



Grantmaking Committee DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTATIONS

The AJL Foundation envisions a world where all Colorado youth and families have opportunities to thrive. AJL works toward this vision by investing in people, programs, and movements that benefit Colorado's youth and families.

AJL's values include:

- **Compassion, Humility, and Learning:** We recognize we are neither the experts nor the authority on the issues we work on, and we enter every partnership and conversation with compassion, humility, and in the spirit of learning.
- **Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity:** We honor and value diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds and are committed to making sure decisions are made and informed by diverse colleagues, partners, and communities.
- **Respect and Trust:** We respect and trust our colleagues, partners, and the communities we serve and recognize them as the experts on their experiences.
- **Mission-Aligned Resources:** We are committed to prioritizing positive social impact and financial return across our investments to support the communities we serve wherever possible.

GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE

AJL believes that the most equitable and effective way to distribute our grantmaking dollars to best support Colorado youth and families is to cede decision-making power to a Grantmaking Committee made up of diverse representatives of all stakeholders affected by AJL's grantmaking. Our committee includes youth and families, community organizers, professionals working within education and human services, and AJL's Board and staff.

Guided by AJL's mission, vision, and values, the Grantmaking Committee will identify, evaluate and select 20 nonprofit organizations to each receive a general operating support grant of \$20,000.

Selected nonprofit organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Serve low-income families and youth in Colorado
- Work within education and human services
- Are community-led or heavily community-informed
- Can demonstrate impact or potential for impact
- Serve the Denver Metro or San Luis Valley area
- Operating budgets under \$5M



RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Grantmaking Committee members are asked to attend three meetings per year, each lasting approximately 2 hours. Must attend a minimum of two meetings. Meetings may be virtual and/or in-person.

- The meeting location is TBD/Zoom
 - Meeting dates:
 - Thursday, April 1, 2021, from 6pm – 8pm MT
 - Thursday, June 17, 2021, from 6pm – 8pm MT
 - Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 6pm – 8pm MT
 - If meetings are held in person:
 - Childcare will be provided during meetings (Zoom meetings apply)
 - Dinner will be provided during meetings
 - Transportation expenses reimbursable
- Show up on time, participate and listen deeply, without digital distraction.
- Commit to helping create a safe space where everyone is empowered to participate fully.
- Foster open discussion of issues and ensure the identities of all Coloradans are honored and respected.
- If/when debate occurs, seek greater understanding rather than conversion.
- Engage in the spirit of cooperative learning as this process is new and will likely evolve as we learn.

GRANTMAKING PROCESS

The Grantmaking Committee will meet three times per year, and each meeting will be 2 hours in length. It's anticipated that there will be 2- 3 hours of preparation work before each meeting. The process will go as follows:

- **April 1: Grantmaking Committee Meeting 1**
 - Committee member introductions
 - Review expectations, responsibilities, and process
 - Conflicts of interest: Members can nominate but are recused from voting on organizations they have a personal connection to (ie: are employed by or serve on the Board of)
 - Review funding criteria
- **June 17: Committee Meeting 2**
 - Identify and discuss potential grantee organizations that fit the grantmaking criteria



- Each committee member to suggest 2-4 organizations that meet AJL's grantmaking criteria for consideration
- Collectively identify organizations to invite to apply for \$20,000 general operating support grants
- **October 14: Committee Meeting 3**
 - Grantmaking committee, grant partners, AJL staff and Board to meet for introductions and discussion.

COMPENSATION

As a thank you for your participation, expertise, and time, when the grantmaking process has concluded, each committee member will have the opportunity to choose to either receive a \$1000 stipend or direct \$1000 to a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of their choice that aligns with AJL's mission.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to AJL's Community Investments Manager, Dianne Myles, with any questions or feedback at dmyles@ajlfoundation.org or 719-433-1602.