



**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 Invites Funding Applications from Rural Colorado
Organizations for Its Women & Girls of Color Fund**

***Rural Colorado Organizations Can Apply January 11-February 5, 2021;
Front-Range and Statewide Organizations Eligible to Apply in July 2021***

DENVER (Jan. 11, 2021) – The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) today opened the funding application process for rural organizations as part of its newly established Women & Girls of Color Fund. This kicks off the first cycle of funding that organizations can apply for in 2021, with grants awarded by the end of March 2021. In July, Front-Range and statewide organizations will be invited to apply for funding as part of the second cycle, with grants awarded by the end of September 2021.

WFCO launched the 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 the economic advancement of Colorado women of every background and identity, The Foundation initiated a dedicated fund to explicitly and directly invest in women-of-color-led and women-and-girls-of-color-serving organizations.

The fund adds to the myriad 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.

OUR MISSION

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

WFCO.ORG

The Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women
1901 East Asbury Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80208
303-285-2960



The Women's Foundation of Colorado

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

About the Women & Girls of Color Fund

Women and girls have historically been underinvested in, receiving only 1.6 percent 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 percent 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 directly impacts the prosperity of their families, communities, and the economy as a whole. The Women & Girls of Color Fund aims to create systems change, influence the philanthropic sector as a whole, and give women of color and communities of color the resources they have been denied historically to prosper.

The Women & Girls of Color Fund is community-designed and community-led. 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 will oversee the two application cycles in 2021, as well as learn, review applications, and select grantees together.

Who Is Eligible to Apply for the Women & Girls of Color Fund?

Organizations that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for the first cycle of funding from Jan. 11 – Feb. 5, 2021:

- 501(c)(3) charitable organizations; tax-exempt educational institutions; tax-exempt state, tribal, local government entities; or initiatives working with a fiscal sponsor.
- Organizations headquartered in rural Colorado regardless of service area. Organizations based in Front Range counties (Larimer, Boulder, Broomfield, Jefferson, Denver, Arapahoe, Douglas, Adams, and El Paso) and statewide organizations are eligible for the next round of funding in July 2021.
- Organizations whose executive director or CEO is a woman, girl, or nonbinary person of color.

Exceptions to the criteria that will be considered include:

- After school programs or extra-curricular activities at K-12 schools led by women, girls, or nonbinary people of color

OUR MISSION

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

WFCO.ORG

The Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women
1901 East Asbury Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80208
303-285-2960



The Women's Foundation of Colorado

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

- Projects or departments at institutions of higher education that are led by women, girls, or nonbinary people of color
- Community-organizing or direct-service organizations that advance economic security for or build the economic power of women of color, girls of color, and/or nonbinary people of color along the continuum from birth through adulthood. Examples of service areas include early childhood education & child care, job training, entrepreneurship, financial education, self-esteem building, trauma and healing, health, food insecurity, safety, reproductive justice, legal services, housing, leadership development, refugee and immigrant rights/services, and grassroots advocacy. Research- and public policy-exclusive organizations are not eligible.

What size are the grants and what can funding be used for?

Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 depending on how many organizations are selected for funding. All grants will be unrestricted and can be used at the grantee partners' discretion to achieve their mission. Although they are not multi-year grants, grantee partners may reapply each year.

How will the grant recipients be selected?

The advisory council members will independently evaluate organizations in alignment with the funding priorities and goals. Council members will discuss the applications and make final decisions on who to fund and grant amounts. To ensure a well-diversified group of grantee partners and meet WFCO's goal of funding those most underfunded, the advisory council will also take into consideration factors such as populations served, counties served, type of services offered, size of organizations, and more.

Funders of the Women & Girls of Color Fund

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

For more information

OUR MISSION

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

WFCO.ORG

The Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women
1901 East Asbury Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80208
303-285-2960



The Women's Foundation of Colorado

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

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 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 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 \$19 million to nonprofits that work with women and families in communities statewide. For more information, please visit www.wfco.org.

###

OUR MISSION

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

WFCO.ORG

The Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women
1901 East Asbury Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80208
303-285-2960