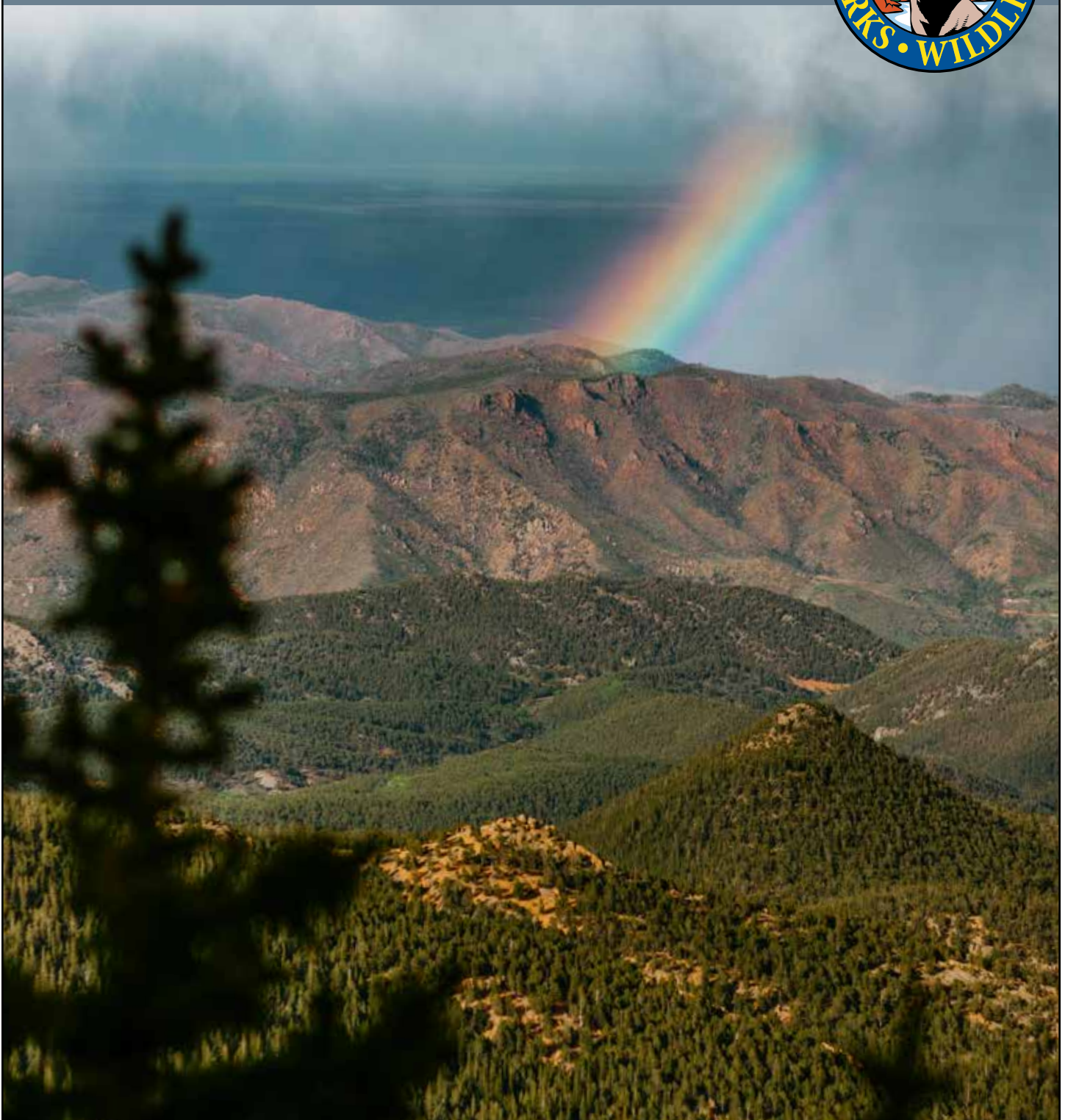


C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant



2024 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, low-income, LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities from equitable access to outdoor recreation, nature-based education, and conservation career development.

The Outdoor Equity Grant 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. The Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP) funds and supports diverse organizations that provide outdoor education and recreation experiences to under served 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. The Outdoor Equity Grant Board values opportunities that respect communities abilities' to define their own priorities so they can obtain the resources to achieve their goals.

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.



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LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

Outdoor Equity Program Values

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Outdoor Equity Grant Board (OEGB) 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 instill a sense of wonder, excitement, and responsibility for the environment in Colorado youth and families, and should 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 LGBTQ+, the disability community, and/or American Indians 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 seek to reduce the barriers in accessing outdoor recreation or conservation faced by Colorado youth, 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.

In July of 2023, the OEGP Board adopted the following values:

1. We value opportunities that respect the community's ability to define their own priorities so they can obtain the resources to achieve their goals.
2. We value opportunities that instill a sense of wonder, excitement, and responsibility for the environment in Colorado youth and families.

