served

Historically, our scholars have been 84% Latino, 74% receive free and reduced-price lunch during the school year, and 76% are English language learners. In 2025, 100% of the children we served qualified for free and reduced lunch. Most of our families have dual working parents without alternative summer childcare. Before Summer Advantage, many of the families we served had no choice but to leave young children home alone while they worked long hours, often commuting great distances.

All our classrooms all have two teachers -- a native spanish speaker and a native english speaker. The 11:1 ratio we provide for students to teachers allows our educators to provide a tremendous amount of personal attention to struggling students.

Funding Request for Summer Advantage & After-School Tutoring

Funds from the Giving Network would directly fund our two academic programs for elementary aged children in the Lower Roaring Fork Valley. Only 10% of our total budget covers overhead expenses such as a very part-time controller, an annual audit and an annual fundraising event. 90% of all funds raised directly pays for our programming (primarily paying educators). This is possible because our ED works as a volunteer from her home, using her own computer, phone, printer, etc.



THEATRE ASPEN

TheatreAspen.org

Mission Statement

To produce world class entertainment and arts education programming in an engaging, intimate and personal way.

Operating Budget: \$5,724,904

Program Budget: \$45,020

Grant Request: \$45,020

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 40 Students and their families

About

Theatre Aspen (TA) is the RFV's only fully professional theatre company producing nationally recognized productions while providing year-round arts education and community engagement. For over four decades, Theatre Aspen has strengthened regional cultural life by connecting residents, workers, and families through accessible arts programs. Guided by a mission to inspire and educate audiences while creating meaningful performing opportunities for young people, TA prioritizes accessibility to the arts and educational enrichment. The organization produces professional summer theatre alongside more than 45 education programs serving over 600 students annually. Through programs like our partnership with Garfield 16, TA works to remove financial barriers to participation while working directly with schools to provide arts-integrated academic enrichment that supports student learning, confidence, and collaboration while helping families access safe, structured out-of-school programming.

Community Served

Theatre Aspen primarily serves youth and working families across the RFV and surrounding rural mountain communities, with focused service to Garfield County students. Many families in this region rely on full-time employment and face limited access to structured enrichment and supervision during non-school days. Garfield County's four-day school week creates significant gaps in academic reinforcement, mentorship, and safe youth programming. Our partnership provides tuition-free fifth-day programming developed in partnership with local educators to support student learning, engagement, and social development while providing working families with reliable supervision and enrichment opportunities while supporting family stability.

Funding Request for Curtain Up: Expansion into Parachute High School

Support from the Giving Network will expand Theatre Aspen's academic enrichment partnership with Garfield County School District, expanding programming from middle school into high school while strengthening support for working families impacted by the district's four-day school week. Funding will provide fifth-day programming that includes safe supervision, transportation, meals, and arts-integrated academic instruction that reinforces literacy, communication, and collaborative learning skills. Investment will support teaching artist instruction, curriculum development, and mentorship for local educators to strengthen long-term enrichment capacity within schools. Giving Network support will increase equitable access to enrichment programs while helping working families maintain employment stability, ensuring students receive safe, supervised academic support on off days. This investment strengthens student educational outcomes and community workforce stability. Theatre Aspen currently serves more than 600 students annually through 45 education programs and has never turned away a student due to financial need. Expansion will increase participation, extend service into older grade levels, and strengthen retention pathways.



BASALT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

basal.edu.org

Mission Statement

To empower Basalt Public Schools to thrive through community investment of innovative programming and enriching experiences for every student. We serve the well-being and excellence of a diverse community through school-led initiatives.

Operating Budget: \$473,970

Program Budget: \$105,000

Grant Request: \$52,500

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 400 Households

About

BEF strengthens Basalt Public Schools through community investment—connecting local philanthropy, businesses, and civic partners to the real-time needs of students, educators, and families across the Roaring Fork Valley. As a trusted connector and catalyst, we translate generosity into targeted, measurable support for public education. We listen to educators, identify high-impact opportunities, and mobilize funding, partnerships, and visibility to help students thrive—responding quickly to emerging needs while investing in long-term success. Our priorities: student opportunity and equity; educator support and learning conditions; community-connected education; and smart, measurable investment. Success looks like equitable access for students, supported and valued educators, welcomed families, and a community that sustains public education as a shared responsibility.

Community Serve

BEF serves a diverse community—many Latino/Hispanic students, bilingual/dual-language learners, and families facing housing insecurity and the valley's high cost of living. Across Basalt schools, ~47–56% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, ~22–44% are economically disadvantaged, ~34% are emerging bilingual, and ~59–62% are minority. Programs are designed to remove barriers through free/low-cost access, inclusive materials, culturally responsive supports, resources that strengthen academic success, belonging, and family engagement. Most pressing needs include affordability, housing instability, language access, mental health/social-emotional supports, and equitable access to enrichment and opportunity.

Funding Request for Post Secondary High School Support

\$52,500 will cover 50% of a full-time College & Career Counselor at Basalt High School for one year (1.0 FTE = ~\$105,000). This investment increases counselor capacity so every student receives consistent, high-touch support for both career pathways and post-secondary planning. With this support, the counselor will: deliver structured career exploration (interest/skills inventories and capstone support); expand and coordinate EPIC internships and CTE pathway connections (including the emerging healthcare pathway); plan and implement key events like the Career Panel, Career Expo, May Job Fair, Scholarship Award Night, Signing Day, and junior college/trade school tours; and provide intensive college application support (Common App setup and school report, transcript coordination, essay review, and 30–40 letters of recommendation). Anticipated impact is improved access, efficiency, and outcomes—tracked annually and disaggregated for equity—including:

- * % of seniors with confirmed post-secondary plans
- * % completing applications (college/trade) and receiving acceptances
- * FAFSA/CASFA completion rates
- * Internship participation and satisfaction
- * Total scholarship dollars awarded
- * Dual enrollment/CTE participation, certificates earned, and credits earned
- * Parent attendance at key info nights and community partner participation in the Job Fair



ENGLISH IN ACTION

englishinaction.org

Mission Statement

To build a stronger community and intercultural relationships by fostering language development, personal empowerment, and community engagement.

Operating Budget: \$1,471,558

Program Budget: \$25,000

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 685 Adults

About

English In Action fosters community connections in the Roaring Fork Valley by matching volunteer tutors with adult immigrants seeking to learn English. We help strengthen relationships that foster belonging through language development and community engagement. English language tutoring and Digital Literacy programs address critical barriers while creating conditions for intercultural exchange and deeper cross-cultural understanding. Annually our 300+ volunteers donate more than 7,000 hours. As trusted partners to both volunteers and learners, we facilitate strong tutoring relationships, provide ongoing training, and coordinate engagement activities that bring diverse community members together for meaningful connection. Our vision of success is a stronger, more connected Roaring Fork Valley where immigrants advance professionally, engage confidently in their children's education, and give back to the community.

Community Served

We serve adult immigrants in the Roaring Fork Valley who identify language barriers as their greatest challenge in navigating daily life, supporting families, and engaging civically. Our learners are primarily Spanish-speaking parents with incomes below the self-sufficiency level. We provide personalized instruction for learners from beginners building foundational skills to proficient professionals refining language for career advancement or citizenship. But our impact extends beyond language learning. Reducing isolation and bridging cultural divides transforms lives. Volunteers and students alike value the meaningful relationships formed in our programs, connections that build belonging in a community often divided by language and culture.

Funding Request for Cross-Cultural Community Building

Last year, Giving Network support enabled English In Action to move into our new building, creating a welcoming space for language learning and community connection. Over the past year, we engaged students, tutors, staff, board members and community partners in strategic planning. A clear message emerged to build on our history of success by creating more intentional opportunities for cross-cultural engagement in our new home. Ideas ranged from bilingual cooking classes to music exchanges to book clubs and more. With 2026 funding, we can activate that vision by expanding experiences that bring our community together. We will begin by evaluating our current cultural exchange programming to identify ways to enrich and integrate offerings into our new space. We will work with student leaders to shape inclusive activities they are most interested in. In collaboration with community partners, we will launch 3-6 pilot initiatives, based on student feedback. With a dedicated facility and established network of learners and volunteers who already report meaningful relationships, we are well positioned to deepen connections. Our goal is for community members to learn side by side, breaking barriers and celebrating diverse backgrounds. Success will be measured through participation and qualitative feedback on relationship-building and belonging. This funding will help us fulfill the vision our community articulated, transforming our space into a welcoming hub where shared humanity is celebrated.



ROARING FORK PRECOLLEGIATE

rfprecollegiate.org

Mission Statement

To partner with our students to choose the post-secondary path that is best for them, by providing comprehensive high school and college advising and mentoring, access to relevant resources, and experiential opportunities.

Operating Budget: \$542,350

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 420 First-generation students

About

Founded in 2003 through a partnership with CU Boulder, Colorado Mountain College, Aspen Community Foundation, and the Roaring Fork School District, Roaring Fork PreCollegiate has evolved from a volunteer-driven initiative into a robust college access program that serves a critical role within the rural communities of Basalt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. PreCollegiate was created to help foster a college-bound mindset within the Roaring Fork Valley and respond to the undisputed fact that a majority of our community shares a first-generation identity. Specifically, our program has a profound impact on Hispanic/Latinx youth and their families. These students, often overlooked, harbor college aspirations that, without guidance, could remain unfulfilled due to systemic barriers that stifle educational attainment. Our primary focus is that every PreCollegiate student graduates high school with a viable postsecondary plan and it is that mission that drives our programming.

Community Served

Annually, PreCollegiate serves up to 420 students, accounting for approximately 14% of the RFSD, at the seven public middle and high schools in the communities of Basalt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. Working closely with school counselors to identify first-generation students who have expressed interest in pursuing any form of higher education, we recruit students through their junior year. Our demographics tend to be over 95% Hispanic/Latinx, 60-70% eligible for Pell Grants, and 15-20% undocumented, with the vast majority hailing from mixed status families. The need for targeted support in this community is underscored by disparities in educational attainment and graduation rates within the local community, state, and nation.

Funding Request for General Operations

Funds would be used for general operating needs, which sustains our program capacity, allowing us to continue serving approximately 14% of RFSD. Of our total annual budget, 93% is used to pay for staff and therefore direct student support, with the remaining 7% on operational needs, including college experiences, transportation, materials, and professional development. Grant support for general operating allows us to focus our attention on our 2024-2026 strategic planning goals that are mission aligned: integrating student voice into curriculum decisions, allowing us to be responsive to our students' needs and more integrated with our community's resources; activating our alumni network and evaluating potential alumni program capacity building; and designing programming to better support parents and families through the college and financial aid planning process. Since we began data tracking in 2008, PreCollegiate has maintained a 100% high school graduation rate, 98% college enrollment rate, and 82% college completion rate, tripling national averages for similar demographics. General operating support is critical because we anticipate needing to fundraise for a new summer capstone experience for PreCollegiate juniors due to unforeseen circumstances at CU Boulder. When surveyed, PreCollegiate students indicate that it is the opportunity to live on campus and take college classes that is most influential on their journey.



THE FARM COLLABORATIVE

thefarmcollaborative.org

Mission Statement

To grow a regenerative food system where the health of people and the planet come first.

Operating Budget: \$1,622,816

Program Budget: \$57,000

Grant Request: \$57,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 5,000 Individuals

About

We envision a resilient food system grounded in connection, access, and joy—where children learn from the land, farmers thrive, and communities gather around food. We provide hands-on, experiential learning for all ages, and many of our programs are free. Our location, the FarmPark, is open to the public year-round with 5,500 annual visitors. In 2026, we opened The Farm Center, which includes a welcome center and year-round Farm Store, along with classrooms for education and community events. The surrounding FarmPark will be expanded this summer to accommodate more visitors. Together, these spaces will expand our programmatic offerings and improve access to fresh, local food. Other programs include Earth Keepers Community Day Camp, summer programming for children; school tours; Farmer in Training Program for teens, Farmer Apprenticeship Program for adults; public community events; and the 2Forks Club, which makes revolving 0% interest loans to local farmers and food entrepreneurs.

Community Served

The U.S. has a teen mental health crisis, & the Aspen area is no exception. Agriculture has long been used therapeutically, & our youth programs provide a supportive outdoor environment where teens build confidence, resilience, & a sense of purpose through meaningful work. Our work is supported by our Youth Council, a leadership & advisory committee created to inform TFC's programs. We aim to streamline & increase the education we offer by fully integrating our programs, offering continuity through age groups, and building a space for teens and young adults to thrive. Agriculture is the only Coloradean sector where younger teens can engage in paid work, creating unique opportunities to build grit and pride.

Funding Request for The Farm Collaborative's Apprenticeship Program

We will launch a new teen & young adult farmer training program. Funding for our existing Farmer in Training (FIT) & adult-oriented Farmer Apprentice (FA) programs will conclude in 2026. The conclusion of funding for these popular programs means there is urgency to sustain opportunities for youth & young adults. Building on the learnings from FIT & FA, we envision a new program that welcomes middle & high school youth and young adults. These paid participants will gain hands-on experience in farming & retail sales. Graduates will be eligible for hire at TFC, providing them an opportunity for professional growth. Through this work program, they will develop foundational skills including basic farm knowledge & retail sales, which will give them transferable skills for future employment. Integrating FIT & the Farmer Apprenticeship programs into one new program will decrease staffing costs & administrative overhead. By staffing the Farm Store with program participants, we will provide hands-on job training while maintaining affordable pricing. Smooth operations will ensure SNAP benefits are available to community members, an initiative supported by The Giving Network. Funding will support hiring an educator to support the program & wages for participants. By project's end, the new FIT program will have enrolled 10+ individuals & saved \$40k in operating costs. Once launched for a full year, we feel confident that future years can be funded as part of our annual staffing plan.



YOUTHENTITY

Youthentity.org

Mission Statement

To help young people develop real-world skills, including financial literacy and career readiness, to prepare them for stable, successful futures.

Operating Budget: \$1,150,390

Program Budget: \$335,750

Grant Request: \$45,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 835 Middle and high school students

About

Youthentity plays a unique role, from Aspen to Parachute, by equipping young people with financial knowledge, career skills, and real-world experience focused on local high-demand industries. Since 2001, Youthentity has supported students through programs such as I Am Financial Knowledge, High Five Your Life, Career Academies, Career Expo, and new in 2025, Youthentity Works, a hands-on initiative that immerses students in the business side of the culinary trade. Through Youthentity Works, students produce and sell baked goods, manage catering projects, and Heat & Eat meals, gaining practical experience in cost projections, marketing, and menu planning while serving the community.

By combining financial education, career exploration, and entrepreneurial learning, Youthentity empowers youth to make informed decisions and build sustainable futures while strengthening the valley's workforce.

Community Served

Youthentity serves middle and high school students from Aspen to Parachute. About half are from historically marginalized or economically disadvantaged communities. Our programs are informed by youth voice, educator collaboration, and regional workforce needs, ensuring content is relevant and practical. By combining financial literacy with career awareness focused on industries prevalent in our community, including construction, culinary, healthcare, animal care and real estate / finance, we train local youth for local jobs. The most pressing needs that we support our students include access to financial education, clear career pathways, and hands-on experiences that prepare students for sustainable futures.

Funding Request for Money Smart / Career Ready

Funding will provide support to grow Youthentity's portfolio of financial literacy, career awareness, and workforce readiness programs. We will improve program quality, respond to rising demand, and strategically invest in high school program growth areas: Construction, Culinary and Health Occupations Academy, Youthentity Works, and High5 Your Life. We will scale our new middle school Civics Bee program through school & community. Through all programs, students gain both financial knowledge & career readiness.

In 2024–25, our Giving Network grant enabled us to serve 3,243 youth from Aspen to Parachute. Students completing our financial literacy program increased their financial knowledge by an average of 33%, while Career Academy enrollment grew and students earned 73 industry certifications, 204 college credits, and direct pathways to employment and postsecondary training. Our newest initiative, a student led retail program, Youthentity Works, generated \$1,700 in profit in its pilot phase, demonstrating both entrepreneurial learning and revenue success.

Support from the Giving Network will ensure Youthentity can continue preparing more young people for successful, financially stable futures, while strengthening the local workforce for the communities we serve.



ASCENDIGO AUTISM SERVICES

ascendigo.org

Mission Statement

To elevate the autism spectrum by empowering people, inspiring lives, and shattering expectations.

