



Responsive Community Relief Funding GRANT GUIDELINES

SPRING/SUMMER 2020

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's (DDCOF) mission is to elevate the well-being of all Coloradans by advancing oral health equity. A person's health is an interconnected ecosystem that extends beyond their smile.

Now more than ever, we value the importance of one's overall health. That's why we are making an intentional pivot to prioritize supporting vital services and a continuum of accessible care for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. We believe services that address basic needs are vital to healthy communities. It's important to reinforce resources, especially now as so many organizations have stood-up to adapt and deliver new solutions for community members. Coordinated, collaborative wrap-around services with multiple options truly empower community members to access and navigate larger systems that impact their health.

Whether it's people living in rural areas far from care, our undocumented neighbors, or those who can't forgo a paycheck to stay home, we must ensure everyone has the ability to make the best choices for themselves and for our communities to thrive.

Our true strength happens when we join together to support the health of all Coloradans and protect our most vulnerable. In the end, that is what will create more healthy smiles.

Oral health equity

Every person can have a healthy mouth regardless of life circumstances.

We believe every person should have the opportunity to live their healthiest life. The connection between oral health and overall health goes beyond the physical body. Health equity means exploring and addressing conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness.

COVID-19 has magnified the health inequities faced in our rural communities as well as by immigrants and people of color, especially those experiencing underlying chronic illnesses at higher rates.

Health inequities data related to COVID-19

- Rural communities have a higher percentage of workers deemed essential than the Front Range's cities and suburbs. Two essential sectors dominate rural employment — agriculture and education/health care/social services, according to the census data used for the index. [\(Colorado Health Institute\)](#)
- Black Coloradans make up 3.9% of Colorado's total population but represent about 7% of coronavirus cases. Hispanic/Latino residents make up about 21.7% of the state's population, but represent 28.1% of the coronavirus cases. Both groups are subject to systemic disparities that make them more prone to chronic ailments such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease. [\(The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment\)](#)
- The Social Distancing Index shows the most crowded homes are in the neighborhoods around the edge of Denver County — Westwood in southwest Denver and Montbello in the northeast, the Adams County suburbs along Interstate 25 and west of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, and northwest Aurora near the border with Denver. These neighborhoods have some of the lowest incomes in the metro area. [\(The Colorado Health Institute\)](#)
- Immigrants in the U.S. represent approximately 17 percent of the labor force working in major industries such as health care, social assistance, educational services, construction, agriculture, food services and retail trade. Unfortunately, many immigrant workers and their families won't benefit from the COVID-19 relief packages signed into law in March. [\(Community Catalyst\)](#)

Our traditional approach to funding partnerships

Traditionally, we have partnered with communities to reimagine how all of our neighbors access, benefit from, and value the importance of oral health care to make the greatest impact in Colorado communities. This year, we are responding to the pandemic by providing funding opportunities to organizations that deliver support services and connect people to their health care options, especially those most significantly stressed by the effects COVID-19. This funding strategy aligns with our traditional approach to funding, yet extends beyond our oral health equity priority, to align current greater health concerns within three strategic focus areas:

	ACCESS TO CARE	PREVENTION	HEALTH CONNECTIONS
GOAL	All individuals have affordable, accessible and comprehensive health care.	Effective and innovative programs are available to support preventive and basic health care needs.	People are able to balance supporting their basic needs and their ability to afford and access health care.
FOCUS POPULATION	<p>Rural and underserved communities dealing with increased barriers to services and care as a result of geographic and socioeconomic situations presented because of COVID-19.</p> <p>Immigrant and undocumented communities as well as ethnically diverse minorities, specifically those that have experienced social and health care inequities over many generations, which in turn intensifies chronic disease outcomes and results in increased risk of COVID-19.</p>		

Grant guidelines

Due to the unprecedented impact and lingering effects of COVID-19, we seek applications that connect historically overlooked populations to support services that provide access to health care delivery. Proposals should demonstrate community outreach, navigation of health care services and connection to other critical resources for focus populations.

Applications from Colorado-based nonprofit and publicly funded organizations participating in community outreach and activities that are vital to health care delivery will be considered on a rolling basis from May through August 2020. We will review single-year funding requests for general operating support to strengthen the ongoing operations of an organization, including regular personnel, administrative, fundraising and other expenses. Decisions will be communicated in June and August.

Accepted grantees will support the holistic delivery of services enabling focus populations to meet their basic needs and ultimately lead to economic ability and health care security through coverage and navigation.

These grants will be effective if focus populations and communities can:

- Engage in programming or services that tangibly increases awareness and access to basic needs and coordinated, multi-layered solutions.
- Successfully enroll in health care coverage, understand their benefits, navigate health care services and connect to a medical or dental home.