Proposals that bring to life these values will be prioritized for Outdoor Equity Grant investments.



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Grant Guidelines

<p>General Grant Information</p>	<p>Grant amount: Applicants may request up to \$100,000. The average grant size awarded in 2023 was about \$67,000. The Outdoor Equity Grant Program has \$3,000,000 available for grants this cycle.</p> <p>Eligible Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit organizations, Tribes, school districts, governments and for-profit businesses. • Programs and projects must serve Colorado youth or youth from the 48 tribes with historical ties to Colorado. • Organizations who have previously received funding from the OEGP must plan to spend at least 50% of funds by application deadline (September 25) to reapply. <p>Proposal Review: The following criteria will be used in the review of grant proposals. We will strive to support applicants throughout the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep understanding of the community being served and barriers youth and families face in accessing the outdoors. • Efforts to instill a sense of wonder, excitement, and responsibility for the environment. • Organizational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education. • Incorporation of community input into project goals and outcomes. • Demonstrated need and commitment to diverse voices and perspectives.
<p>2024 Grant Cycle</p>	<p>Letter of Interest Opens: April 25, 2024 - June 4, 2024 at 5 pm</p> <p>Informational/Q&A Session: May 14, 2024 at 3 - 4:30 pm</p> <p>Application Opens for Selected Applicants: August 14 - September 25, 2024 at 5 pm</p> <p>Informational Q&A Session: August 27, 2024 at 3 - 4:30 pm</p> <p>Applicants Notified of Grant Decision: December 16, 2024</p> <p>Award/contract process begins: January 2, 2025</p> <p>Grant Funds Disbursed: March 31, 2025</p>
<p>Application Deadline</p>	<p>JUNE 4, 2024 AT 5 PM MDT</p>
<p>Contract and Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>Reporting requirements will be defined in the contract documentation and may include providing bi-annual reporting information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who you are serving and what is your transformative impact? • What is the experience of the people you serve? • Racial and ethnic makeup of the participants • Age ranges and county where participants live • Photos, videos, and testimonials
<p>Distribution of Funds</p>	<p>Up to \$50,000 can be awarded as an advance payment.</p> <p>Grants exceeding \$50,000 will receive 60% of funds in advance at the time of signing and the remainder once 60% of the grant deliverables are completed.</p>



Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

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

Eligible

- Costs associated with project planning, coordination, implementation, communication and or celebration.
- General operating grants are eligible for organizations whose mission includes conservation, outdoor recreation, the environment, or other topics aligned with the Outdoor Equity Grant.
- Staff expenses incurred by the applicant and any contracted service providers for professional services directly related to project outcomes and administration.
- Costs associated with volunteer engagement and retention, e.g., prizes, awards, food, etc.
- Expenses associated with acquiring general liability, auto, and worker's compensation insurance necessary to receive grants from CPW.
- Outdoor structures such as outdoor classrooms, playgrounds, fields, etc.

Ineligible

- Land acquisition
- Trail projects or trail-building equipment
- Building construction, renovation, or indoor structures



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Application

Program or project focus should aim to address one or more of the following issues Colorado youth(0-25) and their families face: racial inequities in accessing the outdoors, improving environmental justice, accessibility to the outdoors for Coloradans from traditionally-excluded communities including LBGTQ+, the disability community, and/or American Indians; providing environmental, experiential, outdoor, or stewardship and conservation education for future career development.

Application Requirements

This year, the Outdoor Equity Grant Board will follow a two-phase process for accepting applications. This new process is intended to minimize the investment of applicant time and resources on proposals deemed less competitive or that aren't a good fit for Outdoor Equity Grant Program funds. The first phase of the application will require a preliminary letter of interest from applicants, then applicants who advance to the second phase of the application process will complete a full application. Letters of Interest will be accepted from April 25 - June 4, 2024. Applicants who advance to the second stage will be notified in August, and full applications will be accepted from August 14 - September 25, 2024.

- Name of proposal, entity name, contact information and executive summary of your proposal
- Requested amount (must be less than \$100,000)
- An explanation of which communities you wish to engage with OEGP funding and how your proposal will reduce barriers to the outdoors
- An overview of your organization's equity journey and how you approach bringing about equity in your work.
- Brief information about your total organizational budget
- Additional funding sources being brought to this effort, if any.
- Timeline for program/project completion.
- Geographical area of service, both where your organization is located and where you provide programming/projects.
- How do you measure success? How do you measure your impact?
- What does success look like for this project or program?
- A budget for your project and budget narrative

Questions?

Email Outdoor Equity Grant Program Manager,
Andrea Kurth: andrea.kurth@state.co.us



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Apply Now!

Contact us with any questions

Andrea.Kurth@state.co.us

