

Strengthening Neighborhoods Grant Guidelines 2013



Strengthening Neighborhoods

A program of The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation's Strengthening Neighborhoods

The following information is for groups of residents living in Metro Denver communities. Nonprofits who wish to apply should see The Denver Foundation's Community Grant Guidelines at www.denverfoundation.org.

For fifteen years, The Denver Foundation has been making grants and supporting resident activities and leadership through a program called Strengthening Neighborhoods (SN). This program focuses on the power of neighborhood residents to make a difference in their communities.

We believe that residents themselves often have the greatest knowledge of how to improve life in their communities, and we also believe that all communities have existing assets - including their people, institutions, and public resources. We believe in helping more residents work together to build on those assets to strengthen their communities.

As a result of our new Strategic Plan, The Denver Foundation has broadened the focus of Strengthening Neighborhoods. Beginning in 2013, Strengthening Neighborhoods will work with residents from low-income communities throughout the seven counties of Metro Denver, with a special emphasis on low-income communities of color.

If you live in a low-income community, and you have ideas that fit with the priorities outlined below, we invite you to apply, either via our on-line application at www.strengtheningneighborhoods.org or through this written application.

Goals

SN has five goals. When you apply for funding from SN, your group will be asked to think about how the project will advance one or more of these goals.

- To support positive relationships among residents in our community based on equality and the valuing of everyone's contributions.** To meet this goal your project might help people in the community who didn't know each other beforehand get to know one another. It might help people develop stronger relationships with their neighbors. Or it might help build relationships across racial, age, gender, or socioeconomic boundaries.



- ❑ **To support resident leaders in our community.** To meet this goal your project might identify and develop the skills of new leaders in your community, especially from diverse groups. Or it might help existing leaders become more skilled.

- ❑ **To help residents organize to create positive change in their communities.** To meet this goal your project might help to create or strengthen a neighborhood group that can take action on important community issues, or it might help an existing group meet its neighborhood change goals.

- ❑ **To connect residents and resident-led groups across communities so they can learn from one another and take action on common concerns.** To meet this goal, your project might reach out to residents from another neighborhood to find out how they addressed a common community issue, or it might organize several groups from different neighborhoods to take action on a regional issue.

- ❑ **To bring new partners to the work of resident-centered community building.** To meet this goal your group might help institutions or organizations in your community that are not led by residents - such as churches, schools, non-profits, and businesses - give residents a voice in their work or a seat at their decision-making table.

What we fund

Through Strengthening Neighborhoods, The Denver Foundation supports resident-led projects that reduce racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in the areas of Basic Human Needs, Economic Opportunity, and Education. We also work to expand the leadership skills of community residents. We support projects that engage residents and constituents in taking action, and we prioritize programs and organizations that are led by and work with people living in poverty, immigrants and refugees, or people of color.

As has always been the case in Strengthening Neighborhoods, resident groups need not be 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations to apply. Any group of three or more unrelated residents that has an idea for a project in their own community that fits within the guidelines below is eligible to apply.

Guidelines

- ❑ SN awards grants of up to \$5,000 directly to residents for use in resident-led projects that address one or more of the goals mentioned above.

- ❑ Grants are limited to the seven-county Metro area.

- ❑ All proposed projects must be planned and led by three or more unrelated residents of the neighborhood.

- ❑ Projects must make use of the strengths and assets that already exist in the community, such as residents' skills or neighborhood institutions (like businesses, schools, churches, or parks).

Timing

If we receive your proposal by the last business day of the month, we will have a decision for you by the fourth week of the following month.

Important note on evaluation, learning, and final reports

If you receive a grant, you must submit a final report and may be invited to:

- participate in learning gatherings and collaboratives
- provide stories of your group's success and work with our communications staff to tell your story
- participate in other learning opportunities

How to Apply for a Grant

To apply for a grant, please complete the enclosed application and mail to the address on the back page. Applications may be handwritten.

You may also complete the application on our web site if you prefer. Log on to www.strengtheningneighborhoods.org, click on the Apply tab at the top of the page, then click on the Resident Grant Application link to the right. Please complete either the paper version or the online version - not both.

If you have questions or need help completing the application, please call LaDawn Sullivan at 303.300.1790 ext. 118 or email lsullivan@denverfoundation.org.



How to Prepare a Budget

Please enter your project budget in the worksheet at the end of this application. Please try to use the actual expected cost of the items. This may require some research. We encourage you to use resources in your neighborhood when possible, and try to get items donated (such as food or space for an event). Try to think creatively about how you can use neighborhood assets to accomplish your project.

Is Anyone Getting Paid?

If you are planning to pay anyone with money from this grant, please complete the following worksheet. If you cannot check the boxes that match the type of payment you are considering, please do not include this in your budget.

Are You Paying a Professional?

- We are hiring a professional, such as an artist, musician, landscape designer, licensed caterer, trained teacher, etc., whose skills are necessary for us to complete our project successfully.
- The services of this professional are not available in our neighborhood through volunteer help.

If you checked both of the above boxes you can include this in your budget.

Are You Paying a Resident Who is *Not* a Professional?

- We have a leadership group of residents (three or more people) who will decide who gets hired/paid.
- Our leadership group will advertise the job to two or more residents who are *not part of the group*.
- Those interested in the job will tell us in writing why they are qualified and how much they will charge.
- The leadership group will review the applications and choose the one who will best meet the project's needs.
- The leadership group will get an invoice or bill from the person getting paid, will review that invoice, and will make sure the work has been done properly before paying the person.

