

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chaffee County Community Foundation Announces 39 Recipients of Spring Grants

(CHAFFEE COUNTY, CO) April 24, 2022 – The [Chaffee County Community Foundation \(CCCF\)](#) today announced it has awarded 39 local nonprofit organizations with \$154,078 in funding from the Spring Municipal Grants Cycle. The average award size for each nonprofit was approximately \$3,950. For this cycle, CCCF partnered with the Town of Buena Vista and the City of Salida to administer their community grants programs.

CCCF's services included managing the grant application portal, eligibility review of applications, technical support to applicants, convening an independent review committee reflecting the two communities, and facilitating the scoring, follow-up and review process. Recommendations from the volunteer review committee were shared with the Buena Vista Trustees on April 11 and Salida City Council on April 18 for final approval. Awardees are currently receiving their grant agreements and funds are expected to be distributed the week of April 24.

In all of the grantmaking CCCF undertakes with its partners, it is committed to a transparent, non-biased grant process that is focused on high-impact grant making that increases the capacity of our hard working local nonprofit organizations. The process includes sharing the grant application questions and evaluation rubric with the applicants while they are developing their applications, incorporating follow-up interviews to clarify aspects of the application, and a combined scoring and discussion approach to ensure good projects, not just good grant writers, are recommended for funding. In recognizing that Chaffee County is a very interconnected community, a recusal process is used to ensure there are no conflicts of interest in the review process.

"We are honored for the opportunity to partner with the City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista to increase our local nonprofit capacity through administering the grant process." Said Betsy Dittenber, Executive Director of the Chaffee County Community Foundation. "Our local nonprofits offer critical services that make our community stronger. Grantmaking is one way we can support their important work."

The Spring Municipal Grants have become increasingly competitive as more applicants apply each year for a limited amount of funds. As part of its goal to increase nonprofit capacity, CCCF offers grant writing support to nonprofit organizations.

"We encourage anyone who is interested in building a more competitive grant application to attend our Community Summit which will offer a grant writing series as a part of the full day of educational offerings for nonprofit professionals." shared Betsy Dittenber. "We are committed to helping our community partners achieve the most impact possible and grant writing can be a critical pathway to reaching that impact."

The Community Summit will be taking place on September 19 at the Chaffee Fairgrounds. The full day educational opportunity is designed to help nonprofit leaders build the skills needed for success and

collaborate across the sector. Registration for the event will open in June. In addition to the Summit, CCCF also offers regular workshops, review of grant narratives on request, and capacity support for nonprofit organizations via consultation.

The recipients were determined by the CCCF Grant Review Committee, which consisted of 8 volunteers who contributed at least 30 hours each to review applicants and make funding recommendations. Dittenber added, “The time, energy, and dedication of our review committee volunteers was incredible. We are always grateful for individuals who help us provide a fair and balanced community review process to steward available funding to high-impact programs and organizations.”

About Chaffee County Community Foundation

Founded in 2018, Chaffee County Community Foundation is a public, nonprofit organization established to promote and facilitate philanthropy in Chaffee County, created by and for the people in that area. CCCF acts as a catalyst to inspire positive change through the power of philanthropy to enrich the lives of all people within the county. Its goals are to make informed philanthropy accessible to all, build local nonprofit capacity, and enable community conversations. Since 2018, CCCF has actively supported nonprofit organizations for the betterment of Chaffee County and the local communities. To learn more, visit www.chaffeecommunity.org.

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Addendum

Grant Awardees:

The organizations receiving funding from 2023 Spring Municipal Process are:

Roy Williams Foundation	1500
Valley to Valley Senior Care Center	5000
New Bees	3500
Caring and Sharing	2800
Unbottle and Protect Chaffee County Water	1150
Collegiate Peaks Chorale	1700
Salida Senior Citizen, Inc. dba Salida Community Center	6000
Articipate	2500
Mini-Blessings	1400
First United Methodist Church	1600
Ark Valley Lacrosse Club	1000
Elevating Readers Together	2800
Salida Concerts Inc (Salida Aspen Concerts)	2720
Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce	2090
Salida-area Parks, Open-space & Trails (SPOT)	1500
High Country Fine Arts Association	1400
Salida Circus Outreach Foundation	2620
Shining Mountains Montessori School	2000
Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteers/The Chaffee Shuttle	3940
Colorado Theater in Non Traditional Spaces	1658
Chaffee County Public Health	3230
Truth Has a Voice Foundation	2750
Full Circle Restorative Justice	6250
Peak to Peak Pickleball Club	1000

Blue Elements	1300
Ark-Valley Humane Society	1500
Buena Vista Singletrack Coalition	1800
Colorado Farm To Table Inc	3150
Chaffee County Early Childhood Council	12000
51:10 Youth Ranch	2500
Greater Arkansas River Nature Association	7300
KHEN 106.9fm Community Radio	3000
Salida Mountain Trails	5750
Achieve, Inc.	4400
Chaffee Housing Trust	20000
The Alliance dba The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse	2380
elevateHER	4290
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County	18000
Guidestone Colorado	4600