Boulder County Guidelines

2027 Tier III SCFD Grant Application

Multi-County grant deadline: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 3, 2027
Single County grant deadline: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2027

OVERVIEW
In total, $22,690,404.02 has been awarded since 1990 to Tier III SCFD organizations serving Boulder County. Boulder County has one of the highest ratios of applicants to available funding, making it one of the most competitive of the seven counties in the SCFD District.

ELIGIBILITY
All applicants must have received SCFD eligibility prior to submitting a grant application. Eligibility requirements are listed on the SCFD website. Please contact SCFD staff about eligibility questions at scfd@scfd.org. Applicants must continually maintain compliance with all eligibility requirements. Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

FINAL GRANT REPORTS
Organizations with any outstanding Final Grant Reports will not be able to submit a new grant application. This is not a requirement for first-time applicant organizations.

HOW TO APPLY
All grant applications must be completed through SCFD grants management system: https://scfd.org/grantmaking/funded-organizations/tier-iii/. Please read the Grant Application Directions in their entirety before contacting SCFD. Online Grant Tutorials are provided on the SCFD website and are highly recommended.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS
Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding and revisions after the grant application deadline will not be accepted.

CULTURAL COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS
The Cultural Council will discuss applications during public study sessions. Applicant organizations will receive further communication regarding this from SCFD Staff.

TIMELINE FOR USE OF FUNDS
Funds awarded in October 2027 are to be spent between October 2027 and December 31, 2028. A Final Grant Report for funds awarded during the 2027 cycle is due in February of 2029.

GRANT AMENDMENTS
To request any amendments to your grant as awarded please see the Grant Amendment section on the SCFD Tier III web page.

By statute, SCFD funding cannot be used for scholarships, pass-through funding for other entities, capital expenses, to retire debt, or for political or religious purposes. Read SCFD Statutory Exclusions for Use of Funds for more information.

Boulder County Funding Criteria

Organizations may not apply for both GOS and Project funding.

TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

1. GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT (GOS): An unrestricted grant that helps the organization achieve its mission.

For GOS, virtual attendance/activities for most recently completed fiscal year will not be included to determine compliance.

To be eligible for general operating support (GOS) an organization must meet one of the following criteria:

1. demonstrate a minimum of 51% of the most recently completed fiscal year activities (defined as programming open to the public, excluding rehearsals, private classes, invitation-only fundraisers, and board meetings) occur within Boulder County; **or**
2. be geographically located in Boulder County whose principal office address (as listed by Colorado Secretary of State) is within Boulder County.

Those applying for GOS in Boulder County cannot apply for GOS in another county.

Boulder County GOS requests must not exceed 25% of the organization's most recently completed fiscal year-end operating revenue; up to a maximum request of $40,000. Funding may be less than the organization's request depending on the funds allocated to Boulder County, the number of applications received, and the rubric score. Given the competitive nature of Boulder County funding, applying organizations have historically been awarded a range of 52% to 71% of their requested funds in any given year, with an average award of 65% of the organization's request.

2. PROJECT GRANT: A restricted grant given to support a specific event or connected set of activities that are unique to, and occurring within, Boulder County. The project must have a beginning and an end date, explicit objectives and a predetermined cost.

PLEASE NOTE: Available only to out-of-county organizations.

For Project Grants, virtual programming will not be accepted. For hybrid programming, the project request budget can only reflect the in-person portion of the program.

A "project" refers to programming or activities held within Boulder County that benefit the residents of Boulder County. A single project grant request and budget should be submitted which may cover multiple events and venues within Boulder County. We are seeking organizations offering unique projects and/or culturally diverse programming not provided by Boulder County organizations receiving GOS grants. Due to limitations in funds and based on rubric scoring, some projects may not be allocated funding.

The maximum award is $5,000. If the project includes activities in more than one county, the budget may be inclusive for all counties, but the percent of the total for each county must be specified.

EVALUATION PROCESS

We encourage applicants to review the SCFD Unified Scoring Rubric when developing applications which is available on the SCFD website.