Operating Budget: \$6,228,299

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 115 Individuals

About:

Ascendigo was founded in 2004 by leading autism advocates and caregivers to establish a summer sports camp for children with autism. The founders believed all children should have equal access to life experiences, especially outdoor recreational activities that harness the healing potential of nature. Since 2014, Ascendigo has provided one-on-one case-management, clinical therapy, group counseling and other types of support. Services now include seasonally centered recreation, behavioral therapies for children, and life-skills and vocational training for teens and adults with autism and other intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). Grounded in the “Ascendigo Way” and evidence-based practices, our programs are thoughtfully implemented to deliver measurable outcomes. We foster a strong, valued staff culture while strengthening funding, systems and sustainability. Our values – heart, mind and voice – shape every aspect of our work.

Community Served:

Serving individuals with autism or other I/DD, Ascendigo fills a critical gap in our region where resources are limited and demand is on the rise, with a notable need in our local Latino population. Navigating life with a disability presents challenges at home, school and work. Many of our participants require comprehensive, hands-on support around basic needs. They often have nowhere else to turn for this intensive intervention; and, further exacerbating circumstances, some face extreme financial barriers related to their disability. Working with each participant and their family, our multidisciplinary team utilizes a person-centered approach and implements an individualized plan to support their unique needs, strengths and preferences.

Funding Request for General Operations

Funding would bolster our ability to provide unmatched opportunities and specialized support across our core programs. Adventures (ages 7+) offers diverse recreation, including seasonal camps and a fall program. Our staff help participants achieve their goals while enjoying the outdoors. Engaging with peers, participants build confidence and resilience. Outreach (ages 7-17) provides naturalistic supports and Applied Behavioral Therapy. This helps participants acquire skills to manage relationships with peers and family, as well as to enhance community engagement. We also equip school staff with tools to better support students with autism or other I/DD. Outreach is expanding to include the Early Start Denver Model for those in early childhood. Life Enrichment (ages 18+) is centered on recreational activities, day supports, life planning, community building/access and behavioral therapy. High schoolers are supported in their transition to adulthood to prepare for life beyond the classroom. Our newest offerings: After Hours at Ascendigo, Adult Afternoon Adventures, and a women-only residence – ensure we can meet the needs of more adults. Vocational (ages 15+) helps participants obtain a driver’s license, prepare for interviews, build job-specific skills, apply for jobs/volunteer roles and secure employment. To complement our programs, we plan to facilitate parent/caregiver-support groups for networking and resource-sharing.



ASPEN VALLEY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

fcaspen.com

Mission Statement

To facilitate inclusion and companionship to children and young adults with special needs by celebrating their individuality and provide support to their families.

Operating Budget: \$30,000

Program Budget: \$25,000

Grant Request: \$15,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 30 Children & their families

About

Aspen Valley Friendship Circle (AVFC) serves children, teens, and families in the Roaring Fork Valley impacted by developmental, physical, and emotional disabilities. Founded to address a gap in services for families of children with special needs in our rural mountain community, AVFC provides consistent, relationship-based programming that reduces isolation and builds belonging. Our work emphasizes inclusion, routine, and whole-family support, recognizing that caregivers and siblings benefit alongside the child. A central part of our programming takes place in the Xplore Zone & Sensory Room, where we host biweekly Sunday sensory circles and year-round activities focused on sensory regulation, social connection, and joyful participation. Our vision of success is a community where children with special needs are not only accommodated, but truly included.

Community Served

Aspen Valley Friendship Circle serves children and families in the Roaring Fork Valley impacted by developmental, physical, and emotional disabilities, including autism and sensory processing challenges. In our rural mountain community, limited specialized services leave many families feeling isolated and underserved. Our programs are informed by feedback from parents, educators, and therapists and are designed to be accessible, consistent, and relationship-based. Through biweekly sensory circles and year-round use of the Xplore Zone & Sensory Room, we provide calming, structured environments that support emotional regulation, social connection, and inclusion for children of all abilities.

Funding Request for Friendship Circle Family Meetup

Funding from the Giving Network would support the ongoing sustainability and growth of the Aspen Valley Friendship Circle's Xplore Zone & Sensory Room programming. Specifically, funds would be used to support biweekly Sunday sensory circles for children with special needs, including program staffing, supplies, food and beverages for families, maintenance and replacement of sensory materials, and the purchase of new sensory equipment. Currently, we host approximately 26 sensory programming sessions per year, serving 20–30 children and their families, with repeat participation reflecting the importance of consistency and routine for this population. Funding will allow us to maintain regular programming, improve the quality and durability of sensory equipment, and ensure the space remains safe, engaging, and responsive to individual needs. Support from the Giving Network will directly increase program efficiency by reducing wear-related disruptions, expanding access to high-quality sensory tools, and allowing staff to focus on meaningful engagement rather than resource limitations. Families report improved emotional regulation, increased social interaction, and a greater sense of belonging as a result of participation. As demand for inclusive programming continues to grow in our rural community, this funding will help stabilize and strengthen a critical support system—ensuring children with special needs have consistent access to a welcoming environment where they can thrive.



BEST BUDDIES COLORADO

bestbuddies.org/colorado

Mission Statement

To establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Operating Budget: \$1,240,207

Program Budget: \$43,741

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 340 Individuals

About

Best Buddies Colorado plays a unique role in advancing inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by creating opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and community engagement. As part of the global Best Buddies organization, we bring proven, evidence-based programs to schools, workplaces, and communities across Colorado. Our strategic priorities focus on expanding inclusive employment, reducing social isolation, and empowering individuals with IDD to become leaders and advocates. We partner with schools, employers, and community organizations to create sustainable pathways to inclusion. Guided by our values of respect, dignity, and belonging, our vision is a Colorado where individuals with IDD are fully included, valued, and empowered to reach their potential.

Community Served

Best Buddies Colorado serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including youth and adults who face barriers to social inclusion, employment, and leadership. Many experience isolation and unemployment due to stigma and lack of opportunity. Our programs are guided by participant and family feedback and tailored to individual strengths, goals, and cultural contexts. BBCO supports children and families across Aspen, Snowmass Village, Woody Creek, Old Snowmass, Basalt, El Jebel, Carbondale, Redstone, Marble, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, and Parachute/Battlement Mesa.

Funding Request for Best Buddies Aspen School Friendship Project

Funding from the Giving Network will directly support the expansion and strengthening of Best Buddies Colorado's School Friendship Program, which builds one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Support will help us launch new school chapters, provide advisor training, and deliver student leadership workshops to ensure high-quality, sustainable programming. With funding, we aim to increase the number of active chapters and student participants statewide, reducing social isolation and increasing inclusive school engagement. Research shows students with IDD are significantly more likely to experience loneliness and exclusion; our program improves belonging, peer connection, and school climate. Investment from the Giving Network will help more students build meaningful friendships and foster lifelong inclusive attitudes.



ADVOCATE SAFEHOUSE PROJECT

advocatesafehouseproject.org

Mission Statement

To promote healthy relationships free from violence as we strive to overcome imbalances through advocacy, collaboration, education, and shelter.

Operating Budget: \$922,110

Program Budget: \$744,714

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 425 Sexual violence survivors and children

About

Advocate Safehouse Project (ASP) is the only program in Garfield County offering free, confidential, & comprehensive services for sexual and/or intimate partner violence survivors & their children. In 1987, ASP began providing services to intimate partner violence survivors. In 1991, ASP expanded services to sexual assault survivors. From 1993 until 2025, ASP had the only Safehouse (Shelter) Program in the Roaring Fork Valley. From 1987-2025, ASP safely sheltered over 1,247 families & 1,237 children for 49,953 shelter nights. ASP offers survivors crisis intervention, emotional support, case management, survivor education, advocacy, information & referrals. In 2025, ASP served 525 survivors: 443 intimate partner violence survivors & 82 sexual violence survivors. 21 adults & 18 children were sheltered 2,332 shelter nights, & 89 months of rental assistance was provided for 23 adults & 45 children. ASP's 2026 focus is providing crucial services with limited resources to survivors.

Community Served

ASP provides services to sexual and/or intimate partner violence survivors in Garfield County who are English or Spanish-speakers. ASP's programs are its 24-hour Help Line, Safehouse, Community Outreach, Housing First, Latinx Outreach, & its Community Education Programs. Services provided by ASP are survivor-centered where survivors determine what services to receive to meet their needs & goals. Survivor feedback is very important to ASP. In 2025, 98% of survivors reported they know more ways to plan for their safety & 98% know more about community services/resources as a result of working with ASP staff. The high cost of housing in Garfield County is the most pressing challenge for survivors when they leave their abusive relationship.

Funding Request for General Operations

ASP is requesting the Giving Network funds to be allocated towards General Operations to sustain ASP's day-to-day operations due primarily to the 36% decrease in 2026 federal funding ASP will experience. As a result of these funding cuts ASP was forced to eliminate 1.5 FTE positions. Despite this, ASP anticipates serving a similar number of survivors served in 2026 as it did in 2025. Giving Network funds will focus on supporting 425 survivors from Glenwood Springs to Parachute/Battlement Mesa communities. The survivors will determine which ASP services will be the most beneficial for them. These services may include calling ASP's 24-hour Help Line, accessing safety in ASP's Safehouse Program, receiving advocacy to navigate the criminal and/or civil justice systems, obtaining financial assistance for rent or other necessary expenses such as medicine, food, school supplies, seeking emotional support during a very tumult time in their life, etc. ASP will collect survivor feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of its survivor-centered services. This input will help ensure survivors feel supported by ASP staff and confident in the services they receive.



CASA OF THE NINTH

casaoftheninth.org

Mission Statement

To provide well-trained, court-appointed volunteers advocates to abused and neglected children in Colorado's 9th Judicial District.

Operating Budget: \$391,646

Program Budget: \$50,000

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 50 Families and youth

About

Since 2012 CASA of the Ninth has ensured that children who have suffered physical, sexual, emotional abuse and/or neglect and who are involved in Dependency & Neglect cases have a voice in a system that is overburdened and under-resourced. We serve youth, aged 1-day to 17 years old, who are the most at-risk for physical and emotional abuse in our community. The value to our communities avoiding predictive factors that youth without permanent homes may not finish high school, and may experience homelessness, unemployment, and incarceration. We recruit, train, and provide ongoing supervision to the caring and dedicated advocate volunteers. In addition to our advocacy program we provide supervised family time in safe, neutral spaces for children experiencing separation from one or both parents, due to domestic conflict involving legal action, and/or abuse and neglect. We also offer a Care for the Caregivers program to address burnout in our staff, volunteers and community partners.

Community Served

CASA of the Ninth court advocacy and supervised family time programs serve all youth in the target population aged 0-17 years, that are involved in D&N cases filed in the 9th Judicial District, Garfield, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco counties. We can only serve on cases that we have been appointed to by the courts. We also serve parents through supervised family time. As we have learned the juvenile truancy court system is struggling to increase school attendance and engagement. Our objective is to expand our advocacy to those youth that are needing support and attention that Department of Human Services (DHS) and schools are struggling to provide. By partnering with youth serving nonprofit partners we will create positive opportunities for youth (10-18 years) to find success.

Funding Request for General Operations

Funding from the Giving Network would go directly into program research, planning and expansion for juvenile truancy advocacy. There are several models for this program in Colorado CASA and are eager to leverage community interest, partner support and judicial need to move forward. Many youth that are part of the juvenile truancy court system have completely disengaged with the education system and community and need specific, personalized support to reengage. We hear stories of youth that are staying home to watch siblings, others that have not found a community at school and others that are bullied. Whatever the reason might be, these are the exact youth that many of our partners are designed to support. With CASA advocacy we can support youth and families in finding childcare, online learning opportunities and community resources of interest for each youth we serve. These cases are typically handed over to the DHS, which is stressed and unable to provide the attentive support these youth desperately need. Attending the Aspen Community Nonprofit Center of Excellence Academy in Jan. of 2026 and speaking with community non-profit partners serving youth it became clear that this is the program CASA could that would best serve our communities. Since the academy, CASA of the Ninth staff and board of directors has met with our judicial and DHS partners and has their support.



RESPONSE

responsehelps.org

Mission Statement

To work with our community to end domestic and sexual abuse and to support survivors in achieving their own safety and empowerment.

Operating Budget: \$1,284,346

Program Budget: \$33,000

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 200 Individual survivors and their children

About

Founded in 1983, Response is the only organization in the upper RFV dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking while working to prevent abuse through education and community engagement. What began as a volunteer-led crisis hotline is now a professional, multilingual organization providing 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, emergency shelter, housing support, legal and medical accompaniment, counseling assistance, and prevention [education](#). In 2025, Response opened the Halle Center for Hope and Healing in Basalt, the region's first domestic and sexual abuse center. The Center offers a safe, dignified space for survivors and their children and serves as a hub for advocacy and support services. Guided by a new five-year strategic plan, Response is stabilizing shelter operations, strengthening service delivery, and ensuring long-term sustainability through survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive practices.

Community Served

Response serves survivors and families living and working in the upper RFV, primarily women and children experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. In 2025, Response answered 252 crisis calls and provided direct services to 185 individuals, including 31 children under 18. 57% of clients identified as Latine, the first year this community represented the majority. Many families faced housing instability, limited financial resources, language barriers, and lack of access to affordable legal and mental health services. Response's prevention education reached 407 students in Basalt and Aspen schools. Programs support safety and healing through trauma-informed care and strong community partnerships.

Funding Request for Strengthening Survivor Support in the Upper RFV

Response is requesting \$25,000 to support survivor services centered on its 24/7 crisis helpline, the primary entry point for survivors and families seeking immediate safety, information, and advocacy. The helpline operates around the clock, ensuring survivors and concerned community members can reach a trained advocate any time. Calls are answered by trained volunteer and part-time staff advocates, supported by a 24/7 answering service. No call goes unanswered. Survivors often reach out during acute crises, including late-night emergencies, sexual assault, escalating domestic violence, and situations with children at risk. Funding will sustain the infrastructure required to operate this service, including part-time crisis line advocates, the 24/7 answering service, training and support for advocates, and program coordination to ensure quality and continuity of care. In 2026, the total cost of operating the crisis helpline and related survivor support services is projected at \$33,000. Response is requesting \$25,000 toward these costs, with the remaining \$8,000 committed through a Rural Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services grant from the federal Office of Violence Against Women. The helpline is often the first step toward safety. Calls may involve safety planning, crisis de-escalation, shelter access, legal or medical referrals, and support for family members seeking help. Funding will ensure children and families have continuous access to compassionate, trauma-informed assistance.



ASPEN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

aspennature.org

Mission Statement

To educate for environmental responsibility.

Operating Budget: \$4,821,138

Program Budget: \$25,000

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 570 Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers

About

Each year, ACES connects more than 75,000 people of all ages to the natural world through hands-on education and community programs. Our educators work daily in regional schools from Aspen to Rifle through outdoor science field programs and also provide in-classroom environmental education for 1,649 students each week at four local elementary schools in Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, and Glenwood Springs. We offer youth camps, adult classes, and guided outdoor experiences that inspire lifelong connections with the environment, while public lectures, workshops, and seasonal events further engage our community in dialogue and action around pressing environmental issues. Across our three sites in the Roaring Fork Valley, ACES advances environmental literacy and stewardship through programs focused on ecology, regenerative agriculture, land restoration, and forest and climate resilience. Together, these efforts create meaningful opportunities for learning and engagement in our community.

Community Served

ACES' early childhood programs serve preschool-aged children and families from Aspen to Carbondale, with a growing focus on downvalley communities where access to outdoor learning is limited. Rising childcare costs, transportation barriers, and fewer enrichment opportunities mean many children enter kindergarten with little structured time in nature. Research shows early outdoor experiences support cognitive growth, social-emotional resilience, and physical health, yet access remains uneven across the Roaring Fork Valley. This year, ACES will reach 382 early learners. In 2026-27, we will expand by 49.2% to serve 570 children and deepen equitable access to consistent, developmentally appropriate environmental education.

Funding Request for Early Childhood Environmental Education

Support from the Giving Network will allow for a strategic expansion of ACES' early childhood environmental education programs, strengthening long-term access for preschoolers, Pre-K students, and families. ACES currently serves 382 early learners who each receive at least two structured, developmentally appropriate outdoor learning experiences annually. In the 2026-27 school year, we will increase participation to 570 children, a 49% expansion, by transitioning classrooms from single visits to consistent seasonal programming delivered at schools, Hallam Lake Nature Preserve, and Rock Bottom Ranch. Funding will enable ACES to serve 188 additional early learners, establish partnerships with 6-7 new preschools in Basalt, El Jebel, and Carbondale, and increase program frequency from one visit to 3-4 sessions per classroom annually. A dedicated scholarship fund will eliminate cost barriers for 100% of participating downvalley classrooms, ensuring transportation and program fees do not limit access. Support will cover increased educator hours, curriculum planning, travel, and hands-on science materials, while sustaining caregiver-inclusive family programs and library storytimes. By expanding consistent exposure to nature at a formative age, this investment will strengthen cognitive development, social-emotional resilience, and early environmental stewardship, ensuring equitable access to high-quality outdoor learning during the 2026-27 school year.



