Giving NETWORK
Serving Aspen to Parachute · CO

2027 Request for Proposals

Applications due by February 11, at 5:00 p.m. MST

For questions, email Emily Kornhauser at emily@aspencommunityfoundation.org

Overview

The Giving Network is a group of committed philanthropists who are interested in making a difference by supporting the work of organizations in the Aspen to Parachute region, addressing the most pressing health and human services needs.

Our mission is to provide a forum for philanthropists to learn about critical community needs, discuss opportunities, and decide where to grant pooled membership funds.

Members of the Giving Network meet several 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 on who to support, and how to allocate funding.

While the Giving Network is hosted by Aspen Community Foundation for administrative support, the Giving Network makes its own funding decisions by its independent group of donor members. ACF staff support the program but have no decision-making authority in Giving Network funding allocations.

We encourage organizations to request funding for a specific, one-time cost or organizational need that strengthens operations or builds capacity. Examples include, but are not limited to, a program or project restructure or growth, staff professional development or training, technical assistance or upgrades, capital renovations, improvements, or changes, bridging gaps in general operating due to external forces such as loss of state or government funding.

The Giving Network is focused on supporting organizations that serve the Aspen to Parachute region with health and human services. In the application, organizations will be asked to identify which of the following categories their organization's work and funding request most closely correlates with.

- **At-Risk Student Support:** Mentoring, counseling, support groups, and programs that promote student success
- **Community Resource Centers:** Emergency assistance, resource navigation, social safety net services, and adult education
- **Disability Services:** Support services, accessibility, and resources for individuals with

physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities

- **Domestic, Sexual, and Family Violence Prevention:** Survivor advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning, and violence prevention
- **Education:** Early childhood education, summer learning programs, tutoring, and academic support
- **Financial Services:** Financial literacy, coaching, savings programs, and pathways to financial stability
- **Food Security:** Food pantries, local farms, nutrition programs, and access to healthy food
- **Housing:** Affordable housing access, housing stability, homelessness prevention, and rental assistance
- **Mental Health Services:** Counseling, therapy, crisis intervention, and social-emotional wellbeing
- **Newcomer Support:** Immigrant and refugee services, integration assistance, and access to community resources
- **Physical Health:** Pediatric care, preventive care, and affordable healthcare services
- **School-Based Family Resource Centers:** Family support, resource navigation, parent engagement, and connections to essential services
- **School-Based Mental Health Clinicians and Services:** School-based counseling, early intervention, and student mental health support
- **Substance Abuse Treatment:** Addiction treatment, recovery services, and substance use prevention
- **Women's Health:** Reproductive healthcare, perinatal and postpartum support, and maternal health

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.

Funding History and Changes for 2027

Since its inception in 2016, the Giving Network has granted more than $4.5M to the Aspen to Parachute region. Funding cycles occur on an annual basis from January through July.

In 2026, the Giving Network received a record-breaking 89 applications, representing more than $4 million in funding requests. 34 grants were awarded totaling $887,850.

As we continue to grow, our goal is to move toward larger, more meaningful one time grants that invest in the long-term success of our nonprofit partners. We believe this approach will foster deeper learning about community needs and allow our donors to learn about new nonprofits each year. In addition to funding, we aim to create more meaningful connections between donors and the nonprofits doing important work across our region.

To support this approach and create opportunities for different organizations to receive capacity building funding, **nonprofits that received grants of more than $10,000 in 2026 will not be eligible to apply in 2027**, but may reapply in 2028. The same policy will apply going forward: organizations receiving more than $10,000 in 2027 will be eligible to reapply next in 2029.

Eligibility and How to Apply

All applications must be submitted through Aspen Community Foundation's grants portal by **February 11, 2027 at 5:00 p.m. MST.**

To access the grants portal, please visit: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=aspencf. If you are a returning user (for The Giving Network or Aspen Community Foundation), please login with your username and password. First time users must create a new account.

Organizations may only submit one grant application to this request for proposal. If two or more organizations are collaborating on a program or project, only one grant application may be submitted for the scope of work.

Organizations seeking funding must directly serve and demonstrate their impact in the Aspen to Parachute region. Organizations must be classified as tax-exempt under the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or are using a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)(3). Or they are a government entity such as a school district.

Organizations who received more than $10,000 in 2026 are not eligible to apply for funding in 2027.

Funds Available and Grant Size

The Giving Network's goal over the next few years is to be able to grant $1M annually.

Organizations may request up to $100,000. For 2027, we expect individual grants to range from $20,000 - $100,000, with an average grant size of $45,000. Please include a prioritized, simple breakdown explaining how your funding would be spent, if applicable.

Office Hours and Questions

Two sessions of virtual office hours will be offered to answer any additional questions to help organizations get clarity about this funding opportunity. These are optional, informal conversations, no RSVP is needed. Language interpretation is available upon request .

