

**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)](https://www.chaffeecommunity.org/) 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.

CCCFs 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](http://www.chaffeecommunity.org).

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*Addendum*

*Grant Awardees:*

The organizations receiving funding from2023 Spring Municipal Process are:

| Roy Williams Foundation | 1500 |
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| 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 |
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