BLUE LAKE PRESCHOOL

bluelakepreschool.org

Mission Statement

To provide exceptional early childhood education that nurtures children and supports families which helps strengthen our community.

Operating Budget: \$5,100,000

Program Budget: \$1,600,000

Grant Request: \$77,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 94 Children

About

For over 25 years, Blue Lake Preschool has been committed to meet the evolving needs of children, families, teachers, and our community. Our dedication to high-quality early childhood education has guided steady growth, from serving 38 children in 2000, to now serving 236 kids each day across three locations. After expanding our El Jebel campus, we opened a Carbondale center in 2015, recently expanded it, and launched a Basalt location in 2024. We have prioritized care for our youngest learners, now offering 95 spaces for infants, waddlers, and toddlers. Infant and toddler care remains one of the valley's most limited services due to the high cost of low child-to-teacher ratios. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to serving our youngest children, knowing that high-quality early care builds the foundation for lifelong learning.

Community Served

Blue Lake Preschool provides high-quality, full-day care for infants through preschoolers, as well as extended day programs for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Our families live between Rifle and Snowmass, as far west as Redstone, and work between Glenwood and Aspen. Our year-round childcare services are designed to meet the needs of working families, giving parents the reliable support they need to remain in the workforce. When families have consistent, trusted care, they gain financial stability and our entire community benefits. Local businesses depend on a reliable workforce, and parents can pursue their careers with confidence, knowing their children are safe, nurtured, and thriving in a loving, supportive environment.

Funding Request for Bus, Shade, Trees to Complete Expansion

Our request supports the completion of our Carbondale expansion. We are seeking funds to install a shade structure, plant trees that were removed during construction, and purchase a 14-passenger minibus. In 2020, we purchased the Little Blue property and renovated it to serve the three classrooms previously located on Merrill Avenue. This site offers space for classrooms, playgrounds, and parking, something rare in our valley. After opening in July 2021, we immediately began fundraising to add three additional classrooms. With the expansion complete, we are now licensed for 72 children each day, providing care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. While construction is complete, our playgrounds currently lack shade. Installing one shade structure and six trees will give all playgrounds ample shade. We currently operate one 14-passenger bus in Carbondale, used for weekly preschool field trips and the daily pickup of school-age children from local schools. Bus capacity limits us to transporting 14 children. This makes field trips difficult and limits the number of school-age kids we provide care for. A second bus would allow us to serve up to our licensed capacity of 21 children daily, helping address the significant need for extended-day care in our community.



EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK

earlychildhoodnet.org

Mission Statement

To promote the availability of quality, affordable early childhood education (ECE) and to provide access to childcare information and resources for the communities of Garfield, Pitkin and Eagle counties. A world class childcare system where families have financial and educational support and options in selecting quality and affordable childcare.

Operating Budget: \$532,500

Program Budget: \$100,000

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Caregivers and families

About

Founded in 2003 as part of the Aspen Community Foundation's Early Childhood Education Initiative and formally established as a 501(c)(3) in 2010, the Early Childhood Network (ECN) strengthens early childhood systems from Aspen to Parachute through research-based coaching, training, and cross-sector collaboration. We serve licensed providers, Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers, and community partners with a focus on quality improvement, health and safety, and equitable access. ECN partners with CDEC, Garfield & Eagle Counties, public health, school districts, and regional coalitions to align services and maximize impact. In 2026, we are intentionally strategizing in response to shifting funding landscapes and expanding agency roles to ensure rural caregivers and families experience coordinated, comprehensive support.

Community Served

ECN primarily serves rural caregivers and families from Parachute to Basalt, including Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers who often operate in isolation with limited access to training, fresh food resources, and technology. Many FFNs care for infants and toddlers in homes with limited infrastructure, financial stability, and professional development opportunities. Services are informed through direct coaching, healthy and safety checklists, and community feedback. Pressing needs include access to nutritious food, reliable technology, culturally responsive training, and coordinated regional support that reduces duplication and increases sustainability.

Funding Request for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver Assistance

Funding from the Giving Network will allow ECN to expand and refine our FFN support model during a period of regional transition. Specifically, funds will support: (1) increasing access to fresh food and nutrition education for FFN homes in partnership with local food and public health agencies; (2) expanding culturally responsive training and coaching opportunities; (3) providing basic technology support to ensure caregivers can access virtual training, licensing information, and community resources; and (4) conducting a regional needs assessment to align services and prevent duplication (meeting with Valley Settlement) as new providers and organizations expand into Garfield County. Since 2019, ECN has served FFN providers through individualized coaching, health and safety supports, and direct resource navigation. As regional capacity evolves, this investment will strengthen infrastructure, improve efficiency, and clarify specialization within the early childhood ecosystem. Anticipated outcomes include increased caregiver participation in training, improved access to nutritious food in home-based care settings, stronger data-informed decision-making, and a coordinated regional model that maximizes philanthropic impact while reducing service overlap.



EARLY LEARNING CENTER OF ASPEN

earlylearningaspen.org

Mission Statement

To nurture our students, educators, and families by providing inclusive, creative, and individualized learning experiences.

Operating Budget: \$2,289,472

Program Budget: \$40,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 104 Children

About

The Early Learning Center (ELC) plays a vital role in our regional community by providing quality, relationship-based early childhood education that supports children, families, and educators. Founded in 1991 to address the need for accessible, developmentally appropriate childcare, the ELC has become a trusted hub for early learning and family engagement. Our work centers on creating developmentally responsive learning environments, strengthening partnerships between families and educators, advancing equity and access for all children, and supporting a stable, well-prepared early childhood workforce. These efforts ensure that children's social-emotional development, early literacy, creativity, and school readiness are nurtured daily. What sets the ELC apart is its relationship-based approach and family engagement. As Aspen's largest year-round childcare provider, the ELC supports working families and the local workforce, helping build a foundation for lifelong learning and community.

Community Served

ELC serves working families from Aspen to Rifle, reflecting the long commutes parents face as they travel the Roaring Fork Valley for work. With nearly two-thirds of the Pitkin County workforce commuting from outside the county, access to reliable childcare is essential for family and workforce stability. Families face significant challenges as demand far exceeds available childcare slots, resulting in long waitlists and limited options. High costs compete with housing and basic expenses, while many parents work nontraditional or variable schedules. ELC responds by offering year-round care and regularly assessing operating hours to better align with family needs, supporting workforce participation, and strengthening the regional economy.

Funding Request for Learning Beyond the Classroom

Support from the Giving Network will expand access to high-quality enrichment and family engagement for children and families served by ELC across the Aspen-to-Parachute corridor, where affordable early learning opportunities remain limited. Funding will provide consistent enrichment experiences—including arts, music, movement, STEM, and nature-based learning—delivered through community partnerships and reaching approximately 104 children annually. These experiences support social-emotional development, early learning, and school readiness. Funding will also support a structured home-visit program in the prekindergarten classroom, serving 18 families through at least two visits per child each year. Research shows that relationship-based home visiting strengthens family-educator partnerships, improves attendance and engagement, and supports positive academic and social-emotional outcomes. Home visits allow educators to better understand children's home contexts, align learning goals with family priorities, and share developmentally appropriate strategies that reinforce classroom learning. This evidence-informed approach promotes continuity between home and school while increasing family confidence and involvement. Together, these investments enhance program effectiveness, leverage existing staff and partnerships, and expand equitable early learning opportunities without increasing tuition costs.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL & CHURCH

elcristle.com

Mission Statement

To equip, love, and connect at Emmanuel!

Operating Budget: \$174,532

Program Budget: \$50,000

Grant Request: \$18,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 56 Children

About

We provide education from age 2 1/2 through 3rd grade. We have multiple preschool classes. We have been in business as a preschool since 1999, but we have recently added a kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. Parents have been very interested more of a private, low student to teacher ratio option for education.

Community Served

We mainly serve Parachute to New Castle but have some students travel from as far away as Meeker to attend our school. We do not do the Universal Preschool program so some families cannot afford to send their child to our school. Our numbers in our afternoon preschool have been a little low the last two year because of the free preschool options offered by the state. Our goal is to provide a high-quality program that parents can afford.

Funding Request for Playground Improvement

This will help meet our licensing requirements for the playground and help maintain our playground with the upkeep of the fall zone surfaces. Parents like to see improvements in the facility that their children are attending.



OUR SCHOOL

ourschoolglenwood.org

Mission Statement

To provide a play based early childhood experience where children are active facilitators in their own learning.

Operating Budget: \$569,912

Program Budget: \$35,000

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 33 Children, and 20 households

About

Our School (OS) is a non-profit, non-partisan, diverse, integrated program which has been serving local families since 1997. We are licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services and not only strive to meet requirements but to constantly improve our program to offer the best possible care. We are a 5-diamond center determined by Colorado Shines for our quality care and standards for children. We recognize each child as capable and valued. We serve 33 children aged 6 weeks to 5 years.

Community Served

OS serves working families with young children living in Glenwood Springs and surrounding communities. We provide year-round early childhood education for infants, toddlers, and preschool, addressing a critical childcare gap for families whose work extends beyond the school year. Our programs are designed to be accessible and inclusive, offering UPK, accepting CCAP, and providing dual-language support to meet the needs of families from diverse economic and linguistic backgrounds. One of the most pressing challenges facing our community is the lack of affordable, reliable, year-round care. We are committed to maintaining affordable rates while delivering high-quality care that allows parents to remain employed and support the local economy.

Funding Request for Our School Roof Replacement

Funding from the Giving Network would be used to replace Our School's existing roof, which is reaching the end of its useful life. This critical capital improvement is necessary to maintain a safe, weather-resistant, and uninterrupted learning environment for children and staff. A new roof will protect classrooms from water damage, reduce maintenance and emergency repair costs, and improve the long-term sustainability of our facility.

Just as importantly, this funding will help offset the need for significant tuition increases that would otherwise be required to cover this type of major capital expense. Many of the families we serve are working households already navigating high housing and childcare costs. Without grant support, the financial burden of a roof replacement would likely be passed on to families, creating additional barriers to access and potentially forcing families to reduce care hours or leave our program entirely.

By supporting this project, the Giving Network helps preserve affordable, year-round childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children, ensuring continuity of care for families who rely on consistent childcare to maintain employment. This investment protects both the physical infrastructure of Our School and the stability of the families and local workforce we serve from Glenwood Springs to Silt and surrounding communities, creating lasting community impact beyond the life of the grant.



WILDWOOD SCHOOL

wildwoodschool.org

Mission Statement

Honoring the child's potential through nature exploration and creative expression. We strive to enrich the learning experience and extend children's curiosity into a community of relationships.

Operating Budget: \$796,988

Program Budget: \$6,800

Grant Request: \$5,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 16 Families

About

Wildwood School has been on the White River National Forest since 1974. We offer preschool-aged children quality childcare and a unique opportunity to be in nature year-round. We have a daily enrollment of 34 children and offer bus transportation to reduce impacts on this precious public land. Nature connection is the basis of all we do, providing the movement, exploration, and peace nature provides. Our 10-month school-year program requires parents to register for 2 to 5 days per week. For summer camp, currently enrolled families can choose the days they would like to participate. This allows us to provide high-quality child care on our leased 10-acre wild space to families who are not enrolled or visiting. With our Forest School, we will have 6 additional spots each week for a fully outdoor program led by one highly qualified teacher. We will use our building for bathroom facilities and a 16' yurt as our base for daily adventures. We want to assure this is available to all children.

Community Served

We aim to expand the community of children who lack access to nature-based experiences. By offering families tuition assistance to access our Forest School in the summer, we hope to make it available to all. We provide a school bus to transport children and teachers to our leased Forest Service space outside of town. There are few early childhood summer programs available for this age group. It is costly, and transportation can be a barrier. To reach families who may want to experience the Forest Camp but do not have a connection to Wildwood, we will contact Aspen Family Connections for referrals. We also have families within Wildwood who find the cost a barrier.

Funding Request for Wildwood Forest Camp for Early Childhood

- We will offer scholarships for 2 children for each of the 8 weeks of the Forest Camp program at 50% tuition assistance. \$300 off the week camp, making the cost to parents \$60. per day, which is greatly reduced. Total scholarship \$4800.
- Forest Camp provides a small group of 6 children and 1 of Wildwood's highly qualified teachers, plus benefits. Wildwood will cover the cost. \$0/
- A half-day teacher's aide position for 3 hours, 3 days a week. Because the group of children will be going to the river and on a field trip outside our leased space, licensing requires 2 adults. Total aid compensation is \$1800.

The Giving Network's support is what will make this program happen. As a nonprofit, our tuition does not cover the cost of care. We fundraise and write grants to help young children have nature experiences. We lease from the Forest Service and own our own building. That means we are fully responsible for maintenance, upkeep, road and grounds maintenance, and capital improvements. We fundraised for the yurt, which we will use as our base for the Forest Camp, and we know how fortunate we are to lease the natural public lands. Our mission is to share the space and our expertise in nature connection for young children.



FOCUSEDKIDS

focusedkids.org

Mission Statement

To partner with schools, families, and community organizations to make healthy brains a priority for our children

Operating Budget: \$435,400

Program Budget: \$28,400

Grant Request: \$28,400

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 3,000 Educators who complete the course and the students in their classrooms.

About

Founded more than a decade ago by a Child and Family Therapist, FocusedKids was created to help children understand their brains, regulate emotions, and build healthy relationships using practical, neuroscience-informed tools. What began as a pilot with Valley Settlement's mobile preschool has grown into a comprehensive youth development model grounded in child development research and a commitment to prevention, equity, and whole-family wellbeing. Today, FocusedKids serves Pre-K through fifth grades from Aspen to Parachute, reaching more than 3700 children, caregivers, and educators annually. FocusedKids offers classroom programming, bilingual parent coaching, groups for children with developmental needs and migrant newcomers, summer programs, and professional development for educators.

Community Served

FocusedKids serves young children, educators, and caregivers in Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield Counties and is the only organization providing brain-based, in-classroom social-emotional learning and virtual professional development in these communities. As families navigate rising costs, limited care, and immigration-related stress, classrooms experience increased behavioral challenges and educator burnout, particularly in communities where language access is limited. FocusedKids meets this moment by embedding neuroscience-informed tools into classrooms and extending support beyond school walls through bilingual, caregiver workshops, coaching, and virtual professional development courses designed to meet the needs of families and educators.

Funding Request for Calm & Connected Classroom: Expanded Reach

FocusedKids seeks a one-time grant to expand our fee-based online Calm and Connected Educator self-paced course for educators, paraprofessionals administrators, and families. Teachers navigate incredibly busy lives. As school budgets tighten and demand for virtual professional development grows, this investment will enable FocusedKids to scale an effective model that increases access to training for educators to support the emotional well-being of their students, while generating earned revenue for long-term sustainability. The course equips educators with evidence-based self-regulation strategies, brain-based classroom language, and practical tools that improve classroom climate. Each module includes a reflection exercise to evaluate their understanding of the content, along with Learning in Action exercises whereby they put their learnings into practice, and pre/post assessments to measure growth. A pilot last year enrolled 19 participants, with 100% reporting increased confidence to use the tools in their classrooms right away. With this grant, we aim to enroll 200 new course participants and measure improvements in skills and confidence over the next 2 years. Funds will support a platform upgrade, marketing, Spanish-language outreach through WhatsApp, Facebook, and partnership engagement with new/existing school districts, Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Mountain College, along with Spanish translation of the course and materials to ensure equitable access.



REACH OUT AND READ COLORADO

reachoutandreadco.org

Mission Statement

To improve school readiness and social-emotional skills through trusted literacy guidance and reading together.

Operating Budget: \$2,292,163

Program Budget: \$84,233

Grant Request: \$21,058

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 2,328 Children and their caregivers

About

Reach Out and Read Colorado (RORCO) improves school readiness and social-emotional skills through trusted literacy guidance and reading together. As a statewide organization operating in 334 clinics, we provide program access to over 130,000 young children each year. By embedding literacy into routine pediatric care, we reach families when trust is high and access is universal. During this critical period of brain development between ages 0-5 years, shared reading builds language, literacy, and strong caregiver-child bonds. Reach Out and Read is the only early literacy program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the only program that reaches children as early and often with no cost or enrollment required for families. Our evidence-based approach reduces systemic inequities in literacy and health, particularly for low income and historically underserved communities. Our vision is a Colorado where every child enters kindergarten ready to learn.