Eligible organizations include:

- Colorado organizations classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).
- Publicly funded Colorado organizations including state or local governments.
- New or emerging organizations without 501(c)(3) status that apply through a tax-exempt organization acting as fiscal sponsor. These organizations must provide written documentation of the relationship with the fiscal sponsor.



What we will fund

Community-identified solutions that increase access to basic needs and help stabilize and strengthen individuals so they can thrive. These solutions will be led by equity-driven organizations that have been responding and adapting to social and economic hardships due to COVID-19. They reach disproportionately underserved communities and their efforts include (but are not limited to):

- Providing holistic, wrap-around services that directly address focus populations and connect them to health care benefits, care delivery and resources.
- Participating in community outreach, education and collaborations that create new or strengthened medical and dental homes for focus populations.
- Enrolling people in health and dental benefits and providing navigation support of the system.

Preference will be given to requests from organizations that meet more than one of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated existence and ability to foster trusting relationships with communities.
- Connections to racially and ethnically diverse minorities; specifically, immigrant and undocumented communities.
- Located in and serving rural communities.
- Ability to deliver services to historically or suddenly uninsured individuals.
- Reaching low socio-economic communities.

What we will not fund

- Hospitals and health care clinics, including dental/oral health services* (contact DDCOF if you have questions).
- Organizations whose primary purpose is food banks or food distribution services.
- Public policy and advocacy work focused on statewide and/or systems-level legislation, rules and regulations.
- Requests from individuals for financial support or assistance. Funding is only available to eligible organizations.
- Debt retirement.
- Building construction and renovations.
- Membership campaigns.
- Grants for medical, scientific or academic research, research briefs and/or white papers.
- Financial support for political candidates.
- Lobbying efforts.
- Legal services.
- Scholarships.
- For profit entities.
- Fundraising campaigns.
- Water filling stations.
- Advertising or public awareness campaigns.
- Mobile health care delivery vehicles.

When applying, keep in mind

Applications must demonstrate strong impact via specific goals, objectives and deliverables to be carried out within the grant period. Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation anticipates this will be a highly competitive process demonstrating significant need.

Limited grant funds are available for this opportunity.

- All grants will be one year in general operating support.
- Applicants may request grants between \$10,000 to \$50,000.
- Only one application per organization can be submitted.
- Grantees awarded funding will be asked to participate in additional evaluation activities.

For current grant partners whose grant extends beyond March 2021, we greatly value our partnership. However, you are not eligible to apply in effort to more equitably allocate resources. Please contact the Foundation to further discuss if needed.



Application instructions

- Begin by reviewing these grant guidelines closely.
- Submit your application through our online application portal. Applications are due on a rolling basis beginning May 6, 2020 through August 2020 or until all funds have been expended.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications will be assigned to a member of our programs team for thorough analysis. Your assigned program officer will contact you to request a virtual visit or phone call.
- A final funding decision will be communicated to you in June or August.



Learn more

No one knows your community like you do. We welcome the opportunity to have a conversation about how we can work together to respond to COVID-19 and strengthen community health.

Please contact (720) 489-4713 or grants@ddpco.com to start the conversation.

If you'd like to receive emails about future funding opportunities, please email hello@ddpco.com.

Understanding key terms

Health equity

Every person can be healthy because the necessary resources are attainable, regardless of life circumstances.

Affordable

Families can pay for the cost of dental care and still afford basic living necessities.

Accessible

Care that can be obtained in a timely manner that is personally and culturally relevant.

Comprehensive

A full-spectrum of health services are offered, including preventive and restorative care and disease management.

Underserved

Populations that are disadvantaged in regard to accessing oral health services based on income, geography, age and race/ethnicity.

Health care delivery system or organization

Delivery of affordable, comprehensive, integrated or co-located primary care and preventive care, including health, oral and behavioral health services to the community.

COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

Equity-driven organizations

Ensures the people they serve have the opportunity to thrive because the necessary resources are attainable, regardless of life circumstances.

Community-identified solution

Approach that is actively informed and supported by the people the solution seeks to benefit.

General operating support

Funding an organization's mission rather than specific projects or programs by providing working capital nonprofits need to sustain day-to-day operations.

Holistic care organization

Delivery of a variety of services that may include (but are not limited to) increasing access to basic needs assistance, enrollment in and connection to health care services, education, financial assistance, and tools and other resources to help stabilize and strengthen individuals and families so they can thrive.

Support services

Directly connecting and championing a person's ability to successfully navigate health care (including oral health) services, benefits and other resources.

Wrap-around services

A system of care management incorporating multiple resources in one place to provide a culturally competent and population-specific approach to address a person's dynamic needs.