Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant

2022 Guidelines
Introduction

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Board
The Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Board share a vision to change the system that has excluded Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities from equitable access to outdoor recreation, nature-based education, and career development.

This inaugural Board is committed to bringing about transformative change in Colorado. Nature access is a fundamental human right, but it is denied to far too many young people. Our hope is to fund and support diverse organizations that provide outdoor education and recreation experiences to underserved youth and families. We are committed to providing funding to organizations that have been unable to apply for this type of assistance due to organizational barriers. The funding opportunities are intended to assist organizations in developing, continuing or accelerating their work.

The Outdoor Equity Grant is a first step toward working collaboratively to improve access, representation, meaningful participation, and quality experiences for Colorado’s youth and families in the outdoors. This step is just the beginning, and we will live up to our values showing up authentically for our communities now and in the future.

About Colorado Parks and Wildlife
The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has been entrusted with an incredible mission by the people of the state. We manage and protect lands, waters and wildlife for the people of Colorado. CPW is a nationally recognized leader in conservation, outdoor recreation and wildlife management.

The agency manages 43 state parks, all of Colorado’s wildlife, more than 350 state wildlife areas and a host of recreational programs. CPW issues hunting and fishing licenses, conducts research to improve wildlife management activities, protects high priority wildlife habitat through acquisitions and partnerships, provides technical assistance to private and other public landowners concerning wildlife and habitat management and develops programs to understand, protect and recover threatened and endangered species.

CPW also administers the state’s trail program and registers boats, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles and river outfitters. Parks and Wildlife employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities, and services.

For 125 years, our staff have worked to ensure the health and future of Colorado’s state parks, wildlife and habitat through cutting-edge science, innovative conservation practices and meaningful experiences.
Our Commitment

Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s (CPW) Outdoor Equity Grant Board (OEGB) seeks to increase access and opportunity for underserved youth and their families to experience Colorado’s open spaces, state parks, public lands and the many other outdoor areas the state is known for.

Nature, and our connection to nature is central to each of us as humans; but many Coloradans do not have access to this fundamental resource.

We believe that every Colorado child, young adult and adult should have a safe, welcoming and nurturing experience in the unparalleled beauty and access to the year-round outdoor activities the state has to offer.
Outdoor Equity Program Values

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Outdoor Equity Grant Board are committed to improving access, representation, meaningful participation and quality experiences for youth and their families in the Colorado outdoors.

Program focus should aim to address one or more of the following issues: the racial inequities Coloradans face in accessing the outdoors, improving environmental justice, accessibility to the outdoors for Coloradans from marginalized communities including LBGTQ+, the disability community, and/or Native Americans and Indigenous peoples; providing environmental, experiential, outdoor, or stewardship and conservation education for Colorado youth or families.

Programs or projects should strive to be culturally responsive. They should raise awareness of and or seek to address the root cause of the disparities Colorado youth experience while trying to access the outdoors, whether youth are from an urban, inner-city environment or a rural community. Our goal is to build the Colorado of our future through strategic investments that improve the lives and well-being of youth and their families.

The OEGB is committed to a fair, equitable, and efficient review process for applications and will use a consensus-based process to arrive at funding recommendations. OEGB will rely upon the collective wisdom of the board members rather than vesting power or authority in individual reviewers.
# Grant Guidelines

## General Grant Information

**Eligible Applicants:**
- Non-profit organizations, Tribes, schools, governments and for-profit businesses.
- Programs and or projects must be in Colorado.

**Proposal Review:** The following criteria will be used in the review of grant proposals. We will strive to support applicants throughout the process.
- Organizational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education.
- Demonstrated need and commitment to diverse voices and perspectives.

**Applicants:** Are encouraged to apply each year.

## 2022 Grant Cycle

**Opens:** March 7, 2022

**Informational/Q&A Session:** March 17, 2022 2:00pm - 4:00pm MDT

**Applicants notified of grant decision:** May 1, 2022

**Award/contract process begins:** May 6, 2022

**Grants Awarded:** May 31, 2022

## Application Deadline

**April 8, 2022 at 5 P.M. MDT**

## Contract and Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements will be defined in the contract documentation and may include:
- Providing quarterly reporting information on the following:
  - Who you are serving and how - what is your transformative impact?
  - The Board would like to hear from the people you serve
  - What was their experience?
  - Racial and ethnic makeup of the participants
  - Age ranges and generally where people live
- How can the board support your effort in collecting this information?

## Distribution of Funds

Up to $50,000 can be awarded as an advance payment

Grants exceeding $50,000 will receive 60% of funds in advance at the time of signing and the remainder at the end of the grant cycle or through reporting deadlines.
## Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

The following table, though not comprehensive, outlines specific eligible costs for this program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Ineligible</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Costs associated with project planning, coordination, implementation,</td>
<td>• Land acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>communication and or celebration.</td>
<td>• Capital construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>• General operating grants are eligible as the Board wants to provide</td>
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<tr>
<td>as much flexible funding as possible.</td>
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<td>• Physical goods such as gear and or equipment.</td>
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<td>• Staff expenses incurred by the applicant and any contracted service</td>
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<tr>
<td>providers for professional services directly related to project</td>
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<td>outcomes and administration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Costs of surveys, engineering, design, GIS/mapping, land acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>due diligence costs, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Costs associated with volunteer engagement and retention, e.g., prizes,</td>
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<tr>
<td>awards, food, etc.</td>
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Letter of Inquiry

Letter of Inquiry Requirements

The Letter of Inquiry should be no more than two (2) pages.

• Please include an introduction to serve as an executive summary.
  • Entity name, contact information and website(if applicable)
  • Requested amount.
  • An overview of the staff involved -
    • Tell us about your organization’s equity journey, how you approach bringing about equity in your work.
  • Additional funding sources being brought to this effort, if any.
  • Timeline for program/project completion.

• Please include a description of your organization, your organization’s goals to increase equitable access and or reduce barriers to participation in the outdoors for Colorado youth and their families.

• Explain what could be done if 75%, 50% or 25% of the funds were awarded for your request.

Include a statement of need including the following

• Your target population.
• Geographical area of service, both where your organization is located and where you provide programming/projects.
• How do you measure success?

Questions?

click this link to ask
Apply Now!

Click this link for application

Contact us with any questions
Lauren.Truiitt@state.co.us