



**The Women's
Foundation of Colorado**

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

For Immediate Release

Media Contact

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The Women's Foundation of Colorado Makes Rapid-Response Grants to 66 Organizations from Women and Families of CO Relief Fund

Relief Fund to Help Women Weather the Economic Fallout of COVID-19

DENVER (May 11, 2020) – WFCO announced that through its Women and Families of CO Relief Fund ([WFCO Relief Fund](#)) it has made 66 rapid response grants totaling \$452,500 to increase the capacity of organizations helping Colorado women and their families as well as women-led social ventures and small businesses. WFCO awarded 14 rapid-response grants to its existing [WAGES \(Women Achieving Greater Economic Security\) grantee cohort](#) partners, 42 additional rapid-response grants to organizations in 17 counties, nine grants to women-led social ventures and small businesses, and one grant to the Mile High United Way Keep The Lights On Fund.

The fallout of COVID-19 is exacerbating gender, racial, and class inequities and underscoring the gaps in essential resources. The purpose of the fund is to mitigate these inequities by rapidly and responsively distributing general operating grants to nonprofit organizations addressing the emergency needs of Colorado women and their families who are most impacted by COVID-19.

THE NEED IS GREAT FOR HOUSING, FOOD, AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

In all, WFCO received 287 applications from organizations in 35 Colorado counties for general operating rapid-response grants. The organizations respond to a variety of critical needs including housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, behavioral health, and reproductive health. They focus on many populations vulnerable in the aftermath of COVID-19, including disabled women, women of color, immigrant and refugee women, domestic violence survivors, women experiencing homelessness, and more.

OUR MISSION

Catalyzing community to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families.

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“The vast number of organizations that applied from more than half of Colorado’s counties demonstrates that women and their families in every part of our state are deeply and devastatingly impacted by COVID-19,” said Lauren Y. Casteel, president and CEO of WFCO. “They urgently need immediate assistance to meet their most basic human needs, especially securing stable housing, food, and essential supplies such as diapers, wipes, and hygiene products. The needs are most pronounced for women of color and women in rural counties.”

RELIEF FUND GENERAL OPERATING GRANTEES, COUNTIES SERVED

- 9to5, National Association of Working Women, Denver
- A Woman’s Place, Inc., Weld
- Adelante Community Development, Adams
- Advocates Against Domestic Assault, Las Animas
- Advocates of Lake County, Lake
- Alianza Norco, Larimer
- Alliance Against Domestic Abuse, Chaffee
- Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE), Denver – current WAGES grantee
- Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores, Denver
- Collaborative Healing Withing Communities (CHIC), Denver – current WAGES grantee
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver – current WAGES grantee
- Colorado Gerontological Society, Denver
- Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) – El Paso, current WAGES grantee
- Families Forward Resource Center, Denver
- Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), Denver
- Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Adams
- Denver Asset Building Coalition, Denver
- Domestic Violence Initiative for Women With Disabilities, Denver
- Dream Centers–Mary’s Home, El Paso
- Durango Adult Education Center, Durango – current WAGES grantee
- Eagle County Government – Eagle, current WAGES grantee
- Early Learning Ventures, Arapahoe
- ECDC African Community Center, Denver
- Emergency Family Assistance Association, Boulder – current WAGES grantee
- Florence Crittenton Services, Denver – current WAGES grantee

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- Friends of the Haven, Denver
- Grecio Housing, El Paso
- Healthy Child Care Colorado, Denver
- Hilltop Health Resources, Mesa
- Hispanic Affairs Project, Montrose
- La Plata Families Resource Center, Durango – current WAGES grantee
- Latina Safehouse, Denver
- Mi Casa Resource Center, Denver – current WAGES grantee
- Morgan County Family Center, Morgan
- OneMorgan County, Morgan – current WAGES grantee
- Padres & Jovenes Unidos, Denver
- Project Self-Sufficiency, Larimer – current WAGES grantee
- Pueblo Community College, Pueblo
- Pueblo Rescue Mission, Pueblo
- Renew, Inc., Montezuma
- Rose Andom Center, Denver
- Servicios de la Raza, Denver
- Small Business Majority Foundation, District of Columbia
- Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver
- The Center for African American Health, Denver
- The Center for Trauma & Resilience, Denver
- The Gathering Place: A Refuge For Building Lives, Denver
- The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Colorado (The Center), Denver
- The Nappie Project-A Diaper Bank, Larimer
- The Small Town Project, Otero
- Tu Casa, Inc., Alamosa
- Valley Settlement, Garfield
- Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Denver, Denver
- Warren Village, Denver
- WeeCycle, Arapahoe
- Women's Resource Center, Durango – current WAGES grantee

