Activating Places and Spaces Together
Christopher A. Smith, senior program officer, Colorado Health Foundation
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Together, we will make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation.

By investing in our three community outcomes...

Healthy Living –

Health Care –

Health Coverage –

and by using six key tools...

Leadership
Grantmaking
Policy
Communications
Private Sector Initiatives
Medical Residencies

we will achieve our measurable results.
Healthy Living goal…

All of Colorado’s children are fit and healthy
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The goal of the funding opportunity is to: Help activate existing infrastructure in public places that contributes to a community’s overall health through residential usage and positive experiences.

Proposals will focus on: Locally-defined, place-specific efforts to get people outdoors and actively engaged in their neighborhoods – together.

Foundation grant funds will support costs associated with project/program planning and/or implementation for up to one year.
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What we will fund:

• Planning and/or implementation for projects and programs
• Infrastructure enhancements, e.g. beautification, information/wayfinding, etc.
• Project/program-related administrative costs
• Community outreach and coordination
• Technical assistance for community engagement, communications, etc.
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Examples of actions that a community would take as part of a comprehensive approach to community health:

- Projects and/or programming that engages residents in communal, sustained, active use of existing public infrastructure including but not limited to:
  - Movies or concerts in the park series
  - Walking or running clubs
  - Community beautification and stewardship efforts, e.g. “friends of…” or similar

- Enhancements to existing infrastructure intended to achieve the goal of this funding opportunity
- Community outreach and participation in planning, design and implementation of projects and programming
- Communications; local promotion and public awareness activities
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Observations from the first funding cycle:

• Proposals included both indoor and outdoor projects, were geographically diverse, and included a variety of approaches.

• Many proposals were focused on either physical activity or food; we encourage applicants to widen the definition of activation.
Examples of Activation: Lamar

Park activation: With Shore Arts Center Park, Lamar is bringing a downtown vacant lot to life with landscaping, seating, lighting and a performance area.

Park activation: Activating Bicentennial Park so that it is a place that has something for everyone, including a skatepark.

Main Street accessibility and walkability: Working with CDOT to ensure the Main Street resurfacing project accommodates people as well as cars.
Examples of Activation: Westwood

Clean, safe and active alleyways: Dumpster removal efforts and resident leadership are turning alleyways “green” with flowers, arts and lighting.

New places for play: An old Thriftway building on Morrison Road is gone, and a futbol court is taking its place, providing a new space for youth soccer.

Park activation: With residents as designers, Westwood Park is going through a complete remodel, bringing in new playground equipment and more.

Street scape design: Morrison Road is a major transit corridor splitting the Westwood neighborhood. The community has a vision for a more pedestrian and bike friendly road.
Examples of Activation: Arvada

Neighborhood engagement: Meetings and surveys helped to identify priorities and improvements needed to encourage more physical activity in southeast Arvada.

Making connections through community events: Group walks and bike rides familiarized residents with routes to key destination such as the future commuter rail stations.

Way-finding: A signage assessment is underway to increase awareness of neighborhood amenities and improve connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools and transit.

Infrastructure improvements: Bike racks were installed throughout Olde Town, at City Hall, and in many Southeast Arvada parks.
Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an organization eligible to receive funding as described on the Foundation’s website
- Must be a group or organization with experience working within the community or communities served
- Must serve a high proportion of youth from high-need/low-income communities; the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced school meals, average family income or other indicators of need will be considered
- Infrastructure proposed for activation must currently exist
- Infrastructure proposed for activation must be public or fully accessible to the public through a binding use agreement
- Infrastructure proposed for activation must be walkable/bikeable and contiguous or linked by public, walkable/bikeable accessways
Eligibility Requirements

• Proposed activation effort(s) must have demonstrated support of the surrounding community
• Proposed activation effort(s) must target youth in the Pre-K through 12th grade age group and their families
• Proposed activation effort(s) must be relevant and appropriate to the needs and interests of the youth served; applicants must demonstrate (through program satisfaction and/or survey results, youth/family engagement process, existing participation data or similar methods) that demand exists for proposed activities
• Must demonstrate sufficient capacity and utilization of available technical support to effectively implement the proposed activities
• Proposals should engage support and/or commitments from local government whenever possible
• Applicants must consider implementation and long-term sustainability of proposed activities
## Theory of Change

**Activation Funding Opportunity (Healthy Communities): Activate built environment assets**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions to drive change</th>
<th>Preconditions</th>
<th>Funding Op Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage with community to understand their needs</td>
<td>Community interests/needs are considered when designing activation strategy</td>
<td>Increase utilization of public built environment assets (parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, trails) by children and families</td>
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<td>Support communities to develop a plan to increase use of existing built environment</td>
<td>Partnerships strengthen between community members/CBOs and owners/managers of the built environment assets</td>
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<td>Support community-driven efforts to increase use of existing built environment</td>
<td>Engaging activities and facilities get people to use the built environment in their community</td>
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**Underlying assumption:** Existing built environment infrastructure are under-utilized by children and their families, and this funding opportunity will facilitate community members to be “out and about” in the public built environment spaces.
Q & A
Questions? Or to discuss your proposal ideas, contact:

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