

2026 Community Grants

Eligibility & Priority Checklist

Before beginning your Letter of Interest (LOI) through our online portal, please review the following criteria to ensure your project aligns with our 2026 funding priorities.

1. Geographic Focus

- Does your organization or specific project serve residents within one or more of our seven-county service areas (Eagle, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Mesa, Delta, Montrose, or Ouray)?

2. Mission Alignment

- Is your primary goal the delivery of basic needs?
- **Food Security:** Food banks, pantries, and meal delivery programs.
 - **Housing & Shelter:** Emergency shelters, transitional housing, and rent/utility assistance to prevent homelessness for those in unstable situations.
 - **Physical & Mental Health:** Primary care clinics, crisis intervention, and essential medication assistance.
 - **Safety:** Domestic violence advocacy and emergency childcare for families in crisis.
- Does your project specifically serve vulnerable populations?
- Individuals and families living below the federal poverty line.
 - Uninsured or underinsured individuals.
 - Immigrant/migrant/mixed status individuals and families.
 - Seniors on fixed incomes.
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
 - Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

3. Organizational Stability

- Is your organization currently experiencing a budget shortfall due to **federal/state funding cuts or policy changes**?
- Can you demonstrate how WCCF funding will help **stabilize or maintain critical services** during this transition period?

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4. Request Alignment

Is your funding request aligned with one of the following funding purposes?

- General Support:** Core, day-to-day operational expenses including staff salaries, rent, utilities, technology and administration.
- Bridge Funding:** Emergency bridge funding to maintain core operations and avoid service gaps - where anticipated or committed funds are expected within the 2026-2027 budget.
- Capacity-building Technology:** Software and/or technology upgrades to meet documented needs and increase service delivery.
- Structural Transformation:** Mergers, restructuring, or shared service models related to organizational efficiencies.

5. Grant Requirements

- Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, church, school or government entity serving a charitable purpose?
- Is your organization registered and in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State (COSOS)?
- Are you prepared to submit an LOI by the final deadline of June 12, 2026?

Important Dates & Timeline

- **May 15:** First Letter of Interest (LOI) deadline for review to determine eligibility for the full application
- **June 12:** Final deadline to submit your LOI
- **July 17:** Final deadline to submit a full application, by 5:00p.m. (if your organization is moved forward)

Submit your LOI through the portal
wc-cf.org/explore-funding/