

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2024

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant

Program or project focus should aim to break down barriers to the outdoors and increase access to outdoor recreation, environmental and conservation-based education, and/or outdoor-related career development for Colorado youth (0-25) and families who: face racial and environmental inequities, are low-income, are from the LGBTQ+ community, are disabled, and/or are members of a Federally-recognized Tribe.

PROCESS

What is the application process?

This year, the Outdoor Equity Grant Board will follow a two-phase process for accepting applications. 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.

What information is required in the Letter of Interest phase of the application?

The Letter of Interest asks for basic information about your organization followed by an overview of your proposal with a focus on the community served and scope of work.

What information will be required in the full application phase?

Applicants that advance to the second stage of review will answer additional questions about their organizations and proposals in the full grant application. This will include questions about how your organization incorporates diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout your organization, and how you will measure the success of your project. Applicants completing the full application will also need to include a detailed project budget and upload any letters of partnership from project partners.

FUNDING

How much money is available for this grant cycle?

There is \$3,000,000 available for this grant cycle.

What is the minimum and maximum funding request?

There is no minimum request for this grant. The maximum amount that can be requested is \$100,000. The Outdoor Equity Grant Board respects the community's ability to define the resources needed to achieve their goals, and encourages grant recipients to ask for the amount they will need to make their grant project a success. The Board will consider whether the amount requested is commensurate with the proposed scope of work, but size of request will not on its own have bearing on whether projects are awarded or not.

Does the \$100,000 maximum apply to each year or over the whole grant period?

The grant period for Outdoor Equity Grants is up to two years. Organizations may request up to \$100,000 over the whole grant period, but may spend funds in less than two years if needed. If your organization is unable to spend the funds within two years, please contact the Outdoor Equity Grant Program Manager to discuss options for extending the contract.

Is it possible to be approved for part of the amount requested?

Yes, the Board may award partial funding to applicants, depending on the availability of funding and number of requests received.

How is this grant funded?

This grant is funded through the Colorado Lottery. Once the Lottery reaches its statutory caps for operations and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Outdoor Equity Grant program and BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) program are funded from additional proceeds that exceed the cap. **Encourage people to buy their lottery tickets!**

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ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

- Non-profit organizations
- For-profit organizations
- School districts
- Local governments
- Federally-recognized Tribes

Can an organization submit more than one application? For example, if our organization has multiple locations or multiple programs?

To decrease the burden on your organization's capacity, the Board recommends submitting one application and separating your budget for each location or program area.

If we previously received an Outdoor Equity Grant, can we reapply?

Yes, you may reapply if your organization has spent or plans to spend at least 50% of your grant funds by September 25, 2024. You may submit the Letter of Interest portion of the grant application regardless of whether you've spent 50% of funds or not. If advanced to the full application step of the process, you will be asked to submit a financial report regarding the expenditure of previous funds with your application in September.

If we applied for funding last year and were not awarded, can we submit the same application?

Yes, you may re-submit your application. Please be aware that the application process has changed and be sure to match your answers to the new application questions.

Is a match required to apply for funding?

No. However, if you have secured matching support either through cash or in-kind such as gear donations or volunteer assistance, please note it in your application. This helps the Board gain a better understanding of the full scope of your proposed project and how you are receiving additional community support.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Who are the eligible youth and families served by this grant?

Youth (age 0-25) and families from the following communities:

- Racially and ethnically diverse
- Low-income
- LGBTQ2S+
- American Indian or Native youth
- Youth with disabilities

Grants must serve Colorado youth and families or those who are members of the 48 tribes with historical ties to Colorado.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

What are eligible expenses?

- Program activities (costs associated with program staff, project or program planning, coordination, implementation, communication, and/or celebration; costs associated with transportation, volunteer engagement and retention, etc)
- A one-time event
- An outdoor structure (playground, pickleball court, outdoor classroom, etc)
- Capital purchases (vehicle, gear, equipment, physical goods, etc)
- General operating costs for organizations whose mission includes conservation, outdoor recreation, the environment, or other topics aligned with the Outdoor Equity Grant. (insurance, staffing compensation/overhead, administrative costs, and facility expenses)

What are ineligible expenses?

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

ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

What is the geographic scope of this grant?

This grant opportunity is available to all organizations who provide programming at a local, regional, and statewide scale in Colorado.

Can programming be done outside of Colorado?

Yes, these program funding requests will be considered on a case by case basis. Assessment of your application will consider why programming needs to be done outside of Colorado and will also consider the historical, cultural, and ancestral experiences being provided. However, grants must serve Colorado youth and families or those who are members of the 48 tribes with historical ties to Colorado.

Does an organization need to be headquartered within Colorado to be eligible?

The Outdoor Equity Grant Board will consider applicants who are headquartered outside of Colorado, however, grant recipients are expected to have local ties to Colorado communities and the knowledge to provide culturally-relevant programming for Colorado youth

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COLLABORATION

Can a coalition or collaborative effort with multiple partners apply for this grant, if so, how should we represent the partners involved?

Yes, a coalition or collaborative effort can apply for this grant. There will need to be one lead organization who will act as the fiscal sponsor. Please note the partners involved, but focus your application on the collective impact, outreach, or educational opportunity that will be provided.

If you plan to formally partner with another organization in order to implement your grant project, be sure to submit a letter of partnership. Letters of partnership help the board understand whether all involved partners are aware of the grant request. Applications including partners that have not submitted letters of partnership are unlikely to be funded.

Is our proposal eligible for funding this round if we are partnering with an organization that received OEGP funding in 2023?

Yes, you are welcome to apply for funding even if you are partnering with an organization that has already received OEGP funding. The Board values partnerships, as they are an excellent way to increase the impact of the Outdoor Equity Grant program within communities.

REVIEW PROCESS

How will proposals be evaluated by reviewers?

Applications will be evaluated based on how well the proposal addresses barriers to access to the outdoors for traditionally excluded youth, including:

- LGBTQ+
- Low-income
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- American Indian
- And youth with disabilities

Successful applications will also bring to life the Board's values:

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

Further criteria the Board considers when reviewing applications include a demonstrated commitment to progressing their organization's equity journey, demonstrated success in working with target populations, whether the amount requested is commensurate with the proposed scope of work, and whether the applying organization can define what success looks like for their community.

What percentage of applications are typically funded?

This is a competitive grant, with 15% of all applicants receiving funding in 2023.

Will certain populations or programs be prioritized for funding?

The Board takes a number of considerations into account when awarding grants, including the community served, community needs, and geographic location of the organization and participants. Certain populations or programs will not be prioritized, but the Outdoor Equity Grant Board will strive to take a holistic view of the needs in communities across the state and to balance awards across all communities and locations.

TIMELINE

When will applicants be notified of funds?

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by December 2024.

When will the next funding cycle open?

The next funding cycle will open in 2025.

REPORTING

What are the reporting requirements?

The Outdoor Equity Grant requires bi-annual reports on:

- Who are you serving and what is your transformative impact?
- Quotes, photos, videos, and/or testimonials from the people you are serving
- Racial and ethnic makeup of participants
- Age ranges and counties where participants live
- The percent of work completed and percentage of work billed along with an explanation of any delays, cost overruns, or other similar problems encountered and their expected impact on the project
- A statement as to whether the project is on schedule, ahead, or behind and why
- A list of grant funds expended (vendor amount, date, description of goods/services)

** If you have any trouble collecting information, please contact the Outdoor Equity Grant Program Manager for assistance.*

For more information please reference the grant guidelines posted on the OEGP website:

cpw.info/outdoorequitygrant