- **January 21 from 1 – 2:30 PM**
- **February 4 from 1 - 2:30 PM**

Finalist Site Visit Presentations

Site visits are the opportunity for Giving Network members to have face-to-face time with your organization's leadership to learn more about your funding request and the needs of the community you serve. We see these meetings as a valuable opportunity to connect donors to nonprofits, bring an organization's work to life, and meet the dedicated staff that make this work possible.

Site visits are offered to organizations that are invited to move forward after the initial application review in mid-March. They will be held exclusively on Zoom from May 3 - 25 and will be scheduled based on mutual availability for 45 minutes.

New for 2027 there will be no in-person site visits or presentations asked of the organization during the March or July member meetings.

Grant Reports and Expectations

All organizations that receive funding from the Giving Network in 2027 will be asked to submit a brief update on the status of their work, due by May 14, 2028 through Aspen Community Foundation's grants portal. Just one simple story, sound bite, photo, video and/or data point, so we can share the impact of funding received with our donor members.

2027 Timeline

- **January 5** – Request for Proposal opens
- **January 21** – Zoom Office Hour: Session 1, *1 - 2:30 PM*

- **February 4** – Zoom Office Hours: Session 2, *1 - 2:30 PM*
- **February 11** – Request for Proposal closes
- **March 9 - April 5** – Grant application review period by Giving Network members
- **April 15 –** All applicants notified of first round decisions and site visits scheduled
- **May 3 - 25** – Zoom site visits
- **July 20** – Grant awards and final declinations notified
- **August 1** - Grant contract begins and payment issued
- **May 14, 2028** - Grant progress report due

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

We encourage you to review previous year's grant application books to see how applications are presented to donor members. Examples from 2024, 2025, and 2026 can be found here.

The following questions are provided for reference only. All applications must be submitted through Aspen Community Foundation's grants portal by Thursday, February 11, 2027 at 5:00 p.m. MST.

FUNDING REQUEST

1. Project Name: *Project name should complete the sentence, "Funding request for…"*
2. Grant Amount Request: *Funding may be requested up to $100,000*
3. Brief summary of funding request: *Limit this summary reference to one sentence that describes how the funds will primarily be used.*
4. Application Focus Area (pick one):
    - At-Risk Student Support
    - Community Resource Centers
    - Disability Services
    - Domestic, Sexual, and Family Violence Prevention
    - Education
    - Financial Services
    - Food Security
    - Housing
    - Mental Health Services
    - Newcomer Support
    - Physical Health
    - School-Based Family Resource Centers
    - School-Based Mental Health Clinicians and Services
    - Substance Abuse Treatment
    - Women's Health

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

1. Organization Name
2. Website: *No "www"*
3. Mission Statement: *Limit to one sentence.*
4. Executive Director Name
5. Executive Director Email
6. Executive Director Phone Number
7. Board Chair Name
8. Board Chair Email
9. Primary Contact for this Funding Request: *This is the person who we will reach out to with questions, schedule site visits, and announce funding decisions. It can be the executive director or another staff person.*
10. Primary Contact Email
11. Primary Contact Phone Number
12. Fiscal Sponsor (optional, if applicable): *If your organization has a fiscal sponsor, please share the organization's name, your primary point of contact email, and their email address.*

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

13. Organizational Overview: *Provide a brief description of the unique role your organization provides to our regional community. You may include your organizational history, the strategic priorities that guide your current work, and vision of success***.**
14. Community Served: *Describe the community you seek to primarily serve. Please share how your programs and services are informed by and tailored to meet the needs of your target demographic. Describe the challenges and needs most pressing for these communities.*
15. Funding Request Description: *Describe how you would use funding from the Giving Network, including a prioritized breakdown of how the funding would be spent. Share the anticipated impact of these dollars on your organization and/or the community you serve using projected data and metrics, as well as other partners who support this work.*

DATA AND FINANCIALS

16. How many unique units does your organization directly serve from Aspen to Parachute annually?
    - Numerical value
    - Unit description (*examples*: students, families, youth, individuals, households, clients, meals, participants)
17. How many unique units will this specific funding request directly serve, reach, or impact?
    - Numerical value
    - Unit description (*examples*: students, families, youth, individuals, households, clients, meals, participants)
18. Primary Geographic Focus: *Select the communities where this funding would have the greatest impact in our service region (check all that apply):*

- Aspen, Snowmass, Woody Creek
- Basalt and El Jebel
- Carbondale
- Redstone
- Glenwood Springs
- New Castle, Silt, Rifle
- Parachute and Battlement Mesa
- Other

19. Annual Operating Budget: *Total annual expenses for your organization. [Number value field] If your organization serves beyond the Aspen to Parachute region, provide the annual budget designated for Aspen to Parachute.*
20. Program or Project Budget: *Total expenses for this program, project, expansion or opportunity.*