Community Served

RORCO serves children ages 0–5 and their caregivers between Aspen - Parachute through 17 local healthcare clinics. While RORCO provides statewide infrastructure and support, the program is implemented by local clinicians/staff who know their communities best. Each clinic designates a Medical Champion and Site Coordinator from its staff to manage the program and ensure the approach reflects local needs. Clinics order their own books, allowing them to provide culturally relevant and multilingual books that reflect the families they serve. In this region, 57.7% of children served are from low-income families, and 32% speak a language other than English. RORCO ensures equitable access to books and support during critical development.

Funding Request for Early Literacy in Aspen to Parachute

Funding from the Giving Network will support continued implementation of the ROR program at partner clinics between Aspen and Parachute, covering the cost of program delivery at 3,026 well-child visits, or approximately 25% of our annual regional footprint. By leveraging existing clinic infrastructure and trusted provider relationships, ROR reaches families without creating new systems, enrollment requirements, or additional cost to families.

At every well-child visit (WCV) from birth through age five, healthcare professionals provide developmentally/language-appropriate books to children and literacy guidance to caregivers. Books are also used during visits as tools to assess child development and model positive caregiver-child interactions. Full participation in the ROR program results in families receiving up to 13 new books paired with literacy guidance from a trusted healthcare provider.

Funding will also support our Read Me Again program, which helps clinics create literacy-rich waiting areas where families may take gently used books home, free of charge.

Research demonstrates that participation in ROR is associated with improved early language/literacy skills, increased WCV attendance, stronger patient-clinician relationships, and improved provider satisfaction. Given increasing funding uncertainty, local support through the Giving Network is critical to sustaining this proven, high-impact program and ensuring equitable access to early literacy support across the region.



THE BUDDY PROGRAM

BuddyProgram.org

Mission Statement

To empower youth through mentoring experiences to achieve their full potential. We envision a thriving community in which all members are supported and connected through meaningful relationships and experiences to achieve success.

Operating Budget: \$2,924,366

Program Budget: \$34,492

Grant Request: \$34,492

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 531 Individuals

About

TBP has been building connections across cultures, generations, socioeconomic strata and geography since 1973. From 2022-25 we increased total youth served by 26% due to our launch in Glenwood Springs, which has allowed us to serve families moving “downvalley”. In 2026, we are committed to deepening youth/family/stakeholder voice by:

Elevating youth/family voice by including youth/families in creating the roadmap for our Strategic Plan for 2027-2029; Reimagining how we engage youth voice systemically by retooling portions of our evaluation processes; Receive feedback from every program participant; Encouraging family engagement: Continue Noche de Loteria in Glenwood Springs and Family Picnic in Basalt; Expand our Family Forums (increase to two annually); Increase family feedback surveys. Integrate community stakeholder feedback, including stakeholder voices in our Strategic Plan (2027-2029); Increasing presence in the 16 schools we serve; Back to School and Family Involvement events.

Community Served

TBP serves families from Aspen to Glenwood Springs and Rifle. 621 youth and volunteer Big Buddies participated in 2025. We continue to grow to full capacity in Glenwood Springs while maintaining our commitment to quality mentoring in the other communities we serve. TBP gathers feedback from youth and families through initial intake conversations, surveys, forums, and monthly check-ins. Family engagement opportunities include Noche de Loteria, Family Picnic, and Parent Forums. Community feedback is gathered through meetings with school districts, school leadership, and staff. Challenges include schedule conflicts due to supporting basic needs of their families; language barriers; and building trusting relationships with parents/guardians.

Funding Request for Youth Empowerment, Family Engagement & Community

We would utilize funds received from the Giving Network to continue our efforts around engagement and stakeholder input. Funds would support:

Hosting four bilingual family engagement events in 2026—such as Family picnic, parent forums, LEAD family outdoor activities/projects and Noche de Loteria—to strengthen family communication, model healthy relationships, and expand protective adult networks. Facilitate youth-led sessions within all programs: high school volunteer Big Buddies in our Peer-to-Peer program plan and facilitate activities during meeting times with their Little Buddies; and high school LEAD Outdoor Leadership students plan and execute their multi-day trips. Create space for youth, families, and community members to help drive the creation of our next Strategic Plan. Hold two Parent/Family Forums in 2026 (increase from one annually since 2024): Reimagine program evaluation tools to incorporate additional youth program feedback and recommendations.



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF THE ROARING FORK SCHOOLS

rfsd.k12.co.us

Mission Statement

To strengthen student health, well-being, and academic achievement by partnering with families, schools, and communities.

Operating Budget: \$1,674,388

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,000 Students from 500 families

About

Family Resource Center (FRC) of the Roaring Fork Schools (RFS) was founded in 1995 by a community task force that recognized an increasing need among youth for support in dealing with health and basic needs challenges impacting academic success.

Today, the FRC serves as both a school- and community-based hub, with bilingual (Spanish), bicultural family liaisons located in each of the 12 district schools. The liaisons provide student and family support through six evidence-based programs. They utilize a 2Gen approach to create lasting positive change through shared needs assessment and goal setting, case management, coaching, and resource navigation. The coordinated wrap-around services delivered build on family strengths; promote resilience, protective factors, and stability; and improve health, well-being, and academic success.

Community Served

The FRC team works with children and youth ages 0-21 and their families who reside within the RFS district boundaries. Most come from historically marginalized groups and have lives impacted by poverty and injustice. They face significant cultural and socioeconomic barriers to accessing needed education, health, social, and economic resources. Based on the current program year, we estimate 98% of those served during the Giving Network grant period will be persons of color and nearly all will have household incomes that are near or below the federal poverty level. We center the voices of this community and the lived experience of our staff in our equitable and culturally responsive program delivery and evolution to address these barriers.

Funding Request for General Operations

The Giving Network's investment will enable FRC to address cuts in government funding for FRC in the 2026-27 school year and continue to ensure access to these vital supports for Roaring Fork Valley children, youth, and families and advance our mutual goal of addressing this region's "most pressing health and human services needs". This grant will sustain our 2Gen programs, with an emphasis on our core Family Development Services (FDS) program. In FDS, our family liaisons utilize the evidence-based Colorado Family Resource Association Family Development Support model and Colorado Family Support Assessment 2.0, Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, and motivational interviewing. Through comprehensive case management, the liaisons will help 500+ families build resilience, improve health and well-being, and reduce risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect. They will also coordinate with community partners to provide wraparound services to ensure students' and families' basic education, health, social, and economic needs are met. FRC's annual evaluations consistently show increased protective factors for participants, along with improved academic, health and well-being, social, and economic stability outcomes.



GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-2

garfieldre2.net/family-community/family-resource-center

Mission Statement

To advance equity and prevent crisis by serving as a welcoming, community-based hub where students and families find connection, support, and hope.

Operating Budget: \$88,900,000

Program Budget: \$500,000

Grant Request: \$79,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 400 Individuals

About

One Door serves a unique role in Western Garfield County as a central hub connecting students, families, and community members to essential resources, supports, and opportunities. Launched in 2021 with support from the ACF, One Door was created to address gaps in access to services and build a coordinated safety net in Rifle, Silt, and New Castle. Guided by strategic priorities that include trauma-informed practices, strong mental health supports, and community partnerships, One Door works to ensure families can access timely information and services. Key collaborations include Advocate SafeHouse, offering domestic violence support groups for teens and adults, and Aspen Hope Center, providing school-based counseling and mental health programming. One Door’s vision of success is a community where every student and family is informed, supported, and empowered to thrive, with equitable access to the resources and relationships they need to achieve long-term wellbeing.

Community Served

One Door serves students and families in the rural Western Garfield County communities of Rifle, Silt, and New Castle. Created to address gaps in access to support, One Door designs programs based on community-identified needs, with a growing focus on the most vulnerable students. Families face barriers including limited transportation, scarce local resources, financial hardship due to the high cost of living, and language, cultural, and immigration-related challenges. One Door reduces these barriers through accessible, culturally responsive supports that strengthen family stability, improve student engagement and academic achievement, and promote overall community wellbeing.

Funding Request for One Door’s Doorway to Opportunities Program

Funding from the Giving Network would support a strategic staffing expansion to strengthen One Door’s ability to serve students and families in Western Garfield County, especially those most at risk. Funds would allow us to separate our current combined District-wide Family Liaison/Secretary role into two positions: (1) a District-wide Family Liaison to provide consistent, proactive support for students in the Doorway to Opportunities program, connecting families to resources and supporting academic engagement and wellbeing; and (2) a Program/Financial Secretary to improve program operations, grant management, and reporting efficiency, and allow One Door to reopen its building to the public, increasing access to services.

We are also requesting \$5,000 to support monthly prosocial activities co-designed with community partners. These activities, such as workforce readiness workshops, biweekly nutrition classes, and healthy relationships groups with Advocate SafeHouse, offer students skill-building, positive connections, and career or college exploration, all free to participants. With this expansion, One Door anticipates serving up to 400 additional individuals annually, increasing family stability, boosting student engagement and achievement, and expanding our impact on overall community wellbeing.



VALLEY SETTLEMENT

valleysettlement.org

Mission Statement

To listen to Latina families, and together create opportunities for early childhood and adult education, connection, and growth, so children and families can thrive.

Operating Budget: \$4,684,031

Program Budget: \$801,420

Grant Request: \$55,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 54 Children & providers

About

Valley Settlement has been built from the ground up through authentic collaboration with the community, knowing the best solutions to challenges and barriers to success come from those who are directly impacted. We began in 2011 as a project of MANAUS, with a community-wide listening tour to understand the experiences of local families living in low-income neighborhoods. We continued listening, co-designing six two-generation programs alongside local Latina community members. Through programming, we build trusting relationships and address systemic racial/ethnic inequities in health, education, and economic opportunity, while promoting protective factors and achieving health and education outcomes. The six programs bolster maternal mental health, strengthen parenting/caregiving skills, promote positive child development and school readiness, and advance leadership skills. We are currently expanding our work further into Western Garfield County to reach more working families.

Community Served

The Family, Friends, and Neighbors program works with in-home childcare providers from Parachute to Basalt; providers live in low-income households and primarily speak Spanish. A cohort of providers worked with Valley Settlement staff to design the program, and participants inform its evolution through continuous feedback. Lack of time, transportation, language, and cost were some of the biggest barriers providers faced; the program design addresses these challenges through free, in-home coaching delivered in Spanish by trusted educators during the providers' workday. Valley Settlement home educators are Latinas with lived experience who deeply understand the challenges and the joys of running an informal childcare out of their home.

Funding Request for Family, Friends and Neighbors Program

Support from the Giving Network would fund materials, oversight, and teacher salary for the Family, Friends and Neighbors program's in-home preschool component, as our team continues to advocate for broader philanthropic and public support of FFN work. In our nine+ years of work with FFN providers across our region, we realized there were many preschool-age children cared for in FFN homes who did not have access to preschool learning experiences. We first attempted to serve these children through our Busesito Preschool program, which is designed to reduce barriers to access for families. However, we soon learned FFN providers had different access challenges. Many factors, including the unpredictability of when families were accessing FFN care and the difficulties of getting a preschool-age child to and from our mobile preschool classroom when the provider also had younger children in care, prevented children from consistently attending preschool. In response, we designed a component of our home visiting program that brings preschool activities and curriculum directly into FFN homes to reach children in the critical years before they reach kindergarten. The preschool teacher visits weekly, conducting preschool in Spanish with the FFN provider acting as a teacher's aide. As the teacher leads activities for the children she also models lessons for the provider, who in turn gains teaching skills. This critical work impacts both current and future children in FFN providers' care.



ASPEN FAMILY CONNECTIONS

aspenfamilyconnections.org

Mission Statement

To connect all Pitkin County children, youth and families with a wide range of community resources, at no charge, with a spirit of warmth, inclusion, confidentiality and without judgement.

Operating Budget: \$911,095

Program Budget: \$542,730

Grant Request: \$50,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 70 Families

About

Aspen Family Connections (AFC) established in 2016, is the Family Resource Center serving all families in Pitkin County. Our mission is to address the barriers families face in accessing preventive resources and support, before reaching crisis and system-involvement. Since our establishment, Pitkin County's child welfare referrals have declined while AFC's referrals have increased to over 200 annually—testament to the community's wish for preventive services and AFC's ability to provide a non-judgmental space for them to set goals and build family capacity. AFC's core program, Family Development Services (FDS) uses the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework of comprehensive case management, promoting protective factors, building resilience and self-sufficiency, providing access to many community partners and resources. We offer bilingual services, and connect our families to mental health, extracurricular activities, a wide range of therapies, programs and assistance.

Community Served

AFC serves all Pitkin families with children 0-21. Over 20% of clients are Latino. Mental health, substance use, challenging behaviors and family conflict are common and we often see true poverty and food insecurity. Families whose children have significant disabilities additionally lack specialist services, respite care, and Spanish-speaking providers. They experience financial burdens, familial and caregiver stress, stigma, social isolation and limited after-school/summer opportunities. AFC has created a specialist navigation practice, giving access to valuable Medicaid waivers, advocacy, training, information and new community collaborations and resources to change the lives and trajectories of a diverse and under-served population.

Funding Request for Families with Disabled Children

AFC's Early Child Connector navigator has made huge strides in building relationships and connections with all the early childcare programs and their families. She is also a disability expert and in the course of her outreach has identified serious challenges and gaps for families. We've developed innovative wraparound services for them, building on our core program, and staff can now navigate access to complex Medicaid waivers to pay for equipment, in-home services and even remunerate caregivers. We also promote prosocial opportunities, peer support, inclusive after-school and summer programs, educate the schools about waivers, resources and providers and hold resource fairs. This will have a life-long impact for families, building capacity and positioning children for transition to adulthood. Your funding would allow us to increase wraparound to more families, through outreach in combination with refined data-gathering and evaluation. In 2025 we had 50 client families whose children have IEPs. There are 199 children on IEPs in the Aspen Schools, (13% Latino) and we have identified at least 20 more families eligible for this highly detailed and time-consuming level of case management. Research and experience show when families have a child with significant disabilities, caregivers, siblings and schools struggle and families may become involved in the child welfare system. Our prevention work will build on family strengths, impart knowledge, set goals and achieve success.



ASPEN YOUTH CENTER

aspenyouthcenter.org

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and supportive space where all youth can connect, learn, and grow.

Operating Budget: \$839,388

Program Budget: \$206,577

Grant Request: \$75,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Youth

About

Aspen Youth Center (AYC) is the only organization in the Roaring Fork Valley offering year-round, free programming for youth in grades 4-12 during out-of-school hours, including care from 9am-5pm during the summer. Founded in 1991 from a youth-driven movement, AYC operates a debt-free facility in Aspen, providing stability and capacity for growth. Our flexible drop-in programming helps families navigate busy schedules while providing safe supervision and enriching experiences for youth. AYC centers its programming around the evidence-based framework of Positive Youth Development, fostering the 5Cs- Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, and Caring to support meaningful societal Contribution. Our strategic priorities include amplifying youth voice in program design, building partnerships, and supporting the whole child through tutoring, enrichment, and mental health services. We envision a community where every youth thrives and contributes to a stronger, more connected society.

Community Served

Last year, Aspen Youth Center served 550 youth in grades 4-12 across the Roaring Fork Valley (21% elementary, 47% middle, 32% high school), with 44% traveling from down-valley communities beyond Aspen. A quarter of our youth come from households earning \$85,000 or less in one of the nation's most expensive regions, where after-school programs can easily exceed \$500/mo. Rising housing costs, a challenging job market, and reduced state funds for social programs create urgent challenges for many families. Like rent and grocery bills, childcare is not an optional cost for many. AYC offers free, flexible, safe, and quality youth programming to help support these families.

Funding Request for Back-to-School Access & Expansion Initiative

This funding will primarily be used August-October (a period when families make childcare decisions) to expand enrollment from 550 to 650 youth. We'll be able to increase capacity safely because part of this funding will go towards hiring one PT position during peak hours. We plan to increase enrollment by building more robust programming in two significant ways. First, we are launching our Youth Council this summer, which will help guide some of our programming choices. We know that youth-led decision-making empowers youth to be more involved and invested in their communities. They will have the opportunity to voice their thoughts, work within reasonable guidelines, and figure out how to make it a reality. Programming that reflects the wants and needs of its audience is going to garner more attention. Second, we will invest in impactful and diverse programming through new community partnerships. These partnerships serve to offer variety and unique opportunities to our youth as well as allowing AYC to support other local nonprofits. At a time when individuals and organizations alike are struggling to afford Aspen, the AYC is able to host fellow nonprofits in our owned space, free of charge. We commit to building three new partnerships within the contract year. We currently offer weekly workshops in cooking, art, sports, and STEM lessons and experiments. We partner with the Aspen Science Center, Thrive Collective, Aspen Learning Lift, Aspen Art Museum, and Aspen Hope Center.



