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**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council

**From:** Daniela Villarreal, community liaison

**Subject:** Quality Community Foundation Nonprofit Grant Program

**Date:** March 8, 2019

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memo is to provide city council with information on the Quality Community Foundation's annual non-profit grant program, including the results of the 2019 solicitation. Nonprofits awardees will be recognized at the March 18 city council meeting.

### **Foundation Background**

In 2003, City Council formed the Non-City Agency Grant Program to financially contribute to non-profit organizations that augment City services and render assistance to Commerce City residents. After the program gained momentum, and in an effort to avoid perceived conflict of interests among council members, the Quality Community Foundation (QCF) was established as a nonprofit in 2006 for charitable purposes.

The Quality Community Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for Commerce City residents by serving people and agencies. The foundation achieves its mission through the following objectives:

- Attracting charitable gifts and promoting community philanthropy;
- Serving as a steward for entrusted funds to support city programs and the programs and activities of economic, educational, social, and cultural non-profit organizations;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the non-profit community, and
- Being a community resource and providing services to individuals, non-profit agencies, and the community-at-large.

Currently, the Foundation operates three programs to implement these objectives:

- Nonprofit grant program, funding for which is annually appropriated by city council

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- Post-secondary scholarship program, funding for which is raised

by the annual QCF golf tournament and annual city council appropriations

- Youth recreation scholarships, funding for which is raised during an annual fundraiser in the fall

Up to 11 members are appointed by city council and the city manager's designee (currently the director of finance) serves on the board as treasurer. The Foundation receives dedicated staff support from the community liaison in the city manager's office.

### Nonprofit Grant Program

The Foundation's board of directors annually refines the grant program based on feedback from applicants and city council. Since 2014, the number of requests has exceeded available funding as noted in Table 1.

**Table 1. Nonprofit program budget, requests, and awards**

Year	Program Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	# of Awarded Entities
2014	\$123,500	\$231,420	\$123,500	39
2015	\$120,000	\$278,480	\$120,000	35
2016	\$120,000	\$198,800	\$120,000	25
2017	\$140,000	\$179,354	\$130,029	27
2018	\$140,000	\$198,274	\$136,325	27
2019	\$140,000	\$216,570	\$138,700	28

Applicants generally must meet the following:

- Organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit in good standing with state and federal regulations
- Grant activities must benefit Commerce City residents
- Successful grantees will:
  - Clearly explain and use data to demonstrate a compelling community need
  - Describe how their organization will address the need, including how they measure progress and/or success
  - Have a board-approved statement that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status.

The grant, eligibility, and selection criteria requirements are published two months prior to the submittal deadline. A technical assistance workshop was offered at the Civic Center and an overview of the grant process was broadcasted live on the

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Foundation's Facebook.  
The maximum award  
amount a nonprofit can

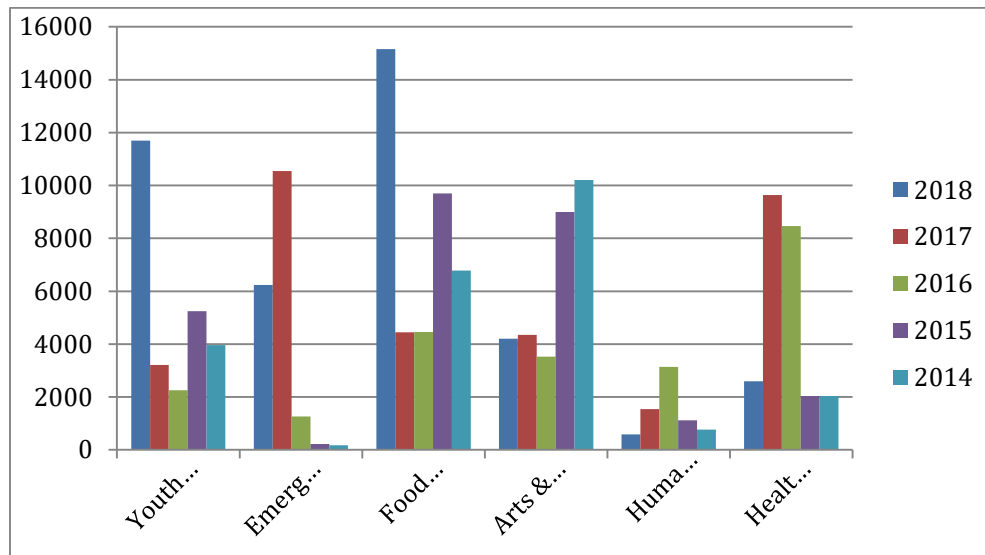
receive is \$7,500 – in an effort to achieve objective of serving as a community resource and ensuring a broad array of services.

Previous applicants also must submit a grant report from the prior year detailing how funding was spent and verifying the number of residents served to be eligible for funding. The board analyzes the reports, using this information as a funding criterion for evaluation.

