

Transforming Safety Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Can I still apply to the Transforming Safety Grant Program?

The Transforming Safety Grant Program is not currently accepting new applications. The initial state funding period expires on June 30, 2020, but because of timing issues with the start of the program and the annual release of state funds, all grant funds were allocated as of the end of 2019.

Will there be future opportunities to apply to the Transforming Safety Grant Program?

The program was extended for an additional three years by the legislature during the 2019 legislative session. This means that state funding, subject to annual allocation, will be available through June 30, 2023. The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (the original and extended legislation's drafter), The Denver Foundation and Pikes Peak Community Foundation (the grant program's managers), the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (the grant program's evaluator), and the State Department of Local Affairs (the overall manager of Transforming Safety), in consultation with community leaders in both North Aurora and SE Colorado Springs, are currently reviewing options for how to deploy the additional three years of funding that has been added to the program. Opportunities for new groups to apply for funding, if any, will most likely be to fill gaps in the community priorities that are not being met by current grantees, and/or to partner with current grantees on existing projects. The best way to stay informed about future grant opportunities is to sign up to receive Transforming Safety news by clicking on the red button at the top right of the Grants page (transformingsafety.org/grants/).

What is the grant request range?

There is no limit to the grant amount that applicants can request. The focus of the Transforming Safety grant program is to achieve measurable impacts within the time frame set out in the legislation. Although new applications are not being accepted at this time, groups have been encouraged to apply for the amount needed to operate an impactful program that is likely to achieve measurable results. Over the initial three years of the program, grants have ranged from just under \$20,000 to \$200,000.

Can applicants apply for more than one year of funding?

The Transforming Safety Grant Program can only make one year grants because the funding for the program has been allocated by the legislature each year. Subject to annual legislative authorization, however, grantees who are demonstrating strong results may be invited to reapply for funding in successive years. Because Transforming Safety seeks to demonstrate deep impact in its two partner communities during the approved time period, the majority of successful grantees will need to build and operate their programs and gather outcome data over several years.

How will applications be evaluated?

All applications will be judged based on the likelihood that they will significantly advance one of the four priorities established by the local planning teams in each community. Successful applicants will have concrete programs and approaches that are likely to generate measurable data showing impact in one of the priority areas.

How will grant be evaluated and how will grantees report on their progress?

Each grant recipient will work with the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (LCCL), the contracted evaluator for the Transforming Safety Grant Program. LCCL staff will work with grantees to develop a plan for reporting and entering data to demonstrate progress toward the goals detailed in the grant application. As part of their contract, all grantees will be required to meet regularly with the LCCL, enter data into the LCCL's data management system, and attend periodic meetings of all Transforming Safety grantees in their community.

Are there limitations on the use(s) of grant funds?

Grant funds can be used for general operating support if the grantee's overall work advances one or more Transforming Safety priorities, and also for program support if only one program within an organization is focused on Transforming Safety grant priorities. See the Grant Guidelines for funding restrictions.

Can collaboratives apply?

Collaboratives of organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. Oftentimes the collective power of multiple organizations with different strengths can lead to quicker and more sustainable progress.

Who will be making grant decisions?

The Denver Foundation and Pikes Peak Community Foundation will conduct an initial review of all applications to ensure that applicants provide services within the geographic boundaries established by the local planning teams, advance one or more grant priorities, are financially sound, and have satisfied all application requirements. The foundations will forward qualifying applications to the grant review teams in each community. These teams are made up of members of the two pilot communities who have significant connections to the issues and priorities identified in the grant guidelines. The grant review teams will review the applications and make grant recommendations to the State Department of Local Affairs. The Denver Foundation will then meet with the State Department of Local Affairs to convey the grant teams' recommendations. The Department of Local Affairs will make all final grant decisions.

Southeast Colorado Springs Grant Review Team Members

Hon. Yolanda Avila – City Council Member, City of Colorado Springs District 4

Joyce Salazar – community outreach specialist with the El Paso County Health Dept. and Rise Coalition

Abigail Simpson – Sand Creek and Fountain Library Director for Pikes Peak Library District

Wendy Talley – Transforming Safety local planning team facilitator for SE Colorado Springs

Staff: Eula Tatman – Pikes Peak Community Foundation; Patrick Horvath – The Denver Foundation

North Aurora Grant Review Team Members

Kenneth Crawford – Care Coordinator with the Aurora Municipal Wellness Court

Nancy Jackson – Arapahoe County Commissioner

Hon. Crystal Murillo – City Council Member, City of Aurora Ward I

Wendy Talley – Transforming Safety local planning team facilitator for North Aurora

Staff: Julie Voyles – consultant to The Denver Foundation; Patrick Horvath – The Denver Foundation