



## 2023 CFGV Community Grants Guidelines

**Overview:** Community Grants offers General Operating support to nonprofit organizations, and Project support to selected others (see Eligibility, below). Grant dollars are intended for direct impact on Gunnison County and its residents.

**Eligibility:** First-time applicants and all faith-based applicants (new or not) *must* contact CFGV staff before beginning their application.

*All nonprofits designated as 501(c)(3) (including those under fiscal sponsorship) must apply for General Operating support. If you are a fiscal sponsor for another group, you may also submit an application for your own organization's operations.*

Since General Operating support can be spent as needed on any of your organization's programs and administration, you will not describe how you expect to spend it.

The exception is *faith-based organizations*, that may only apply for Project support, and only for programs/projects with no religious message that are open and welcoming to anyone in the community.

*Public entities/programs* may apply for funds to undertake or expand projects that serve the public at large; in the case of *Gunnison Watershed School District* or *Western Colorado University* programs, events must be available to the broader community and, ideally, designed with an entity outside GWSD or WCU.

If you are applying for Project Support for something that CFGV has frequently funded, your narrative should reflect why this idea is still the best way to meet the need despite the changing environment.

*Collaborative groups* may apply for Project support to address a significant need that members cannot do on their own. This could include research into constituent needs, a facilitated collective impact planning process, or a program. Group members may still apply for General Operating or other Project support for their own needs. Grants for collaborative activities will not necessarily be larger than those for individual organizations and the onus is on the participants to show that the proposed project could not be undertaken alone by any of the partners. If funds are awarded, CFGV may be able to divide the grant among the partners if warranted.

**What You Will Apply For:** All 501(c)(3) nonprofits must apply for General Operating support for the period July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. You will simply ask for an amount; you will not specify how you will spend it. In your final grant report, you must, however, describe your programs that affect local residents and affirm that CFGV funds were spent on these programs and/or the infrastructure that made them possible.

501(c)(3) nonprofits based elsewhere must apply for General Operating support for their Gunnison County operations only. The budget they provide will be for their Gunnison County activities.

Faith-based groups, public entities and collaborations must apply for Project support. Public entities may only seek funding for budget-enhancing activities. Because terminology varies widely, we encourage Groups such as Gunnison County applicants to contact the staff before they apply.

**Amount of Request:** In the past, our maximum grants have been \$7,000. Please do not request more than \$7,000. For General Operating support applicants, your request may not be more than 50% of your total cash operating budget; for Project support applicants, your request may not be more than 50% of your cash project budget.

**What You Will Provide:** We urge you to review the list of required Uploads now, as some items may be difficult to secure at the last minute.

All applicants will provide:

- Contact information, estimated numbers of discrete local full-time people whom you serve, estimated number of discrete people including part-time residents and visitors whom you serve, and summary information about the Group requesting funds.
- Your mission/purpose statement, description of whom you serve and why it matters. General Operating support applicants will describe what you do, the impact you have made and what changes (if any) you envision in the year ahead. Project support applicants will describe the nature of the Project in detail and how it will be assessed. We ask that you use as much data (numbers) as you have available when you describe these things. Generalities are not helpful to your case. All applicants will describe how they interact with other Groups (whether nonprofit, for-profit or government) with similar missions or concerns.
- Selected financial information, and, for nonprofits, evidence that they are compliant with Colorado Secretary of State filings.
- Two uploads of your choice to amplify narrative information or illustrate the excellence and impact of what you do; this could be an annual report, video, slide show, etc.

Groups under fiscal sponsorship, Western Colorado University, Gunnison Watershed School District and out-of-county entities that do not have an office or regular staff presence in Gunnison County will provide additional items.

**Who Signs Your Proposal:** Applications must be signed by an individual who is **authorized** to sign grant proposals on behalf of the Applicant or Group.

**Deadline and Review Process:** The online application deadline is 11:59 pm on May 15, 2023. There are no extensions. Staff will first review your application to ensure that it is eligible, and – if required information is incomplete or incorrect, or if a new/faith applicants have failed to contact the staff in advance – will penalize you and may disqualify you. If you are not sure that you understand the requirements, contact the staff. A review committee will award up to 35



points using these criteria: clarity about whom you serve and why it matters (10 points); clarity about what you do (10 points); viability in the year ahead (10 points); coordination with other Valley entities (5 points). You will learn whether you are funded or not around July 1, 2023.

**Questions?:** CFGV always offers a review of the guidelines and makes suggestions on writing a competitive application during a Zoom presentation in early March. It will address FAQs and will highlight commonly-made mistakes. It will be publicized via the bi-weekly CFGV “News You Can Use.”

For questions about application content or the review process, contact Maryo Ewell, 970-641-3570, [maryo@cfgv.org](mailto:maryo@cfgv.org); for questions about the online application/technology, or to be put on the “News You Can Use” distribution list, contact Scott Krieger, 970-641-8837, [scott@cfgv.org](mailto:scott@cfgv.org).