If you checked ALL of the above boxes you can include this in your budget.

Are You Planning to Buy Equipment that Will Last Awhile?

If you are planning to buy anything with your grant dollars that will still be useful after the project is over, such as tools, electronic devices, furniture, sports or outdoor equipment, please complete the following worksheet.

- This equipment is necessary for us to do our project.
- This equipment cannot be found through a loan or donation.
- At the end of our project, this equipment will be available for use by anyone in our neighborhood who needs it. We will store the equipment at the following location, and make sure that people who might want to use it can have access to it.

Description of equipment: _____

Address of place where equipment will be stored:

Street

City

Zip Code



If you cannot check ALL of the boxes above, please do not include this in your budget.

Application

Please type or print your responses clearly.

Tell Us About Your Project

Today's Date _____

What is this project called? (Please give it a name.) _____

When will this project take place? _____

In which county(ies) will this project take place?

- Adams Arapahoe Boulder Broomfield
 Denver Douglas Jefferson

Are you working with any other groups, organizations, or institutions on this project?

- Yes No

If "Yes," please provide the following: Name of group: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

Describe Your Project

What is your idea for strengthening your neighborhood? _____

Did you receive a planning grant for this project? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Don't know

Describe your project in steps. What will you do first? What will you do second, etc.?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please list each asset this project will use and explain how the asset will be used to accomplish project goals. _____

If this project is successful, how will your community be stronger? _____

Check the box for each goal that you think your project will accomplish, and explain how in the space provided:

- Goal 1 - It will support positive relationships among residents based on equality and the valuing of everyone's contributions.

- Goal 2 - It will support resident leaders.

- Goal 3 - It will help residents organize to create positive change in our community.

- Goal 4 - It will connect residents and resident-led groups across different neighborhoods so they can learn from one another and take action on common concerns.

- Goal 5 - It will bring new partners to the work of resident-centered community-building.

The Denver Foundation Funding Priorities

In 2013, we will prioritize funding to groups that focus on the following (*If your project doesn't address one or more of these areas, please move on to page 10*):

Basic Human Needs

Does your project:

- Teach, mobilize, or organize people to get the basic services they need, such as food, shelter and medical care? Or does your project train people to be "navigators" who can help others get services? If yes, please explain: _____

- Create and share maps or guides that describe where people can get resources such as food, clothing, and shelter in a particular community? Or create and share maps or guides that describe the barriers, allies, and relationships that affect people's ability to get the help they need? If yes, please explain: _____

- Collect and share stories of those seeking access to basic human needs, and use these stories to build understanding and help create positive change? If yes, please explain: _____

Economic Opportunity

Does your project:

- Explore ideas and launch projects to strengthen the economic life of your community? If yes, please explain: _____

- Conduct a visioning or planning effort to create a community-wide economic opportunity plan for your neighborhood? If yes, please explain: _____

- Seek to pilot a program that will support local economic development? If yes, please explain: _____

Education

- Does your project help students in their community achieve more in school through after-school programs, the arts, parenting and early childhood support, dropout prevention and intervention, community organizing, or other activities? If yes, please explain: _____

Tell Us About You and Your Group

Your group's name: _____

Has your group ever received a grant from Strengthening Neighborhoods?

Yes No Don't know

If "Yes," ensure your final report has been submitted or your application will not move forward.

If "Yes," please provide name of project and year of grant.

Project Name: _____ Year: _____

Who are the key leaders of this project? These are the people who will plan and carry out the project. Please do not include people who will volunteer briefly or who will attend your event. **You must have at least three unrelated leaders who will be responsible for this project.** If you have more than three, please use a separate sheet. Those listed should expect to be contacted by Strengthening Neighborhoods staff as we evaluate the application. Please indicate if the person does not speak English, and specify the language that person speaks. Project leaders **MUST** live in one of seven-county areas!

1. Name _____

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Work Cell

Address _____
Street City Zip Code

Email _____

Primary Language: English Spanish Other _____

In which county does this person live? (check one) Adams Arapahoe
 Boulder Broomfield Denver Douglas Jefferson

2. Name _____

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Work Cell

Address _____
Street City Zip Code

Email _____

Primary Language: English Spanish Other _____

In which county does this person live? (check one) Adams Arapahoe
 Boulder Broomfield Denver Douglas Jefferson

3. Name _____

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Work Cell

Address _____
Street City Zip Code

Email _____

Primary Language: English Spanish Other _____

In which county does this person live? (check one) Adams Arapahoe
 Boulder Broomfield Denver Douglas Jefferson

Please tell us about the backgrounds of the people listed above by placing a check mark in every box that applies. If more than one person fits in a category, put the number after the category. For example, if you have two male project leaders, put the number 2 on the line next to Male.

Age
 Youth (18 & under) _____
 Adult (19-65) _____
 Senior (65+) _____

Gender
 Female _____
 Male _____
 Other _____

Status
 Homeowner _____
 Renter _____

Ethnicity
 African-American _____ Asian _____ Caucasian _____
 Mixed Race _____ Latino _____ Native American _____
 Other _____

Tell us about your community. Where is it? What is it called? Who lives there? If you know any statistics about the race, ethnicity, income, or age of the people living in your community, please share them.