COLORADO RIVER VALLEY TEAM

facebook.com/TheCRVT

Mission Statement

To improve the well-being of low-income families in the Colorado River Valley through our work in leadership development, education, and community advocacy.

Operating Budget: \$381,000

Program Budget: \$76,000

Grant Request: \$38,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 60 Participants and their families

About:

Colorado River Valley Team (CRVT) is a community-based organization that has supported rural families in western Colorado since 2016. We listen to Spanish-speaking immigrant families—many of whom face barriers accessing health care, mental health support, transportation, and economic opportunities. Through programs focused on leadership development, education, mental health, and job training offered in Spanish, CRVT empowers youth and families to strengthen their skills, build resilience, and create sustainable opportunities for their future. CRVT collaborates with schools, libraries, health specialists, and certified instructors to expand access to trusted support systems in rural areas. Through these partnerships, we promote equity, prevention, and lasting family empowerment, ensuring that Latino youth and their families have the resources they need to thrive in body, mind, and community.

Community Served:

We primarily serve the Hispanic community by listening to community members through surveys and meetings so our programs reflect their priorities and lived experiences. These insights help us design culturally responsive and accessible services aligned with family needs. The community faces systemic barriers such as limited representation in decision making spaces, language obstacles that affect school engagement, economic challenges, and restricted access to resources for undocumented families. Expanding trade classes creates pathways to sustainable income, entrepreneurship, and long term economic mobility.

Funding Request for Community Trade & Mental Health Classes

Funding from the Giving Network will support the implementation of Community Classes that include trade skills training and mental health workshops aimed at strengthening economic mobility and overall well-being. These programs are shaped by community surveys and listening sessions to ensure the topics reflect the priorities and goals identified by community [members](#). We plan to offer three classes across three different communities, expanding access to participants who may otherwise face geographic and financial barriers. Funding will support instructor cost, community engagement and outreach, interpretation to ensure meaningful language access, food during sessions, and other supports that make participation more accessible. We anticipate serving approximately 20-30 participants for trade classes and 15-30 for mental health classes, and are working toward an 80% completion rate. Our goal is for at least 50% of participants to report increased economic benefits such as improved employment opportunities, higher wages, or progress toward starting a business. Mental health workshops will provide practical strategies to help participants manage stress and build resilience for themselves and their families. Support from the Giving Network will allow us to expand trusted programming into more communities, reduce barriers to participation, and create tangible pathways toward economic stability and long-term well-being.

MENTAL HEALTH

Supports cultivating a healthier regional community by supporting emotional, psychological and social well being.

Co-chairs:

Kristen Firman and Tony DiLucia

Membership Coordinator:

Robin Buchalter

Total number of Children & Family applicants: **25**

Total amount requested: **\$1,067,150**

65

Creative Arts

70

Prevention Services

76

Student Support

80

Substance Use

86

Therapy and Treatment



ANDY ZANCA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

azyep.org

Mission Statement

To empower students from diverse backgrounds to express themselves, build self-confidence, and develop leadership skills through community broadcasting.

Operating Budget: \$250,925

Program Budget: \$35,682

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 267 Students and community members

About

AZYEP was founded in 2000 by Annemarie Zanca in memory of her brother Andy Zanca. Andy was a DJ on KDNK from age 9 until his death by suicide at age 21. As a child therapist, Annemarie saw radio's potential to build self-esteem and combat isolation among young people. She created AZYEP to provide a platform for kids to gain social-emotional support and express themselves. Over the past 26 years, AZYEP has worked with over 10,000 young people from Aspen to Parachute. We utilize radio as a platform to amplify youth voices, with preventive mental health support at the core of our work. We give youth a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment to be their authentic selves and know that their voices matter. We help foster relationships with trusted adults, build peer support networks, and facilitate community connections. We offer four free programs: 6 hours of live radio broadcasts with youth DJs, recording projects in local classrooms, weekly youth-hosted podcasts, and paid internships.

Community Served

AZYEP focuses on engaging students ages 8 to 18 who are diverse and representative of the community. Participants live in communities from Parachute to Aspen, Marble, and Redstone. Our programs are available in both English and Spanish, allowing students to conduct their radio shows or record classroom projects in their preferred languages. We serve all genders, at-risk youth, high-achievers, LGBTQAI+ community members, youth with disabilities, and students from various socio-economic backgrounds. We are proud to support all kinds of kids, especially those who do not feel they fit into traditional extracurriculars such as sports or theatre. AZYEP welcomes each and every kid, giving them an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

Funding Request for AZYEP High School Internship Program

Funding will ensure the continued success and sustainable growth of our high school internship program. Our intern staff has grown from 4 students in 2021 to 8 in 2026. Currently, interns work a combined 80 hours per month on projects aligned with their unique goals and passions, including audio production, event planning, podcast hosting, peer mentoring, moderating mental health roundtable discussions, a radio pen pal project, and advising staff and the board on youth perspectives. Funding will cover the hourly wages of our 8 interns, staff time for one-on-one and group mentorship, intern-hosted events, and our quarterly mental health roundtable discussion series. Most importantly, it will increase our capacity for community-level impact by covering a portion of hourly wages for a new full-time program support staff member. The reach of this program extends far beyond 8 students. We host live concerts that give youth performers and bands creative opportunities to showcase their talents and music to young audiences while building peer community. Additionally, our quarterly mental health roundtable discussion series brings adults and teens together to discuss issues directly impacting local youth. Many intern-created projects are broadcast on KDNK and featured on our website, reaching a local and global audience.



MUSIC THERAPY RETREATS

MusicTherapyRetreats.org

Mission Statement

To help heal those who have experienced trauma, through life-changing music therapy retreats.

Operating Budget: \$301,000

Program Budget: \$25,000

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 50+ Individuals and groups

About

Music Therapy Retreats has hosted an annual veterans retreat at Wind Walkers Therapeutic Riding Center since 2022 and will expand in 2026 with an additional veterans retreat at the Soldner Center in Aspen. We also provide songwriting workshops for local students through Jazz Aspen Snowmass. Our goal is to support Roaring Fork Valley community members as they navigate difficult life experiences by offering safe, creative, and empowering outlets for expression. Through songwriting, neurologic music therapy, and guided group processes, participants learn to articulate their stories, regulate emotional responses, and reclaim ownership of their personal narratives. Our approach is grounded in neuroscience: we view the brain as the hardware and the mind as the software, and we use evidence-based neurologic music therapy to strengthen both.

Community Served

We will continue working with veterans, as well as other mental health organizations to provide group and individual sessions for those identified as needing support.

Funding Request for Music Therapy Retreats

The requested funds will ensure that all Music Therapy Retreats services remain free to participants. Because our programs are therapy-driven and designed for individuals already navigating significant challenges, it is essential that financial barriers never prevent someone from receiving support. This funding allows us to provide high-quality, evidence-based music therapy without adding the burden of cost to those seeking help. Our offerings include both group songwriting sessions and individualized music therapy. For some participants, individual sessions incorporate learning guitar as an ongoing coping tool. When words are difficult or no one is available to listen, the guitar becomes a steady companion—responsive to the player's emotional state and helping guide them toward regulation, expression, and healing. All programming is led by a Board-Certified Music Therapist, ensuring clinical integrity, trauma-informed practice, and adherence to evidence-based protocols.



STAGE OF LIFE (SOL) THEATRE COMPANY

soltheatrecompany.org

Mission Statement

To build a healthy community and nurturing our youth to their greatest potential through the performing arts.

Operating Budget: \$472,650

Program Budget: \$45,000

Grant Request: \$45,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Middle school students, families, educators

About

At SoL, we believe every young person deserves a stage. As the Mid Valley's premier youth theatre company, we serve ages 5–21 in a safe, creative and welcoming environment where self-expression thrives. This unique standing is bolstered by using theatre as an artistic home and a community resource that creates spaces where young people feel seen, connected, and supported. Rooted in a commitment to access, SoL's theatre education and performance opportunities prioritize social-emotional and artistic skill-building. Our strategic goal is to launch Safe Spaces, a middle school-specific program delivering equitable access to arts experiences and strengthening community partnerships that support student wellbeing. Theatre is a powerful tool for confidence, emotional regulation, empathy, and empowerment. We witness an abundance of impact every day in real time by what students create, and by the relationships, leadership, and potential they carry with them offstage.

Community Served

Community voices shape everything we do. The collaborative nature of theatre naturally informs all programming. Safe Spaces centers middle schoolers who are the target demographic. Teenage mental health is at crisis levels across the country, and our community is no different. A National Library of Medicine study reveals that "Mental illness has become a leading cause of health burden, particularly among adolescents". SoL actively addresses this. Low-cost theatre programs, developed with school partners and shaped by family input, offer a consistent, inclusive space to build connection and interpersonal skills—supporting youth mental wellness through the power of creative expression. Costs remain a significant challenge for expansion.

Funding Request for Safe Spaces Middle School Program

Funding from the Giving Network would be used to carry out SoL Theatre Company's Safe Spaces middle school program, with a focused investment in youth mental health, access, and program sustainability. Support would allow us to increase the number of middle school afterschool classes and age-specific productions offered annually, expand enrollment capacity, and provide additional tuition support to reduce financial barriers for families facing housing and economic instability. Funding would also support teaching artists trained in social-emotional learning practices and enable deeper partnerships with local schools to reach students who benefit most from creative, relationship-based support.

Anticipated impact includes serving 25-30% more middle school students annually, increasing consistent program participation, and strengthening measurable outcomes such as confidence, peer connection, and emotional regulation. Program evaluation will include attendance, retention, and student self-report surveys focused on belonging and stress reduction. With Giving Network support, SoL will increase the efficiency and impact of a core program that provides a safe, affirming space where youth build resilience, coping skills, and a sense of community through theatre that creates lasting benefits both on and off the stage.



THE ART BASE

theartbase.org

Mission Statement

To foster creative expression in the visual arts for all ages and abilities, through education, exhibitions, and providing opportunities to artists.

Operating Budget: \$850,433

Program Budget: \$10,000

Grant Request: \$10,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 50 Latin/Hispanic residents

About

For thirty years, the Art Base has offered an entry point to art education and creative expression for all ages and abilities, and is the only social arts hub of its kind in the midvalley. Our arts education programming covers a broad swath of mediums and methods, and employs an outstanding roster of artist educators delivering curriculum that benefits those from early childhood to late in life. We value equitable opportunity with the acknowledgement of the inequalities existing in our region—this guides our mission with an intentional and culturally relevant approach that leads our vision to be truly accessible to all. The community benefits from our vital presence as a communal hub in the midvalley—our impact includes creating jobs and cultural tourism, community revitalization and placemaking through the arts. The Art Base is unique in offering over \$113,000 in free programming which supports arts education for all ages and abilities, and local and regional artists.

Community Served

We will serve the adult Latin/Hispanic population, whose demographic is rapidly growing, constituting 30% of adults and 59% of students in Basalt schools. Art Healing & Hope (Arte, Sanación y Esperanza) classes address the need for accessible, non-judgmental outlets for self-expression and healing through visual art, allowing participants to document their experiences and emotions. Bilingual classes will be tailored to meet the cultural nuances and language needs of this community. Individuals in this demographic face stressors such as economic pressures and cultural isolation, making a supportive environment essential for their well-being. Our greatest challenge is to build capacity to meet our goal of launching this program.

Funding Request for Bilingual Art Healing & Hope Classes

Funding would support our Art Healing & Hope classes led by a licensed art therapist, designed to address mental health and wellness in a safe and inclusive environment. It will offer the program in Spanish led by a bilingual/bicultural art instructor to accommodate Spanish speakers, providing culturally relevant arts instruction. We would push marketing efforts implemented by our bilingual/bicultural Community Partner Programs Coordinator, who is knowledgeable in effective and culturally responsive methods and teaching. It would be allocated to art supplies, an art therapist, and bilingual educators, enabling us to offer free or low-cost sessions, making the program accessible to the Latin community. We had roughly 100 unique visits in 2025 during our 12 monthly Art Healing & Hope classes. In 2026, we hope to grow awareness of this program to serve 20-50 Latin/Hispanic participants. The anticipated impact includes enhanced emotional well-being, improved community cohesion, and increased participation in arts-based healing methods, principally among Latin/Hispanic adults who could benefit from creative outlets for stress relief and connection.

Mission Statement

To amplify voices through the arts. We believe that arts transcend boundaries of cultures, races, traditions, and socioeconomic differences.

Operating Budget: \$383,000

Program Budget: \$76,000

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact 800 Individuals

About

VOICES celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2026 as the only arts-based organization in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys solely dedicated to amplifying voices too often silenced or unseen. Across generations—from youth ages 11–18 to elders 75+—we serve women, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ community members through In School, In Community, and On Stage programs that transform personal stories into collective understanding. In a region where culturally responsive creative spaces are limited, we support healing, identity exploration, and authentic expression. Those who are historically marginalized also face the threat of mental illness, higher rates of unemployment, housing and food insecurity, social stigma, and misconceptions. Our strategic priority is to expand equitable access, deepen partnerships, and ensure lived experience shapes our work. We define success as strengthened agency, reduced isolation, cross-generational connection, and measurable growth in a sense of belonging.

Community Served

Our target demographic has always been those whose stories have yet to be told, whose identities and humanity have been compromised by misunderstanding and structural bias, despite having rich and compelling lives that are an integral part of our community. These two projects center women and queer populations who continue to face the inequitable frameworks that define our society. By design, our offerings are informed by those we are serving, and built into our programs is the elevation of each individual's experience—this is the blueprint for VOICES. Stories our participants share have often never been told, and the astonishing transformation we witness through their creative output motivates VOICES to continue this work.

Funding Request for Women's VOICES Project / Queer VOICES Project

VOICES seeks Giving Network support for the 2026 Women's VOICES and Queer VOICES Projects—two original, community-devised theater productions amplifying lived experiences often unheard in our region. Funding will directly underwrite teaching artist stipends, rehearsal space, production design, technical crew, and accessibility support, ensuring participants can engage at no cost. Each project will serve approximately 25–30 ensemble members and reach an estimated 600–800 audience members through three public performances.

Since expanding west into the Colorado River Valley in 2025, participation in our On Stage programming has grown by over 30%, increasing both geographic reach and cross-community engagement. Giving Network support will allow us to sustain this momentum, deepen partnerships, and strengthen our theatrical production quality while maintaining equitable access. By investing in participant-led storytelling, this funding increases community connection, reduces isolation among marginalized groups, and builds protective mental health factors such as belonging and agency—multiplying impact for both performers and audiences across our valley.



ASPENOUT

aspenout.org

Mission Statement

To empowering the LGBTQIA+ (Q+) community, their families, and allies across the Roaring Fork Valley to build a vibrant community for all.

Operating Budget: \$1,049,500

Program Budget: \$75,000

Grant Request: \$35,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 7 LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families

About

Since 1996, AspenOUT has served as the backbone of LGBTQIA+ support from Aspen to Parachute, leveraging our national visibility to fund vital local resources. We occupy a unique regional niche by removing the financial barriers to mental healthcare through the Jack Raife Mental Health Fund, which has provided 1,000+ hours of therapy in just 24 months. Our current strategic priority is “Full-Circle Wellness”—transitioning from reactive financial aid to a proactive regional ecosystem. This includes expanding therapist training and launching peer support groups in the down valley to combat rural isolation. Guided by values of equity and resilience, our vision of success is a valley where geographic and economic barriers no longer dictate a person’s ability to thrive. We aren’t just funding individual healing; we are building a connected community where every LGBTQIA+ resident has a permanent safety net of affirming care.

Community Served

We serve LGBTQIA+ youth and adults across a 70-mile rural corridor from Aspen to Parachute. This demographic faces “geographic trauma”—where safety and resources decrease as one moves down-valley. Our programs are tailored via the Jack Raife Fund, which removes the #1 barrier (cost) by underwriting 1,000+ therapy hours. To meet the specific needs of rural residents, we are launching down-valley support groups to combat the isolation that drives high regional suicide rates. By training local clinicians in queer-competency, we ensure care is culturally relevant and physically accessible.

