



**Funding Opportunity:**  
**Building Trust and Reducing Barriers to Vaccine Access**

Coloradans who live daily without access to critical services and opportunities due to race and/or their socioeconomic status have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in Colorado. These same communities are likely to face increased challenges accessing the COVID-19 vaccine due to structural barriers, including:

- a lack of culturally responsive and accurate information;
- access to transportation, interpretation and translation services, and technology;
- concerns about vaccine side effects;
- immigration-related discrimination;
- inadequate health care services; and
- poverty.

Some individuals may be reluctant to get vaccinated due to experiences with racism and bias and lack of trust and confidence in health care and other systems. Ensuring all individuals have access to the vaccine and achieving a high vaccination rate across all Colorado communities will be necessary to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and prevent widening disparities going forward.

**Together We Protect – Colorado’s COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Fund** provides funding to organizations working in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to ensure that people who face systemic barriers have the most appropriate and accessible information about the COVID-19 vaccine and can access the vaccine through low-barrier opportunities. This funding opportunity is offered through a partnership of Colorado funders, [Immunize Colorado](#), and the [Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce](#). These entities will review and select grantees, as well as serve as a coordinating body that will gather and share strategies across the grantee cohort, serve as a resource for rapidly changing COVID-19 information, and provide learning and coordinating opportunities for grantees.

## **FUNDING DETAILS**

**Together We Protect** will support Colorado community-based organizations, working in partnership with state-contracted vaccine providers, to provide culturally relevant outreach, education, and support to ensure communities who face systemic barriers have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded to applicants from across Colorado. Grant funds must be expended by December 2021.



**Eligible applicants must:**

- Be a community-based nonprofit organization; community health clinic; community mental health center; local public health and/or government entity that will coordinate to align outreach, education and vaccine access in the community.
- Have deep roots in and a history of providing culturally responsive and trusted information and services in at least one of the following communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19:
  - communities of color,
  - immigrant and refugee communities,
  - people with limited English proficiency/language barriers,
  - people with disabilities,
  - people experiencing homelessness/housing instability,
  - LGBTQ+ individuals,
  - people without health insurance,
  - minimum or low-wage employees,
  - older adults living on low income.
- Be currently involved in COVID-19 response and relief activities at the community level with the flexibility and capacity to quickly develop and implement activities to provide accessible information and low-barrier opportunities for immunization.
- Demonstrate clear partnership with a state-contracted vaccine provider (if a community-based organization is the applicant) **OR** show strong partnership with a community-based nonprofit organization for implementation (if applicant is a local government agency or vaccine provider).
- Be willing to partner with Immunize Colorado to share lessons learned, education strategies and messages, and other creative ideas that help to address barriers to immunization in communities facing systemic inequities.

Funds can be used for expenses directly related to outreach, education and vaccine access activities. The following are examples of activities the funds can be used to support:

- Community health workers to provide one-on-one or small group health education and vaccine trust building engagement (ensuring strict compliance with public health orders concerning mask wearing and social distancing).
- Education and will-building campaigns using culturally appropriate messaging and media platforms, using digital and non-digital channels best suited for different communities.
- Low-barrier vaccine access such as pop-up or targeted immunization clinics in trusted spaces (churches, community centers, schools) or door-to-door vaccines for people with mobility barriers.
- Supportive services to reduce barriers to vaccine clinics including transportation assistance, translation and interpretation, scheduling assistance for those without digital access and other supports identified at the community level.
- Other emerging and best practice strategies that support people to seek and access the vaccine.



## KEY DATES

### INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR:

[Register](#) to learn more about this funding opportunity during a webinar on **Tuesday, March 9, at 2 pm**. The webinar will be recorded and posted, along with an FAQ document, for future viewing on <https://caringforcolorado.org/together-we-protect>.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES AND DECISIONS:

There will be two opportunities to apply, as outlined below:

- **Friday, March 19, by 5 pm** – notification of decisions in early April
- **Wednesday, April 28, by 5 pm** – notification of decisions in mid-May

Payments will be made within one week upon receipt of signed grant contract and ACH information.

### GRANT REPORT:

A brief report is due at the end of the grant period.

### HOW TO APPLY

Learn how to apply at <https://caringforcolorado.org/together-we-protect>. Contact us directly at [grants@caringforcolorado.org](mailto:grants@caringforcolorado.org) with your questions. Please state “*Together We Protect Vaccine Equity Fund*” in the subject line.

# TOGETHER WE PROTECT



## Vaccine Equity Fund

Together We Protect – Colorado’s COVID Vaccine Equity Fund is a partnership of



and these Colorado foundations:

