



**The Women's
Foundation of Colorado**

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Lisa Christie
Vice President of Communications
917-609-0839
lisac@wfco.org

**WFCO Invests \$255,000 in Front Range Grantee Partners of the
Women & Girls of Color Fund**

DENVER (October 4, 2021) – The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) announces that its Women & Girls of Color Fund advisory council selected 21 Front Range grantee partners to receive funding. The grants totaled \$255,000 and will impact women in all 64 counties. 2021 Front Range grantee partners address issues critical to the prosperity of Colorado women and their families, including reproductive justice, food justice, disability justice, family advocacy, workers’ rights, and much more. In 2020, 12 rural grantees received a total of \$192,000 from the fund.

WFCO launched the Women & Girls of Color Fund, a community-led field of interest fund, in 2020 in response to the economic fallout of COVID-19, which highlighted and exacerbated the disparities women and girls of color face in health outcomes, pay, wealth, access to capital, and more. As the only statewide community foundation focused on gender, racial, and economic equity, WFCO initiated the fund to invest in women-of-color-led and women-and-girls-of-color-serving organizations explicitly and directly.

All Front Range grants range from \$10,000-\$20,000 and are unrestricted to be used at the grantee partners’ discretions to achieve their missions. Each executive director received an additional \$750 for self-care or personal or professional development.

Meet the 2021 Women & Girls of Color Front Range Grantees

- [Casa Milagro Youth Solutions](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Millie Duran
- [Colorado Circles for Change](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Angell Pérez

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OUR MISSION

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

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- [Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights \(COLOR\)](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Dusti Gurule
- [Colorado People's Alliance](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Lizeth Chacon
- [Compound of Compassion](#), Arapahoe County
 - CEO: Shana Shaw
- [Curls on the Block](#), Arapahoe County
 - Founder/President: Analise Harris
- [Denver Indian Family Resource Center](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Tara Manthey
- [The Family Center/La Familia](#), Larimer County
 - Executive Director: Gloria Kat
- [Fortaleza Familiar](#), Adams County
 - Co-founder/Executive Director: Mimi Madrid
- [Greater Purpose Media](#), Adams County
 - CEO: Summer Nettles
- [Idea Stages \(IDEAs\)](#), Boulder County
 - Founder: Alicia Young
- [The Initiative](#), Denver County
 - Executive Director: Ashlee Lewis
- [Kaizen Food Rescue](#), Arapahoe County
 - Founder: Thai Nguyen
- [Kingdom Builders Family Life](#), El Paso County
 - Executive Director: Lisa Jenkins
- [Light Carrier](#), Arapahoe County
 - Executive Director: Candice Bailey
- [Red Light Resources International](#), Boulder County
 - Executive Director: Pasha Ripley
- [The Road Called STRATE](#), Arapahoe County
 - Executive Director: Michelle Sykes

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- [Sheridan Rising Together for Equity](#), Arapahoe County
 - Executive Director: Nelly Limon
- [Show and Tell](#), Arapahoe County
 - Executive Director: Yvette Plummer Burkhalter
- [Soul 2 Soul Sisters](#), Denver County
 - Co-founder/Executive Director: Rev. Dr. Dawn Riley Duval
- [Vuela for Health](#), Denver County
 - CEO/Program Director: Diana Pineda

About the Women & Girls of Color Fund

Women and girls have historically been underinvested in, receiving only 1.6 % of all charitable contributions in the U.S. Even more staggering, philanthropy invests even less in women and girls of color, with a mere .5 % of the \$66.9 billion that foundations grant each year benefiting them. Given the immense contributions that women and girls of color make to the health, well-being, and advancement of our communities, these statistics are alarming.

Direct investments in women and girls of color create equitable opportunities for their economic mobility, which subsequently impacts the prosperity of their families, communities, and the economy. The Women & Girls of Color Fund aims to create systems change, influence the philanthropic sector, and give women of color and communities of color the resources they have been denied historically to prosper.

The Women & Girls of Color Fund advisory council, comprised of 20 Colorado women of color, girls of color, and nonbinary people of color ages 17 and older, oversees the grantmaking process. The members learn, review applications, and select the grantees together. To ensure a well-diversified group of grantee partners and meet WFCO's goal of funding those most underfunded, the advisory council considered factors such as populations served, counties served, type of services offered, size of organizations, and more.

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In addition to WFCO's own seed investment of \$50,000 for the first three years of the Women & Girls of Color Fund, generous grants from The Colorado Health Foundation, Ford Foundation, Chambers Initiative, Xcel Energy, and gifts from a diverse group of individual donors helped bring the fund to life. The Ford Foundation supported the launch of the Women and Girls of Color Fund by offering \$50,000 in matching dollars.

The fund adds to the multiple ways that WFCO invests directly in the economic security of Colorado women, joining The Foundation's WAGES (Women Achieving Greater Economic Security) grantmaking and the Women and Families of Colorado Relief Fund (WFCO Relief Fund). Together, these initiatives funded 102 social entrepreneurs and direct-service, research, and public policy organizations in 2020. Additionally, hundreds of WFCO donors annually fund diverse organizations directly through giving circles and donor-advised funds.

The next grantmaking cycle will open in January 2022 for rural organizations, with grants awarded in the spring of 2022.

For more information

The application and frequently-asked questions can be found at www.wfco.org/wgcf. Potential grantees can contact Camisha Lashbrook, donor relations manager, at CamishaL@wfco.org with additional questions.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

WFCO is the only statewide community foundation dedicated to gender, racial, and economic equity. 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 34-year history, WFCO has funded dozens of research reports that identify the systemic barriers that keep women from earning a livable wage, helped pass key legislation to spur women's economic advancement, and granted more than \$21.5 million to nonprofits that work with women and families in communities statewide. For more information, please visit www.wfco.org.

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