Funding Request for The Open Valley Initiative

Funding from the Giving Network will help sustain and grow the Open Valley Initiative, a transformative “full-circle” approach to LGBTQIA+ mental health that bridges the 70-mile gap between Aspen and Parachute. Since 2024, the Jack Raife Mental Health Fund has successfully underwritten more than 1,000 clinical hours. This proactive ecosystem ensures healing through a continuous care cycle via four key pillars:

- **Prevention & Reach:** We will launch peer-led support groups and a Virtual Support Hub, aiming to reach 500-700 annual participants and increase service utilization in rural zip codes by 30%.
- **Clinical Excellence:** All providers must demonstrate LGBTQIA+ competency to access funding. We will subsidize specialized training for 8+ regional therapists annually.
- **Sustainability & Buy-in:** A sliding scale fee ensures client investment, while a monthly clinician consultation group supports complex cases and strengthens agency partnerships.
- **Data-Driven Impact:** To unlock their final five sessions, clients must complete a check-in form. We project a 90% data capture rate to quantify resilience and clinical outcomes.
- **Follow-Up Data:** Participants are given free access to VODA, a healthy journaling app, and asked to participate in providing valuable data on services, struggles, and successes of the initiative.

By transitioning individuals from clinical aid into peer groups, we foster “chosen family” networks that prevent future crises.



GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #16

garfield16.org

Mission Statement

As a result of our efforts, all students will be successfully prepared for life in a safe and nurturing environment.

Operating Budget: \$20,744,765

Program Budget: \$25,300

Grant Request: \$25,300

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 30 Students and their families

About

G16 serves as a central support system for about 1,254 students and their families in Parachute/Battlement Mesa and surrounding areas by addressing academic success alongside social, emotional, and behavioral well-being. In addition to providing PK–12 education, the district's School-Based Family Resource Center plays a critical role in connecting students and families to mental health supports, family engagement resources, and services that remove barriers to learning and stability. G16 works collaboratively with families, nonprofits, and community agencies to respond to complex student needs and prevent deeper involvement in disciplinary or justice systems. Our vision of success is a supportive, inclusive school community where every student has access to the resources, relationships, and opportunities needed to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally—both in school and beyond.

Community Served

G16 serves families in a rural area with limited access to mental health services, transportation, and family supports. Many students experience economic instability, family stress, and behavioral or academic challenges that can result in repeated disciplinary action. The Bridge Program will be tailored to each student and family through an intake assessment that identifies strengths, needs, and root causes of behavioral patterns. Individualized supports and clear milestones will help students earn back in-person school attendance while addressing academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. This personalized, restorative approach strengthens family engagement, interrupts at-risk trajectories, and supports long-term student success.

Funding Request for G16 Bridge Program

Funding will support a portion of the G16 Bridge Program Coordinator's salary, student activities and curriculum, and family counseling co-pays. Students will receive coordinated support including YouthZone services, Tier 3 counseling, academic tutoring, mentoring, family engagement, and community service. Clear milestones and accountability measures guide student progress and determine readiness to return to in-person instruction. In order to return to school, students will have to earn 100 points. The points will be earned by attending required YouthZone programming (10 points), six counseling sessions with a School-Based Family Resource Center Tier 3 Counselor (10 points), academic accountability (a minimum of six tutoring sessions with a certified teacher and maintaining a passing grade of 60% or above in four core classes, which will earn 40 points), a minimum of three mentoring sessions (10 points- students will be assigned a community mentor like the Town Manager, Library Event Coordinator, etc), community service hours (20 points for 10 hours of volunteer service in the community), and family engagement (10 points- parents choose options to enhance their parenting skills, options include reading a family engagement packet, virtual classes, in-person group family counseling, or a one-on-one counseling session). Anticipated outcomes include improved attendance, reduced disciplinary referrals, increased academic engagement, and strengthened family-school partnerships.



HIGH COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS

highcountryvolunteers.org

Mission Statement

To harnesses the power of volunteerism and meet critical community needs, while enriching the lives of individuals who are valued and empowered through meaningful service to their community.

Operating Budget: \$356,645

Program Budget: \$44,525

Grant Request: \$25,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 12 High school students and 6 organizations

About

For more than five decades, we have been rooted in service to our community. What began as High Country RSVP—an AmeriCorps program sponsored by Colorado Mountain College—has grown into an independent nonprofit mobilizing volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Today, we respond to evolving community needs while ensuring volunteers feel empowered, engaged, and connected through meaningful service. Our network of more than 1,200 volunteers strengthens local organizations and expands their capacity—from delivering meals to seniors and teaching adults English to mentoring students and supporting food pantries. Through our partnership with the West Mountain Regional COAD, we are building a coordinated regional volunteer movement that enhances disaster preparedness and large-scale response. By engaging youth, we help foster a resilient, multigenerational culture of service that deepens belonging, social connection, and community wellbeing.

Community Served

About 40% of people ages 16–24 report feeling lonely very often. In mountain resort and rural communities, suicide rates exceed state and national averages; for example, Aspen's historic rate was roughly three times the national average. This crisis presents both an urgent challenge and an opportunity for innovative, scalable solutions. Research shows that social connection, civic participation, and volunteerism improve mental health. Volunteerism builds relationships, trust, belonging, and purpose, while reducing isolation—especially for youth. By engaging in meaningful service, we strengthen social connection, a proven protective factor against loneliness, depression, and suicide, and help safeguard our community's well-being.

Funding Request for Youth Volunteer Impact Council

We will launch a pilot program that strengthens youth mental health by connecting young people to purpose through volunteerism and philanthropic engagement. By fostering meaningful relationships, leadership skills, and a sense of belonging, the program will support student wellbeing while cultivating the next generation of community leaders. The pilot will launch at one local high school, with plans to scale across the 10 high schools in our region and eventually statewide or nationally. Over seven months, a cohort of 12 students will participate in monthly gatherings centered on service, learning, and connection. Each month, students will visit a local nonprofit to learn about its mission and the community issue it addresses, complete a hands-on service project, share a meal with community leaders and volunteers, and engage in guided reflection. At the program's conclusion, each student will receive \$500 to donate to a local nonprofit of their choice, empowering them as philanthropic decision-makers. To ensure equitable access, students who complete the program will also receive a \$1,000 stipend, recognizing their time and removing financial barriers. This program will deepen civic engagement, amplify youth voice, and help students discover purpose through service—supporting mental health today while building a resilient, generational culture of volunteerism for the future.



PFLAG ROARING FORK VALLEY

pflagrfv.org

Mission Statement

To unite families, allies, and LGBTQIA+ people to build a connected and inclusive community. We reduce isolation and strengthen family relationships to promote social-emotional well-being for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Operating Budget: \$28,550

Program Budget: \$4,350

Grant Request: \$4,350

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 65 Individuals and families

About

PFLAG RFV is a chapter of PFLAG National, dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQIA+ people and those who love them. Founded in 2017 and reinvigorated in 2022, stability continues through our engaged volunteer board that includes founding members. Serving Parachute to Aspen, we strengthen the social-emotional well-being of LGBTQIA+ youth and their families. Through peer support, youth gatherings, direct support for school GSAs, resource sharing, and 1-on-1 assistance, we reduce isolation, grow access to affirming adults, and build resilient relationships, serving as upstream mental health prevention. In recent years, we helped tighten the support network that includes local youth-serving CBOs, family resource centers, educators, medical/mental health providers, and key queer orgs in Eagle and Mesa counties. Our board brings experience as educators, providers, parents, trans adults, and financial stewards, ensuring services grounded in community reality.

Community Served

PFLAG RFV serves youth/young adults and loved ones from Aspen to Parachute. Most are navigating: A child or teen coming out; Fear and lack of information about how to be supportive; Limited access to affirming school or community environments; [Social isolation](#). We shape services by what people bring to us through phone calls, emails, in-person conversations, and participation in groups. Parents often reach out at moments of uncertainty, needing reassurance, practical information, and connection with others who have walked a similar path. Our approach emphasizes: Low-barrier, always-free access; Peer-based support grounded in evidence and lived experience; Creating spaces where people feel seen/valued/connected. Connection prevents crisis.

Funding Request for Community-Based Social-Emotional Support

We seek funding to help stabilize and deepen the capacity behind our programs, ensuring that long-standing services remain consistent. Specifically, funds will support our ongoing peer support group program and help us improve the quality of that support.

- Parent/loved ones peer support groups: \$100 per month for supplies x 3 locations x 12 months = \$3,600.
- Professional development/capacity-building: 3 targeted trainings x 1 hour each x \$25/hr x 6 board member = \$450
- Facilitation Training: An Ally's Guide to Dealing With Tough Situations and suicide prevention training. 2 hours x \$25/hour x 6 board members = \$300

These investments will cover a large portion of one of our most important services and also improve the quality of services through facilitation skills, techniques around building meaningful allyship and intra-family support, clarify boundaries, and ensure early, appropriate responses to mental health concerns, strengthening our prevention approach across all programs.



STEPPING STONES OF THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

steppingstonesrfv.org

Mission Statement

To cultivate strong mentoring relationships and community spaces for youth ages 10-24, fostering personal growth, compassion, and responsibility.

Operating Budget: \$1,194,720

Program Budget: \$325,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Youth

About

Ten years ago, Stepping Stones was founded after vulnerable teens told community leaders what they needed: a safe space to belong. Today, we serve 450+ youth annually, ages 10-24 through three drop-in centers functioning as community hubs where marginalized young people access comprehensive supports through trusted relationships. A teen may walk through our doors looking for a safe space to make a friend, or in the midst of a mental health crisis. Our integrated prevention-intervention model builds deep trust that offers lifelines when trouble comes. Our strategic priorities include building protective factors, expanding geographic reach, and centering youth voice through authentic power-sharing. Success means 98% reporting trusted adults (vs. 73% regional peers), 95% retention rates, and youth who tell us, “Stepping Stones is my safe place” and “My mentor saved my life.”

Community Served

We serve youth ages 10-24 from low-income and marginalized families living from Aspen to Parachute—children of cooks, housekeepers, and landscapers sustaining our economy. Our participants are 82% low-income, 78% Hispanic/Latinx, 29% LGBTQ+, 51% living with disabilities/mental health diagnoses, 32% experiencing homelessness. In our valley, nearly 60% of teens report persistent sadness/hopelessness (70% for LGBTQ+ youth). Suicide is Colorado’s leading cause of death for ages 15-24, yet lack of bilingual clinicians and high costs create dire health inequities. Glenwood lacks accessible youth gathering spaces and sufficient mental health services; Teens are requesting this expansion to offer needed access to culturally-responsive supports.

Funding Request for Glenwood Springs Youth Mental Health Launch

Last year, we launched Glenwood prevention programming—drop-in center, in-school groups, experiential activities. However, mental health services remained only in Carbondale due to capacity constraints. \$40,000 of support from the Giving Network extends our wraparound model to Glenwood, launching:

- On-Site Therapy (\$8,000): 64 sessions with bilingual therapists removing transportation/linguistic/mistrust barriers.
- Mental Health Case Management (\$18,000): 250 intensive sessions utilizing motivational interviewing/CBT, building coping skills & coordinating services for highest-need teens.
- 24/7 Crisis Response (\$6,000): 16 crisis interventions for suicidality, overdose, domestic violence, homelessness—immediate response when seconds matter, ensuring no teen faces crisis alone.
- Substance Use Peer Support (\$6,000): 30 group sessions led by certified staff with lived recovery experience, building harm reduction skills.
- Emergency Family Assistance (\$2,000): Direct financial support for 5 families preventing housing displacement, covering external therapy, ensuring basic needs don’t derail mental health progress.



UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

socialwork.du.edu

Mission Statement

To advance excellence when creating and disseminating knowledge to students, communities and policymakers; unlock human potential; and foster sustainable communities.

Operating Budget: \$37,000,000

Program Budget: \$353,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 7 Students and 100 community members

About

The University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW), ranked 12th nationally among top MSW programs, prepares social workers to serve diverse and underserved populations, including many in rural communities. More than one-third of social workers work primarily in behavioral health, supporting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. To expand access and strengthen Colorado's workforce, GSSW launched the Four Corners MSW Program in Durango in 2004, the Western Colorado (WestCO) MSW Program in Glenwood Springs in 2013, and the nationwide online MSW@Denver in 2019. These programs address community-identified needs, support rural and mountain regions, and strengthen the state's professional social work infrastructure. Historically, up to 16 students graduate from WestCO biennially, directly contributing to the local workforce.

Community Served

The WestCO MSW Program serves the entire Western Slope, with most students living and working in the Roaring Fork Valley from Aspen to Parachute. We address a critical workforce gap by training place-based students who are committed to living in and serving their communities. This model is vital in the region with only 43 licensed clinical social workers per 100,000 residents. By tailoring curriculum to rural realities, we build a culturally informed workforce with deep local knowledge. Each year, about 10 students deliver 4,000+ hours of behavioral health services through community internships, addressing urgent needs tied to behavioral health, housing instability, family stress, and the pressures of economic and climate-driven change.

Funding Request for WestCO: Mental Health Workforce Expansion

Given the federal funding landscape in higher education: planned elimination of the Grad PLUS Loan Program, new lifetime borrowing caps for federal loans for social workers, and the redefinition of a "qualifying employer" for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program means graduate education will be financially inaccessible for many prospective social workers. Thus, there is a pressing need to supplement the behavioral health education of our MSW students. Residents in Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield counties report significant barriers to timely mental health care (2022 Regional Community Health Assessment). MSW students living in these communities need a robust behavioral health education and local field placements to become licensed clinicians and practice in their home communities. Local field instruction provides students with required hands-on experience needed to complete their degree. Organizations simultaneously receive hours of additional manpower to meet community needs. Student scholarships will relieve the financial stress of attending school full time (including required field placement hours) while trying to meet the daily needs of students and their families. Funding will provide \$13,000 scholarships to seven students (\$91,000); fund speakers/workshops for additional education for students and professional development opportunities for clinicians in the region (\$4,000); and support associated administrative expenses (\$5,000).



COLORADO RIVER BOCES

yampah.org

Mission Statement

A learning community designed to develop meaningful relationships, a pursuit for lifelong learning, and the academic skills in support of multiple pathways to high school graduation and post-secondary success.

Operating Budget: \$2,504,904

Program Budget: \$120,000

Grant Request: \$45,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 165 Students and teen parents

About

CR BOCES operates Yampah Mountain High School the region's public alternative school serving students from Aspen to Parachute who need a flexible, relationship-based, trauma-responsive environment. For over three decades, YMHS has offered individualized pathways to graduation grounded in social-emotional development and whole-child support. Our priorities include expanding mental-health access, strengthening culturally responsive programming, and improving postsecondary readiness. Guided by values of belonging, equity, and resilience, we serve students who often disengaged from traditional schools due to trauma, immigration stress, parenting responsibilities, or economic instability. Our RTI model provides universal prevention, targeted groups, and intensive one-on-one support to keep students connected. In collaboration with families, community partners, and local districts, YMHS continues to evolve wrap-around services to ensure all students have pathways to wellness and opportunity.

Community Served

YMHS serves about 150 high-school students and 15–20 teen parents from Aspen to Parachute. Many are multilingual learners, recent immigrants, or parenting youth balancing school and caregiving. A significant number face trauma related to housing instability, family separation, or the current immigration climate, creating urgent needs for culturally relevant mental-health care. YMHS programs emphasize flexibility, trust, and an RTI tiered model that provides universal prevention, targeted small-group help, and individualized intervention. Students report challenges such as limited bilingual therapy, rising depression, substance-related stress, and isolation. Our supports aim to remove barriers so students move toward graduation.

Funding Request for Mental Health Access & Prevention Expansion

YMHS is launching a Mental Health Access & Prevention Expansion Initiative to address two gaps in our RTI system: (1) stronger early-intervention supports to prevent crises and (2) culturally and linguistically responsive therapeutic services for Spanish-speaking students and teen parents. This work responds to rising trauma, increased need for small-group support, and growing mental-health caseloads.

Prevention & Early-Intervention Counseling: A prevention-focused counselor will provide schoolwide mental-health education, brief counseling, targeted groups, and early identification of students in distress. These Tier 1 and 2 services will reach most students, strengthening protective factors, reducing escalations, and supporting attendance and credit attainment. **Spanish-Language Counseling Services:** YMHS will contract with a Spanish-speaking therapist to provide trauma-responsive counseling and parent-support guidance. Spanish-speaking students and teen parents currently lack access to a linguistically competent clinician. The initiative will expand preventive services, reduce crisis referrals, strengthen engagement with Spanish-speaking families, and improve wrap-around support for parenting teens.



COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

hs2.crms.org

Mission Statement

To prepare first-generation and/or low-income students to succeed in college by empowering them with STEM-based skills, a family of driven peers, and a space to see the light and power in their own voices.