### Meaningful Community Impact

Based on annual reporting from funded organizations, the number of organizations awarded and residents benefited are broken down by category as noted in Tables 2 and 3. Numbers below are based on the organization's self-reporting.

**Table 2. Number of residents served by category**



**Table 3. Number of organizations awarded by category**

Award Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Emergency Services	3	2	3	4	3

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Human Services	9	7	5	5	8
Youth	17	14	11	12	7
Food	3	3	2	2	3
Arts/Culture	5	7	1	1	2
Health	2	2	3	3	1

### 2019 Grant Process

The 2019 grant process kicked off December 10, 2018. Local nonprofits were able to apply through February 4, 2019. Applications were offered through the city website and applicants had an opportunity to participate in technical assistance, proposal discussions, and questions during an in-person meeting on January 23, 2019. New this year, the Foundation also offered a live Facebook Q&A session on January 30, 2019 for applicants. The staff liaison assisted with incoming questions via telephone and email and provided a courteous review of all materials if the application was submitted by January 21, 2019.

After receiving all submissions, board members reviewed funding requests and scored each application based on the established criteria. A quorum of board members met to discuss the scoring and application information. The 2019 grant cycle was a competitive process; the Board decided not to fund three applicants: Brothers Redevelopment Inc., Commerce City Historical Society, and Access Housing of Adams County. Final decisions on the 2019 grant awards are noted in Table 4.

### Future Programming

The Quality Community Foundation sees a need and desire within the local nonprofit community for grant writing technical support and workshops, which will help build the capacity of these organizations well into the future. The Foundation Board will use remaining funds from this year's budget to provide grant-writing class opportunities for small and local nonprofits that will not only benefit future Foundation requests but help local nonprofits expand funding sources. The Board also looks forward to meeting with City Council in the future to discuss how the Foundation can better align with stated goals and the vision for the city.

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**Table 4. 2019 grant awards**

Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
A Precious Child Inc.	Fill a Backpack program	Fill A Backpack will provide children in need with brand new backpacks and grade appropriate school supplies.	\$7,500	800
Adams 14 Education Foundation	Scholar Retention	Scholar Retention Program funding will be used to help offset meal, meeting and travel expenses for the scholars and staff to support student post-secondary retention.	\$3,000	15-19
Adams County Emergency Food Bank	Emergency Food Distribution	The Adams County Emergency Food Bank provides nutritious food, including produce, rice, beans, fruit, meat, and dairy products, on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.	\$7,500	5,600
Adams County Youth Initiative	Juvenile Justice Project	Juvenile Justice Project; Funding from QFC will be used to support the work of the ACYI Juvenile Justice CAN (JJ CAN), convened by City Manager of Commerce City, Brian McBroom. The JJ CAN's objective it to support more young people staying in school and out of the juvenile justice system, in order to achieve cradle to career success.	\$3,500	100
Adelante Community Development	Commerce City Community Festival	Community Festival. For over 5 years; the Derby Daze (a very well-known community festival) has not been held in our community. Our residents and businesses, have no way to celebrate our diversity. We are partnering with the Colorado Rapids, other businesses and organizations to begin a NEW CC Community festival. Where we will offer the opportunity to: play diverse music, have vendors promoting their services, nonprofits and government organizations to promote their services and help our community be in the know. We believe it's time for a community organized celebration.	\$3,500	933
Almost Home	Homeless Prevention Program	Homeless Prevention Program- This program will provide rental assistance and case management for families facing eviction.	\$7,500	30

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Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
Alternatives for Youth	iACT in Commerce City	Our current iTHRIVE curriculum would be modified slightly in order to train and prepare 20 middle and high school students to become iACT Peer Ambassadors. These 20 students would be recommended by teachers and administrators as having demonstrated leadership qualities. They would then complete the entire 6-week iTHRIVE program as any other referred participant would. However, the iACT program would be designed to focus on improving and imparting leadership principles, basic brain chemistry knowledge and harm reduction principles. Upon graduation, these students would then be qualified to act as community and school ambassadors for the iTHRIVE early intervention and educational program. They could assist other adolescents and teens and their families get enrolled or make initial contact, they could act as mentors to students referred to the program as an alternative to suspension and they could participate in community and school educational presentations explaining the effects of drug and alcohol on the developing brain. Each graduation team of ambassadors will conduct at least one community or school outreach presentation as their pro-social component.	\$3,700	20
CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties	Volunteer Advocate Program	The mission of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is to provide specially selected and trained community volunteers, CASA Volunteers, to advocate for abused and neglected children in the pursuit of safe and permanent homes. CASA Programs recruit, train, and supervise these community volunteers who advocate for victims, ages birth to 21, who were physically or sexually abused, who witnessed domestic violence, or who were severely neglected by their parents or	\$7,500	60