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COMMUNITY-LED REVIEW PROCESS

Approximately 60 community volunteers who represent the diversity of our state with respect to geography, areas of professional expertise, and many intersections of social identity — including race and ethnicity, abilities, age, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation — reviewed and scored applications. Criteria WFCO utilized to make final grant selections were based on alignment with our core values and information about the over-representation of impacts of COVID-19 in communities of color and other aspects of disproportionate impacts of the crisis on women.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS MADE FROM THE FUND

In addition to the 56 rapid-response grants to nonprofit organizations directly serving women and families, WFCO made nine grants to small businesses and social ventures led by women that applied for funding from our [Women's Impact Investing Giving Circle](#) in early 2020. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 24% of small businesses are less than two months away from shuttering permanently. The grantees include:

- CHIC – launching a food truck for skills training and earned income for women, serve food deserts, and provide sustainable revenue for the organization
- Fractal3 – affordable housing through sustainable prefab modular housing
- HopeTank/Swag for Food – affordable, customized promotional materials and products that give back
- Huerta – Focus Points Family Resource Center – recruit and train women in urban agriculture and product development
- Lady Justice Brewing – social enterprise that donates profits to Colorado organizations that promote the status and opportunities of women and girls
- Sistahbiz Global Network – business accelerator to help black women compete in business
- The Equity Project – sharing effective solutions for organizations to create equity-based systems
- The Village Institute – housing-based community integration and job readiness program for newly arrived refugees
- Wompost – making zero-waste solutions available and accessible to everyone

The Colorado Health Foundation's investment also allowed WFCO to make a grant to Mile High United Way for the Keep the Lights On Fund, which makes bulk purchases of essential supplies to help child care providers continue operations.

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Lastly, the fund included an investment in WFCO's internal capacity to manage the WFCO Relief Fund and prioritize women and families in a sustained equitable recovery from this crisis.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTORS

The Colorado Health Foundation invested \$500,000 in WFCO in April 2020 to [launch the WFCO Relief Fund](#). Individuals, nonprofits, foundations, and corporations made additional contributions with gifts ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. Thank you to the following funders who supplemented the WFCO Relief Fund, allowing WFCO to make a larger impact for Colorado women in the wake of COVID-19: BoldeReach, Sara D. Boyd, Margie & Tom Gart, Debbie & Greg Hammons, Kaaren Hardy, Jerry Gart Family Foundation, Loraine Miller, PNC Foundation, The Ken & Gala White Family Foundation, and anonymous donors.

“Because of The Colorado Health Foundation’s investment, as well as the donations from several generous donors, more women will be able to stay in their homes and feed their families, buy necessary supplies for their young children, and access critical health resources and child care,” said Casteel. “As the anchor institution in Colorado focused on advancing opportunity for women of every background and identity, our donors fuel our work to meet the needs of women through the most difficult times and to maximize their opportunity for years to come.”

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is the only statewide community foundation dedicated to creating more pathways to prosperity for Colorado women through the power of community, philanthropy, and impact. Since 1987, WFCO has served as an essential partner, resource, voice, and catalyst in strengthening Colorado's families, communities, and economy through the power of women. In its 33-year history, WFCO has funded dozens of research reports that identify the systemic barriers that keep women from earning a livable wage, helped pass key legislation that to spur women's economic advancement, and granted more than \$19 million to nonprofits that work with women and families in communities statewide. For more information, please visit www.wfco.org.

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