Operating Budget: \$750,000

Program Budget: \$10,000

Grant Request: \$10,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 75 High School Students

About

Colorado Rocky Mountain School hosts the High School High Scholar, (HS)², program each summer in Carbondale, providing a free, five-week residential academic and leadership experience for first-generation and low-income high school students, including youth from across the Roaring Fork Valley. While scholars come from Colorado and beyond, the program operates entirely in the Roaring Fork Valley and partners with local educators and service providers.

(HS)² plays a unique role in the regional youth ecosystem by integrating rigorous STEM education with structured emotional support in a residential setting. Our strategic priority is prevention, equipping adolescents with academic preparation, resilience, and social-emotional skills before the high-stakes transition to college. Success is measured not only in college access, but in long-term persistence and well-being.

Community Served

(HS)² serves 75 first-generation and low-income high school students each summer at Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale. Scholars come from New York City, Fort Worth, Denver, and New Orleans, alongside a growing population of Roaring Fork Valley youth; this year, we received seven applications from Basalt, Carbondale, and Rifle. Students often face financial instability, limited access to advanced coursework, and rising anxiety. Our residential model integrates rigorous STEM instruction with structured emotional support, trauma-informed practices, and consistent adult mentorship to strengthen resilience and long-term academic success.

Funding Request for (HS)² Expansion of Mental Health Services

Colorado Rocky Mountain School requests \$10,000 to expand Emotional Support Services for (HS)² scholars during the five-week summer residential program in Carbondale. Funding will support a locally licensed Student Support Specialist who will provide preventive mental health services to all students in the program, including those from the Roaring Fork Valley.

Over the past several summers, demand for emotional support has grown significantly. In 2025, more than half of participating scholars accessed mental health services during the program. Alumni surveys consistently identify belonging and adult support as key predictors of college persistence.

This funding will increase provider availability, expand structured group wellness programming, and strengthen trauma-informed training for residential staff. By enhancing preventative emotional infrastructure, we reduce the risk of crisis escalation, improve student stability in a high-intensity academic environment, and strengthen readiness for high school and college transitions. Support from the Giving Network will directly increase mental health capacity and reinforce a sustainable, prevention-oriented model within our program.



COMPASS FOR LIFELONG DISCOVERY

discovercompass.org

Mission Statement

To foster lifelong learning and empower individuals to take responsibility for themselves, their learning, and their community.

Operating Budget: \$6,846,144

Program Budget: \$100,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 450 Unique individuals

About

Carbondale Community School (CCS) is a K–8 public charter school serving families in the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond. For 30 years, CCS has provided a rigorous, relationship-centered education grounded in project-based learning and a robust outdoor education program. We intentionally foster small class communities where students are known, challenged, and supported. Our strategic priorities focus on academic excellence, whole-child development, equity of access, and strong family partnership. We believe students thrive when intellectual growth is paired with social-emotional wellness and meaningful connection to place. Our vision of success is a diverse community of engaged learners who are academically prepared, emotionally resilient, and committed to contributing positively to the world around them.

Community Served

CCS serves approximately 144 K–8 students and their families from across the Roaring Fork Valley, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, and Basalt in addition to having students from Rifle and Silt. Our families represent a range of socioeconomic backgrounds, with a growing number experiencing financial stress, housing instability, and limited access to mental health services. As a small school, we tailor support through close family communication, individualized learning plans, and integrated social-emotional learning. Rising youth anxiety, depression, and behavioral challenges—exacerbated by economic pressures—have increased the need for accessible, school-based mental health care that removes barriers to support.

Funding Request for School-based Mental Health Clinician Support

Funding from the Giving Network will sustain our full-time school-based clinician position, which is at risk due to the loss of prior funding through the Roaring Fork School District. Without this support, CCS— a small K–8 charter school—will have no on-site mental health professional. We do not have a school counselor and lack the budget capacity to hire one independently. This position provides individual and small-group counseling, whole-class Second Step social-emotional lessons, crisis intervention, family consultation, and staff collaboration to support students experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, and behavioral challenges. Over the past year, 100% of our students received some level of mental health support through classroom SEL instruction, with many accessing additional targeted individual or small-group services. As cost of living rises in the Roaring Fork Valley, families face increasing barriers to outside care, including transportation, long waitlists, and financial constraints. School-based care ensures early intervention and prevention rather than reactive crisis response. Sustaining this role protects continuity of care, strengthens classroom readiness, reduces behavioral disruptions, and supports family stability. Investment from the Giving Network ensures that social-emotional wellness remains embedded in the school day—directly supporting academic achievement, resilience, and long-term student success.



KIDS CONNECT, INC.

sites.google.com/view/kidsconnect

Mission Statement

To provide children with an inclusive environment to explore their inner lives cultivating compassion, strength and resiliency. We envision a world where all children feel a healthy connection to themselves, others and Earth.

Operating Budget: \$110,000

Grant Request: \$10,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 200 Children

About

Connect! is a small non-profit committed to providing a unique, preventative after school program that supports the social, emotional, and ethical well-being of children. We have partnered with the Aspen School District for 5 years. Connect! exposes students to lifelong tools and skills to embody universal values including mindfulness, gratitude, compassion, joy, peace and curiosity by engaging in experiential learning activities such as: critical thinking, contemplative exercises, creative expression, cooperative learning, service learning, and exploring scientific perspectives. This original, secular curriculum, written by Mimi and Elaine, is influenced by Emory University's Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning program, Hawn Foundation's MindUp, Dr. Daniel Siegel's and Tina Bryson's brain-based research and practice. Our vision of success is a safe, healthy, inclusive, compassionate social emotional community - the heartfelt moments that aren't quantitatively measurable.

Community Served

We serve K-4 children in the valley. Based on making positive connections, Connect! employs highly qualified, experienced teachers to meet the wide range of student needs. We continue to train/employ teachers and recruit/ train volunteers. Some children who have been referred through our partnering organizations require support, so we have hired a Spanish speaking teacher, a social worker, and trained volunteers to work one on one with students. The skills and practices experienced at Connect! are important to ALL children so we individualize the program to meet each student where they are on the academic, social, and emotional continuum. The universal challenge of nurturing resilient healthy children is addressed through Connect!

Funding Request for General Operations

Funding will help Connect! continue to offer a preventative program allowing children to explore their inner lives to cultivate compassion, strength and resiliency while connecting to the world. Research has shown embodying these qualities are foundational in the academic and social success of children. Nurturing children's connections to oneself, others, and the world will begin to address the community's need for a healthy, balanced and safe community. The funds will be used to: maintain a small student/ teacher ratio to facilitate the individualized learning of the whole child, write relevant, engaging curriculum and lesson plans, purchase and prepare materials for each class, train teachers and adult/student volunteers, communicate with parents with take-home materials, create and conduct annual surveys, pay teacher salaries, award student scholarships, and manage the website.

Parent quote illustrating impact of Connect! – "We are so grateful for the amazing Connect! program which our daughter has been fortunate to part of for the past three years. Being part of this community has helped her build confidence, emotional awareness, and stronger connections with others. Each year the program continues to evolve and improve, making it truly tailored to the kids' needs. What really stands out to us is the focus on teaching coping tactics and problem solving strategies in a fun and and engaging way...{Connect!} is a true gem for parents and children alike."



BLUE RISING

bluerising.org

Mission Statement

To protect youth from the escalating threats of high-potency marijuana, fentanyl poisoning, social media harms, and youth violence.

Operating Budget: \$327,000

Program Budget: \$30,000

Grant Request: \$30,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 39,000 Youth and young adults

About

Young Coloradans are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, marked by depression, suicide, fentanyl poisonings and preventable deaths. Founded by impacted families and advocates, BR exists to translate lived experience into effective, community action.

Youth behavioral health risks are driven by systemic forces including unregulated social media platforms and profit incentives, AI, shifting teen culture, and an increasingly dangerous drug supply. These forces operate at a scale that families alone cannot counter. Interrupting current trajectories of harm requires system-level responses to protect young people. With strategic priorities of prevention, education, and systems change, BR builds understanding through proven education and elevates the voices of families to inform decision-makers—advancing bipartisan policies that protect Colorado youth from preventable mental health and substance-use harms.

Community Served

Across the region's counties, youth comprise 21-32% of the population, highlighting the need for prevention-focused, youth-centered strategies. Our programs are informed by lived experience and tailored to address the realities youth ages 14-24 face today, while recognizing that youth risk is shaped by adult systems and decisions. BR engages youth, parents, community leaders, and philanthropic influencers such as in the Giving Network, equipping them with accurate information from credible messengers and pathways to action grounded in current conditions. This approach builds shared understanding, strengthens prevention efforts, and responds to the most pressing need: reducing preventable mental health and substance-use harms in young people

Funding Request for Aspen to Parachute Education Campaign

BR will host two regional Lunch & Learns engaging 30+ local leaders at each, and one public Town Hall engaging 100+ regional youth and community members.

The events will provide timely, evidence-based education on impacts of high-potency marijuana and fentanyl, and the role of unregulated social media platforms in aggravating mental health harm and facilitating illegal drug sales to minors. We pair current data with personal stories from locally impacted families to increase relevance, understanding, and retention.

Impact will be measured via post-event surveys: 85%+ of participants will demonstrate increased knowledge and the ability to identify one or more concrete actions to reduce youth risk within their spheres of influence. Impact will likely be highest in the regional areas near I-70 with more youth and higher drug prevalence. To extend the value of this investment, Blue Rising will produce a reusable multimedia resource featuring event content and local voices for ongoing use by the Giving Network and partners. This funding will create a multiplier effect to reduce risk exposure and support the well-being of the region's 39,000 young people.



HEALTH SOLUTIONS WEST FOUNDATION, INC

healthsolutionswest.org

Mission Statement

To rebuild lives and inspire hope by providing exceptional mental health and addiction recovery care, strengthening the health and vitality of our communities.

Operating Budget: \$47,500,000

Program Budget: \$40,500

Grant Request: \$37,500

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 150 Individuals

About

Health Solutions West (HSW) is a 501(c)(3) behavioral health provider serving ten Western Slope counties, offering a unique role as both a safety-net provider and a comprehensive care partner. HSW's main campus is in Grand Junction, with offices in Rifle, Glenwood Springs, and Aspen. HSW's strategic priorities center on equitable access to care, integrated behavioral health services, trauma-informed practice, and strong community partnerships. We believe mental health care should be available to everyone, regardless of ability to pay, and we maintain an environment that values each client's individuality. Our clinicians provide substance use treatment, trauma services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, mental health support for justice-involved youth, and family-focused interventions that strengthen healthy relationships and youth development. Our vision of success is thriving communities where behavioral health needs are met early, respectfully, and effectively.

Community Served

Data confirms that rural communities are disproportionately affected by substance use and mental health disorders. Our program serves youth in the RE-2 School District and Spanish-speaking youth and families in the Garfield County area. These communities include students who are at risk for or experiencing substance use, along with Latino families who face cultural, linguistic, and systemic barriers to accessing behavioral-health care. Local schools report rising concerns related to attendance, violence, and early experimentation with substances. Compounded by limited early-intervention options and the stigma surrounding mental-health support, these challenges often prevent youth and families from accessing help when they need it most.

Funding Request for Group Therapy for Youth and Latino Communities

Group Therapy for RE-2 School District Youth: We will support the needs of the RE-2 School District by delivering on-site weekly group therapy for at-risk students. HSW will expand upon our Youth Substance Use Treatment Program in Mesa County, which is grounded in the Youth Matrix Model, an evidence-based, structured, and multi-component outpatient approach to help youth modify substance-use behaviors and build long-term recovery skills. Spanish Substance Use Group Therapy and Suicide Prevention Training Classes: To effectively address the mental health service needs of the growing Latino population in our area, HSW is implementing a culturally responsive and community-integrated approach. Funding would support leading peer-based weekly Spanish speaking group therapy sessions, and Spanish-language Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) classes, led by our staff. With Latino residents representing 12% of Pitkin County and 32% of Garfield County, expanding group therapy and MHFA into Spanish will ensure that these critical skills and services reach a broader and more culturally diverse segment of the community. As a designated safety-net provider, the true cost of delivering high-quality behavioral health services far exceeds the reimbursement we receive. Additional funding is critical to sustain services, preserve access for vulnerable populations, and build a stable behavioral-health system that rural communities can rely on.



HIGH ROCKIES HARM REDUCTION

highrockiesharmreduction.com

Mission Statement

To reduce overdose deaths, the spread of disease, economic costs and other negative consequences of substance use through the expansion of evidence-based programs and services for people who use drugs, those seeking recovery and their affected loved ones in rural Colorado.

Operating Budget: \$460,000

Program Budget: \$90,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 1,000 Participants

About

HRHR was founded in 2020 to fill the service gap for evidence-based programming and services to combat the opioid/overdose epidemic in rural Colorado. HRHR is the only harm reduction organization in the Roaring Fork Valley and one of the only organizations in the state that operates as a peer-led Recovery Community Organization and Syringe Access Program. HRHR hosts weekly mobile services, including peer support, in 6 towns from Aspen to Parachute and also provides education to schools, organizations, and at free public events. HRHR has provided Naloxone to local schools, public health departments, healthcare facilities, recovery organizations, libraries, restaurants, and more. HRHR has promoted and supported efforts to get Naloxone into all public schools from Aspen to Parachute. HRHR also supported all libraries in the region in becoming Naloxone distribution sites. HRHR is known across the state as a champion for rural advocacy and employing individuals with lived-experience.

Community Served

HRHR serves historically marginalized communities, including women, Latinx, LGBTQIA+, rural, and unhoused participants, and prioritizes education for students, public safety and health departments, and hospitality industry workers. HRHR was founded by individuals from the RFV with lived experience with overdose and addiction. HRHR works closely with community organizations and stakeholders to determine services needed in the region and the best ways to implement local programming. Overdose deaths, new cases of HIV, and access to affordable healthcare services are significant issues for residents from Aspen to Parachute. HRHR employs community input and evidence-based strategies to combat these issues and improve health equity for all.

Funding Request for Expanding Local Recovery Resources

HRHR is seeking funding to support technology upgrades (Starlink for regional and mobile offices), professional development (conference registration, conference travel costs, and credentialing), and specific staff capacity projects (e.g. sustainable annual bonuses and the development of a regional director position) to support the continued growth and expansion of harm reduction and recovery work in the Roaring Fork, Crystal and Grand Valleys. Technology upgrades and professional development will improve the efficacy of both administrative operations and direct services provided to the public. In 2025, HRHR increased distribution and participation numbers in virtually all areas of service, with a 300% increase in participation, a 600% increase in safe use supply distribution, and a 15% increase in fentanyl test strip distribution compared to 2024. HRHR has continued to experience growth in both sustainable funding sources and community engagement. Funding from the Giving Network will support the continued growth and expansion of local, life-saving services and community awareness of local recovery resources by improving the efficacy and capacity of current staff.



RECOVERY RESOURCES

recoveryresourcescolorado.org

Mission Statement

We empower people to overcome adversity by creating a New Story of recovery and resilience.

Operating Budget: \$2,338,760

Program Budget: \$131,228

Grant Request: \$35,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 117 Individuals (youth & adults)

About

Recovery Resources is a nonprofit organization serving rural Western Colorado with a mission to empower individuals and families to create a new story of transition, recovery and resilience. Since our founding, we have built an integrated system of care that addresses substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health challenges, housing instability, and barriers to long-term recovery.

We meet people where they are—physically, emotionally, and financially. Our programs include withdrawal management, justice services, unsheltered support, case management, recovery support services, and outpatient equine programs. Many clients engage in multiple services at once and transition between programs as their needs evolve.

Our Equine Programs are a cornerstone of our outpatient work, offering experiential, trauma-informed alternatives to traditional therapy. To ensure everyone has equitable access to these programs, we prioritize removing barriers such as cost, language and stigma.

Community Served

Our Equine Programs offer healing and teach essential skills to youth, adults and families facing addiction, mental health challenges and trauma in Garfield and Pitkin counties. Our programs are designed for those who do not have access to or need support in addition to traditional behavioral health care, including people in recovery, youth with emotional or behavioral challenges, and families seeking healing and healthy reconnection after addiction. Rural isolation, high living costs, limited providers, language and stigma create barriers to care in our region. To address this, our programs are trauma-informed, nonjudgmental, and offered at reduced and zero cost, with transportation reimbursement and bilingual support available.

Funding Request for Expanding Equitable Access to Equine Programs

Recovery Resources is requesting \$35,000 from The Giving Network to expand access to our Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) and Therapeutic Riding programs. Grant funds will cover the cost of 90 free sessions (\$27,000*), 27 reduced-cost sessions (\$6,075), participant program supplies including bilingual materials and journals (\$425), and transportation reimbursement (\$2,500) for participants facing financial barriers.

