



The Women's Foundation of Colorado

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For Immediate Release

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The Women's Foundation of Colorado Launches WAGES with Selection of 23 Statewide Grantee Partners

Grantees Awarded \$520,000 to Work with WFCO to Propel Women Toward Economic Security

DENVER (Jan. 26, 2018) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) announced today it has launched WAGES (*Women Achieving Greater Economic Security*), a program that employs research, public policy advocacy, and strategic grantmaking to help Colorado women earn a livable wage – a critical step in achieving economic security. WFCO has awarded \$520,000 to 23 grantee partners throughout the state that will comprise the WAGES cohort. They will work together with WFCO for three years to advance more women into careers and provide support services that enable them to meet the needs of their families and invest in their futures.

More than 260,000 Colorado women live in poverty, and 36.5 percent of households led by single mothers with children under 18 live in poverty. In 2016, nearly 1,300 diverse Coloradans helped WFCO identify five key resources that women need to move from poverty to prosperity. They named livable wages, equal pay, employment opportunities, child care, and higher education. WFCO determined that a livable wage is the unifying link and critical catalyst in accessing those resources and reaching economic security.

“Colorado is thriving with a low unemployment rate and rapid growth of STEM careers, but women still are affected disproportionately by poverty and face persistent barriers to earning a livable wage,” said Lauren Y. Casteel, president and CEO of WFCO. “It’s a missed opportunity for all of Colorado because women are the co- or sole breadwinners in nearly half of Colorado households with children under 18. When they can achieve economic security, they boost our entire statewide economy and their children are better prepared to succeed.”

WAGES Cohort

From Denver to Durango and Fort Collins to Fort Morgan, the WAGES cohort of 23 grantee partners will address the needs of women and their children at the same time to build a foundation for family economic security for generations to come.

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OUR MISSION

Catalyzing community to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families.

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The Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women
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Eight Denver-based public policy partners will advocate for statewide systems-level policy changes that support women entering and remaining in the workforce. Fifteen direct-service grantees will provide services for women that include training for careers in high-growth fields with advancement opportunities, high-quality child care while they pursue training and employment opportunities, and access to additional resources they need for successful career entry and transitions – including housing, food assistance, transportation, and healthcare.

Public Policy Grantees

- 9to5 Colorado
- Bell Policy Center
- Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Fiscal Institute
- Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation – Denver Opportunity Youth Initiative
- Executives Partnering to Invest in Children
- Young Invincibles

Direct Service Grantees

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County, Pueblo
- Center for Work Education and Employment, Denver
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver
- Community Partnership for Child Development, Colorado Springs
- Durango Adult Education Center, Durango
- Eagle County Government (Department of Human Services), Eagle County
- Emergency Family Assistance Association, Inc., Boulder
- Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado, Denver
- IEG, Inc. – Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities, Inc., Denver
- La Plata Family Centers Coalition, Durango
- Mi Casa Resource Center, Denver
- OneMorgan County, Morgan County
- Project Self-Sufficiency, Loveland/Fort Collins
- Pueblo Community College, Pueblo
- Women's Resource Center, Durango

WFCO grantees will have the opportunity to renew their grants in 2019 and 2020. WFCO also has awarded a separate grant to OMNI Institute to lead the cohort's evaluation and learning that will be utilized to inform grantees, policymakers, and professionals in Colorado and nationwide who are interested in advancing women's and families' economic stability.

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WAGES is made possible with the support of the Women's Funding Network; WomenGive – United Way of Larimer County; The Chambers Fund, a donor-advised fund held at The Women's Foundation of Colorado; and WFCO's generous donors. Donor-advised fund holders at The Women's Foundation of Colorado have granted an additional \$408,000 to nonprofit organizations since April 2017.

About WFCO

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is the only statewide community foundation dedicated to creating more pathways to prosperity for Colorado women through the power of community, philanthropy, and impact. Since 1987, WFCO has served as an essential partner, resource, voice, and catalyst in strengthening Colorado's families, communities, and economy through the power of women.

In its 30-year history, WFCO has funded more than 30 research reports that identify the systemic barriers that keep women from earning a livable wage, helped pass nearly 40 pieces of legislation that have created economic opportunities, and granted more than \$17 million to nonprofits that work with women and families in communities statewide.

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