



**The Women's
Foundation of Colorado**

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Lisa Christie
Senior Director of Communications
303-285-2961
lisac@wfc.org

The Women's Foundation of Colorado Launches Women and Families of CO Relief Fund (WFCO Relief Fund) for COVID-19 Rapid Response

The Colorado Health Foundation Invests \$500,000 in WFCO to Mitigate Gender Inequities During COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Efforts

DENVER (April 6, 2020) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) announced today a new COVID-19 relief and recovery fund for organizations serving Colorado women and their families. According to many economists, the fallout of COVID-19 will deepen existing gender, racial, and class inequities and widen the gap in essential resources.

The Colorado Health Foundation invested \$500,000 in The Women's Foundation to launch the Women and Families of CO Relief Fund (WFCO Relief Fund). To date, The Colorado Health Foundation has invested more than \$13.5 million in relief efforts throughout the state.

The WFCO Relief Fund will provide \$320,000 in rapid-response grants to nonprofit organizations across the state serving Colorado women. Additionally, The WFCO Relief Fund will provide funding to existing WFCO programs, including 12 direct-service grantee partners that are part of WFCO's WAGES (Women Achieving Greater Economic Security) cohort, and WFCO's impact investing giving circle that makes loans to women-led social ventures and small businesses.

"Low-income women, single moms, and women of color will be hit much harder by the economic fallout of COVID-19," said Karen McNeil-Miller, president and CEO of The Colorado Health Foundation. "We are pleased that we can provide these essential dollars to the only community foundation in our state with the intersectional gender-lens expertise to understand the breadth of challenges women will face through this public health crisis."

-more-

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

Previously, in 2018, The Colorado Health Foundation awarded WFCO with a \$1 million grant to support WFCO's statewide reach, deepen its impact, and affirm its role as the anchor institution for the economic advancement of Colorado women and their families.

About the Women and Families of Colorado (WFCO) Relief Fund

The purpose of the WFCO Relief Fund is to rapidly and responsively distribute general operating grants to 501(c)(3) and other tax-exempt organizations that address the emergency needs of Colorado women and their families who are most impacted by COVID-19. Grant recipients could include organizations supporting victims of domestic violence, older women, women of refugee and immigrant backgrounds, women with disabilities, women experiencing homelessness, and more. The grants are meant to enhance the capacity of organizations responding to a variety of critical needs including housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, behavioral health, and more.

"For 33 years, WFCO has met the essential needs of Colorado women through our trusted research, public policy advocacy, and grantmaking. We will continue to do so," said Lauren Y. Casteel, president and CEO of The Women's Foundation. "However, in times of crisis, the issues that affect women disproportionately become even more pronounced, such as access to child care, health care, and livable wages. We are profoundly grateful for The Colorado Health Foundation's generous investment and trust in WFCO to help meet the greatest needs of Colorado women during the pandemic."

The grant application process opens Monday, April 6th, and the deadline to apply is Tuesday, April 14th at 5 p.m. WFCO will make grant decisions by the end of April using statewide community input and an equity framework. Grantees of the fund will receive \$10,000 to be used for general operating expenses. The grant application can be found at www.wfco.org/grants.

COVID-19 Community Support by WFCO

Since March, community support by The Women's Foundation for the COVID-19 economic crisis includes:

- Donating \$10,000 to Colorado's COVID-19 Relief Fund hosted by the state of Colorado and Mile High United Way. WFCO will participate in the grantmaking process as well by ensuring the needs of women are considered and diverse community voices are heard.
- Offering WAGES public policy and direct-service grantees flexibility with WFCO funds already received in 2020.

-more-

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

- Signing on to a letter to Congress to prioritize funding for the early care and education workforce as part of the CARES Act.
- Sending letters to Colorado Senators Gardner and Bennet urging support for the nonprofit sector and tax strategies to encourage giving at this critical time.

“We’ve used our expertise and available resources to maximize community support, but the WFCO Relief Fund will immediately impact more women and families across the state as they provide for their families during the crisis,” said Casteel. “WFCO has been here for Colorado women for years, we are here now, and will be here to help women regain their financial footing after COVID-19 and for years beyond.”

###

About the Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation is bringing health in reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy, learning and capacity building. For more information, please visit www.coloradohealth.org.

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 33-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 that 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