Demand for our equine programs has grown year over year as more individuals seek recovery from substance use disorders and mental health challenges. In 2025, we served 890 individuals across all of our programs, with equine services operating near capacity. Support from The Giving Network will allow us to more than double our impact compared to 2025, where we provided 44 zero-cost sessions.

By reducing financial barriers to treatment, this funding will expand equitable access, improve retention, and strengthen outcomes for English and Spanish-speaking youth and adults pursuing healing, mental health support, and long-term recovery.

*All sessions are offered at a reduced rate of \$75 compared to the \$300 needed to cover program costs. Our credentialed instructor's time is volunteered, and we plan to double the number of sessions offered to accommodate the growing demand for our programs.



THE MEETING PLACE

meetingplacecarbondale.org

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and supportive space for meetings, educational programming, and community events to foster healing, growth, and connection for individuals in recovery, their families and friends.

Operating Budget: \$101,000

Program Budget: \$10,250

Grant Request: \$10,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 5,000 Individuals

About

The Meeting Place (TMP) hosts recovery meetings and provides services to those in recovery from alcohol, substance and behavioral addictions, their friends and families, all free or by donation. The only resource of its kind in the Roaring Fork Valley, TMP currently hosts 29 weekly meetings including Alcoholics, Narcotics, Overeaters, Debtors, and Sex Addicts Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Mindfulness in Recovery, Yoga for People in Recovery, and meditation. Dedicated to lowering barriers to access, TMP offers childcare at select meetings, recovery literature, Naloxone, workshops, social and community service events, and sober holiday alternatives.

The community impact of recovery is exponential: when people achieve and maintain recovery, families stabilize and heal. Children are able to focus on school and healthy development. Individuals improve work productivity and remain out of medical and legal systems. Public health overall is improved and our entire community benefits.

Community Served

Having grown out of the vision of community members, TMP has become the home to our robust local recovery community, including tourists, seasonal workers, rehabilitation and sober living facility clients. Groups such as our Sober Queer Club and Spanish-language meetings represent the best of our community: compassionate and inclusive.

Although it is difficult to measure our impact, in part due to the anonymous nature of many recovery programs, our space is regularly filled, and we continue responding to the needs and requests of our community. Popular initiatives such as our free Yoga for People in Recovery continue to expand.

Funding Request for Outreach Campaign

As a lean nonprofit, promoting our organization generally takes a back seat to general operating expenses. We would like to make a one-time investment in letting our community know about TMP: increasing awareness of recovery opportunities, reducing the stigma around seeking help, and promoting accessibility.

In tandem with a new accessibility initiative, providing free bus passes for those wishing to attend our programming, we will secure a summer season advertisement on all RFTA buses. Additionally, funding will be dedicated to representing TMP at community events such as Mountain Fair, Glenwood Pride, and local health fairs.

This strategic investment will communicate the opportunities for living a life free of addiction. Addiction is fatal - if our programming helps even one person, one day, to not pick up drugs or alcohol, that person has a chance at living. Each and every person deserves the opportunity to recover and lead a life free of suffering.



YOUTHZONE

youthzone.com

Mission Statement

To provide comprehensive assessment and advocacy to inspire healthy relationships between youth, families, and communities.

Operating Budget: \$2,020,022

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 20 Youth and their families

About

Incorporated in 1976, YouthZone was founded by a group of parents concerned about drug use among high school students in Garfield County. The original focus of the agency was to provide recreational activities along with drug information and education to youth. In its first years of operation, YouthZone annually assisted approximately 400 youth ranging from 14 to 17 years old. Today, YouthZone provides services to over 1,500 youth and their families from Aspen to Parachute annually; it is also the only organization in four counties that intervenes with the juvenile justice system. YouthZone proactively keeps youth out of the juvenile justice system and provides comprehensive, highly individualized intervention services. YouthZone's Vision: Hopeful Youth, Strong Families, & Safe Communities.

Community Served

YouthZone serves at-risk youth ages 10 -18 and their families in Pitkin, Garfield, Eagle, and Rio Blanco counties of all economic groups, regardless of ability to pay. YouthZone's Youth Survey© has been used for more than 20 years to evaluate and identify programmatic needs and efficacy. Pre and post-service screening is an evidence-based tool. After administration of the pre-screening, YouthZone Youth Advocates work with the youth and parents to develop a highly individualized action plan or contract. Challenges faced by YZ's communities include barriers to access such as transportation, inability to afford intervention and care, as well as language barriers. These challenges are overcome through YZ's programming and your support.

Funding Request for General Operations

Youth who receive services generally work with YouthZone for 3 to 6 months and will pay a \$200 assessment fee. Families that are unable to pay the assessment fee move to a sliding scale. The average cost of services per youth is \$2,000 for a 3-month program. This funding will subsidize the cost of services to approximately 20 youth. Support from the Giving Network will directly contribute to bridging the funding gap between the assessment fee and cost of providing services for youth and families in need. Pre and post screening scores reflect 52% of clients improved in at least one metric, including: Alcohol Refusal, School and Community Engagement, Life Optimism and Social Support, Marijuana and Other Drug Refusal, and Safety. In addition, in Fiscal Year 24/25, 90% of youth clients did not re-offend while receiving services at YouthZone and 91% completed their individual action plans successfully. With funding from the Giving Network, YouthZone will be more equipped to fulfill its goals by reducing barriers to access and improving capacity.



ASPEN HOPE CENTER

aspenhopecenter.org

Mission Statement

To deliver compassionate, high-quality mental health care and crisis support along a continuum, focused on serving individuals from Aspen to Parachute.

Operating Budget: \$4,653,386

Program Budget: \$467,666

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 160 Individuals

About

Aspen Hope Center is a nonprofit mental health and crisis response organization serving residents of Eagle, Pitkin, and Garfield counties. Founded to address gaps in timely access to mental health care, we provide coordinated, community-based services that include 24/7 crisis response, school-based mental health programming, and outpatient care. Our organization plays a unique role in the regional behavioral health system by partnering with hospitals, schools, law enforcement, and community organizations to ensure individuals receive the right level of care at the right time. Strategic priorities focus on expanding access to care, strengthening community partnerships, and building sustainable programs that prevent crisis escalation and unnecessary hospitalization. Guided by values of compassion, collaboration, and excellence, our vision of success is a community where individuals and families can access support early, remain connected to their communities, and long-term wellbeing.

Community Served

Aspen Hope Center serves residents of Eagle, Pitkin, and Garfield counties, including youth, adults, and families experiencing mental health challenges or barriers to accessing timely care. Rural geography, high cost of living, workforce shortages, and limited behavioral health resources contribute to delayed treatment and increased crisis escalation across the region. Our programs are informed by ongoing collaboration with schools, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and community partners, ensuring services are responsive to local needs. By providing accessible, community-based care and coordinated crisis response, Aspen Hope Center reduces gaps in care and helps individuals access support before challenges reach emergency levels.

Funding Request for Intensive Outpatient Program

Funding from the Giving Network will support the implementation of Aspen Hope Center's Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) - a service which is currently absent in our region - expanding access to structured, community-based mental health treatment for residents of Eagle, Pitkin, and Garfield counties. The IOP will serve individuals (adults and adolescents) experiencing moderate to severe mental health challenges who require more support than traditional outpatient therapy but do not meet criteria for inpatient care, filling a critical gap in the regional behavioral health system. This level of care allows adults to stabilize while remaining connected to their families and work and adolescents connected to their peers and school. Support from the Giving Network will help fund our two office locations, clinical staffing, program coordination, and initial operational costs associated with launching the program, increasing service capacity and reducing wait times for individuals transitioning from crisis services or higher levels of care. The program is expected to serve approximately 160 individuals annually, providing multiple therapeutic sessions each week. By expanding access to timely treatment, the IOP is anticipated to reduce crisis escalation, emergency department utilization, and psychiatric hospital admissions while improving long-term stability for participants.



SMILING GOAT RANCH

smilinggoatranch.com

Mission Statement

We provide the healing power of horses, movement, nature, and a caring community to people with neuropsychiatric conditions, including autism, anxiety, depression, PTSD, grief, trauma, and recovery.

Operating Budget: \$315,000

Program Budget: \$85,000

Grant Request: \$40,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Individuals

About

Smiling Goat Ranch (SGR) fills a critical gap in our valley by providing accessible, no-cost mental health programs for individuals and families facing autism, PTSD, anxiety, depression, ADHD, grief, and recovery challenges. As traditional therapy becomes increasingly costly and inaccessible, SGR offers a proven, whole-family alternative rooted in evidence-based, animal-assisted therapeutic interventions, movement, and nature. For over 10 years, SGR has served the community free of charge, ensuring no family or veteran is turned away due to financial barriers. Through structured therapeutic sessions with trained therapy animals, participants build emotional regulation, trust, and resilience in ways conventional clinical settings often cannot replicate. Now entering our second decade, our vision is a sustainable, clinically integrated organization where every person who needs mental health support can access it—regardless of income—within a compassionate, community-centered environment.

Community Served

SGR serves children, adults, veterans, and families across our valley affected by autism, ADHD, anxiety, depression, PTSD, grief, trauma, and recovery challenges. Many face financial hardship, rural isolation, long waitlists, or limited success with traditional therapy. Autism diagnoses are rising, youth and adults experience increasing mental health strain, and veterans often return with untreated PTSD. Our movement-based, animal-assisted programs are trauma-informed, adaptable, and inclusive of caregivers, meeting participants where they are emotionally and developmentally. By offering services at no cost to those in need, we remove barriers to care and provide accessible, whole-family healing in a supportive, natural environment.

Funding Request for Build Clinical Capacity

Funding from the Giving Network would enable Smiling Goat Ranch to integrate and expand clinical mental health services, strengthening the quality and reach of care for individuals with autism, PTSD, anxiety, depression, and grief. With this support, SGR anticipates reducing waitlists and increasing access to clinical services by 30–40% annually — expanding from approximately 100 to 140 individuals receiving clinically supported programming each year.

Funding would be used for:

- Licensed mental health professional contracted into programming (~20 hrs/week) for clinical oversight, individual sessions, and care coordination
- Standardized intake assessments and individualized treatment plans
- Outcome-tracking tools including pre/post anxiety and depression screenings
- Staff training and professional certifications to embed trauma-informed practices across all programs

This investment will improve consistency of care, enhance measurable outcomes in emotional regulation and communication, and provide stronger support for families navigating complex mental health needs, free of charge.



TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

tworiverscs.org

Mission Statement

To be an exemplary K-8 school founded upon the belief in academic Rigor, curricular Relevance, and authentic Relationships.

Operating Budget: \$7,300,000

Program Budget: \$100,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 400 Students

About

Two Rivers Community School is a K-8 public charter school serving students from Carbondale to Parachute through a distinctive place-based learning model that connects classroom learning to the real world. Students engage with local landscapes, organizations, and community experts through rigorous interdisciplinary experiences that ignite a passion for learning and high achievement. Guided by our vision of rigor, relevance, and relationships, we foster problem solving, and meaningful projects that positively impact our community. We are committed to equitable access for every family. We charge no school fees, provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, and operate daily transportation on four school buses to serve our regional community. As a small, lean, and continuously improving school, we adapt quickly to meet the evolving needs of our close-knit community, measuring success through both strong academic growth and a deep sense of belonging among students and families.

Community Served

Two Rivers Community School is located in Glenwood Springs and serves students and families from Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, and Parachute, a geographically broad and economically diverse region in the Roaring Fork Valley. Our programs are intentionally designed to remove obstacles and create equitable access to a high-quality public education. We charge no school fees, provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, and operate daily transportation on four school buses to connect communities across our region. Our weighted enrollment lottery prioritizes language learners and economically disadvantaged families, and our diverse staff reflects and supports the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our students.

Funding Request for Mental Health Crisis Supports

Funding from the Giving Network will allow Two Rivers Community School to sustain an embedded Aspen Hope Center clinician who provides immediate crisis intervention, short-term therapy, and preventative mental health support tailored to the needs of our students. The clinician serving TRCS provided individual counseling and crisis support to more than 30 students, facilitated connection circles and wellness groups with many more, and supported staff with crisis response and mental health strategies across the entire school.

This \$100,000 investment will preserve uninterrupted access to licensed mental health services within the trusted environment of our school following the loss of prior state grant funding. Sustaining this program will reduce escalation of student crises, improve emotional regulation and readiness to learn, and strengthen overall school safety. The presence of an on-site clinician increases efficiency by removing barriers to care such as transportation, cost, and wait times, allowing students to receive timely support during the school day. Continued partnership with Aspen Hope Center will expand our capacity to meet growing social-emotional needs, directly benefiting students, families, and staff while reinforcing a stable, healthy learning environment.



WINDWALKERS EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING AND THERAPY CENTER

windwalkers.org

Mission Statement

To empower individuals of all ages & abilities through equine-assisted therapy, education, & partnerships.

Operating Budget: \$1,150,146

Program Budget: \$100,000

Grant Request: \$100,000

Funding request will reach, serve or impact: 100 Individuals, groups, and families

About

WindWalkers is a nonprofit serving the Roaring Fork Valley for 20 years. Founded in 2005 on a working ranch in Carbondale, we deliver Evidence-based practice equine-assisted therapy, education, & community partnerships to individuals of all ages & abilities. Serving 135+ clients weekly with 24 certified therapy horses & PATH-certified instructors, we have logged 110,000+ service hours with measurable outcomes across physical, neurological, developmental, cognitive, & mental health challenges. We prioritize deepening clinical impact, expanding access to underserved populations, & building partnerships with our volunteers, healthcare providers, schools, the community, and other non-profits. Outcomes tracked via Goal Attainment Scaling, clinical observation, & caregiver feedback. Grounded in compassion, collaboration, integrity, & education, we offer trauma-informed care that reduces stigma & creating pathways to healing for those who, alongside or without success in traditional settings.

Community Served

WindWalkers serves individuals of all ages across the Roaring Fork Valley children, adults+, veterans, families, & people with disabilities many facing barriers to care including provider shortages, cost, geography, & stigma. Rural isolation drives anxiety, depression, & trauma at rates exceeding national averages. Programs are shaped by clinical assessment, caregiver input, & community referrals. Each participant receives an individualized plan guided by PATH-certified instructors & our licensed clinicians. Sliding-scale fees ensure cost is never a barrier. Through horsemanship, we meet clients where conventional care cannot reducing stigma & delivering evidence-based outcomes for those who have not found success in traditional settings.

Funding Request for Expanding Equine-Assisted Mental Health Services

The Roaring Fork Valley is in the midst of a mental health crisis. Rates of anxiety, depression, trauma, & substance use disorder consistently exceed national averages, while access to qualified providers remains critically limited. WindWalkers has spent 20 years building a proven method. A horse & a licensed clinician create something no traditional setting can replicate. Horses are acutely sensitive to human emotional states, providing immediate biofeedback that helps clients recognize & regulate their emotions in real time. This gives individuals carrying trauma, anxiety, depression, & emotional disabilities a powerful, non-threatening pathway to self-awareness, trust, & lasting change. This \$100,000 request strengthens & expands existing mental health programs by deepening clinical capacity, growing individuals served, & ensuring affordability through a scholarship fund for those who cannot meet standard fees. Funding increases subsidized sessions valley-wide, reduces intake barriers, & reaches 75+ additional participants in year one. Impact is measured through Goal Attainment Scaling, clinical observation, instructor logs, & caregiver feedback.

2026 GIVING NETWORK MEMBERS

Kalah Espinoza and David Agger

Pam Alexander

Jill and Paul Aschkenasy

Sonya Auvray

Tasia Bade

Jayne and Jarett Banks

Sally Sakin and Duncan Barber

Holly and Albert Baril

Carson Barnett

Rachel Becker

Jennifer Moses and Ron Beller

Karen Berkey and

Issy Berkey Holzschuh

Meredith Berman

Jody and Jeffrey Black

Pollyanna Uruena and Noah Bremen

Julia Pirrung and Bob Bridger

Courtney and Michael Brown

Andrea and Chris Bryan

Robin and Neal Buchalter

Glenn Bucksbaum

Diana Bulman

Marcy Carlin

Lauren and David Chazen

Kate and Ryan Craft

John Cresap

Maya and Mike Crothers

Autumn and Mike Davidson

Tony DiLucia

Megan DiSabatino

Minnie Dubiliere

Heather and Todd duBoef

Gail and Alfred Engelberg

Laurel Gilbert and Bruce Etkin

Vanessa Obregon and Edgar Farah

Jaimie and David Field

Kristen and Andrew Firman

Anna and Matt Freedman

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Stephen Sander
Kirsten and Chad Schmit
Zibby and Rick Schwartz
Jen and Paul Sciarra
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