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Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
		guardians and are involved in the court system. Only CASA Programs are authorized to provide this service. The duties and responsibilities are outlined in Colorado state statute C.R.S.§19-1-201 et seq. of the Colorado Children's Code.		
Catholic Charities	Emergency Assistance	Emergency Assistance program funds will help low-income Commerce City residents avoid homelessness by providing financial assistance with rent/mortgage or utility payments.	\$5,000	54
Commerce City Cultural Council	Music in the Park	Music in the Park concerts in July offers residents a free fun event for the family every Thursday in July.	\$4,000	4,500
Commerce City Rotary Foundation	Mental Health Initiative	Costs for mental health resource cards and for a MHFA Sr. Adult Module training, a Youth MHFA Module and a Spanish MHFA Module training for D14 parents, faculty and staff.	\$2,000	7828
Community Uplift Partnership	Employment Success & Community	Community Uplift Partnership (CUP) currently run two Community Groups for women. The purpose of these groups is to help the women build relationships, life skills and connection, all things we believe help break the cycles of poverty. We will continue to expand our Employment Success Program this year, which focuses on character building and hands on employment training to help individuals increase future economic opportunities by keeping and maintaining stable employment which will break the cycles of poverty.	\$5,000	50
Environmental Learning for Kids	CC Youth Naturally	Commerce City Youth Naturally is a year-long, multi-year learning experience that immerses Commerce City students in science education, outdoor activities, and leadership development through hands-on field activities, local excursions, recreational activities. and overnight camping experiences. CCYN offers 2-6 activities each month, including 3-5 overnight trips every year. CCYN youth also participate in	\$4,000	150

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Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
		stewardship projects, giving youth a sense of ownership and stewardship and an understanding of how they play a part in the continued preservation of their community.		
F.I.S.H.	Food Program	All funds will be used solely to purchase the food items from Sam's Club, King Soopers, the Food Bank of the Rockies, and sometimes Walmart.	\$3,500	4,000
Food Bank of the Rockies	CC Mobile Pantry Program	Mobile Pantries are mobile feeding sites set up in neighborhoods where the need is greater than the capacity of existing resources.	\$7,500	12,331
Foster Source	Foster Care Awareness Night	Foster Care Awareness Night at the CO Rapids	\$2,500	120
Inspire	Change Agent Institute	A three-day training institute where students are empowered to explore college and career options. Change Agents have the opportunity to meet both their college and professional mentors. Change Agents learn about the college process.	\$4,000	15
Joyful Journeys Community Enrichment	Santa Shop	Provide children from Commerce City a full Christmas including new toys, stocking stuffers, games, puzzles, clothes, food, hygiene products, and stuffed animals.	\$2,500	400
Junior Achievement, Rocky Mountain Inc.	JA programs for CC	Funds awarded will help fully fund youth who participate in a Junior Achievement (JA) programs. JA implements numerous experiential learning programs for young people in grades K-12 aligned with state educational standards and focused on personal finance, entrepreneurship and workforce readiness.	\$2,000	4,360
Kids First Health Care	Direct health care services	School and Community-based Services programming: Kids First respectfully requests support to help underwrite direct health care services provided to uninsured, low-income, and at-risk children and youth at its five Commerce City health clinics.	\$7,500	,2594



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Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
Let Your Light Shine	Adams 14 Basic Necessitates Program	Undergarments (underwear/socks/bras), King Soopers cards, and bus passes for Adams 14 families experiencing financial difficulties/homelessness.	\$3,000	150
Little Giants Learning Center	Summer Program Trips	Funding will help cover transportation costs and entrance fees to cultural and educational venues, and physical activity places in the metro area.	\$5,000	38
Project Angel Heart	Home-delivered meals to critically-ill	Home-delivered meals for critically ill Commerce City residents. QCF funds will be used to purchase packaging, protein, vegetables, and spices.	\$7,500	60
Ralston House	Child Advocacy Center	Ralston House anticipates providing 150 medical exams in 2019; we anticipate half of the medical examinations will stem from the 17th Judicial District while the remaining examinations will come from the 1st Judicial District. Medical examinations are \$410 per exam and will be conducted equally from the Ralston House Northglenn and Lakewood locations.	\$7,500	115
Reaching Hope	Therapy	HOPE for the Family: Therapy after Trauma—Therapy toys & scholarships to heal trauma, strengthen family relationships & break cycles of abuse.	\$7,500	100
Stout Street	GED Program	Funds will be used to help each resident obtain education that is vital for employment and self-sufficiency upon completion of our 2-year residential program.	\$7,500	40
The Feline Fix	The Big Fix	The Big Fix Project will spay/neuter 300 feral and pet cats from Commerce City in 6 months. The funding will be used to subsidize those 300 surgical appoints. This includes wellness check, ear tip and/or vaccinations (if owned).	\$2,500	200-300

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Organization	Program Name	Program Description	Amount Awarded	Projected # of City residents served
The Senior Hub	Homecare services	Homecare gives caregivers a break from providing care for loved ones, and offers individuals a range of personal care services to remain living independently.	\$5,000	20