

Everything you need to know about applying for and participating in the Community Engagement Grant Program!

All questions must be received by **October 13, 2026, at 5:00pm MT**. We will continue to update this document until **October 19, 2026, at 5:00pm MT**.

About Power Ahead Colorado

1. What are heat pumps and where can I learn more about Power Ahead Colorado?

A heat pump is an electric appliance that can heat and cool your indoor air. Because of this, it can replace a home heating system like a furnace, boiler or inefficient baseboard heating, and a traditional air conditioner. You can learn more about heat pumps and Power Ahead Colorado at PowerAheadColorado.org.

2. What is the purpose of the Community Engagement Grant Program?

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support community engagement efforts tied to Power Ahead Colorado, a regional initiative aimed at reducing pollution while improving the health, comfort, and energy efficiency of homes and buildings throughout the Denver metropolitan area. The Community Engagement Grant Program acknowledges and honors that community organizations are best served to meet communities where they are.

About the Grant Application Process

3. How do I apply, and what information is required?

The grant application will be published on the Power Ahead Colorado Community Engagement webpage and must be submitted electronically by October 30, 2026, at 5:00pm MT. Grant application instructions and application requirements will be provided in Spanish and English. All required fields in the application must be completed, and any supporting materials may be uploaded directly through the portal. You will need to submit the following information in your application:

1. Organization information
2. Community context and opportunity
3. Outreach and engagement approach
4. Community reach and relationships
5. Project feasibility and budget
6. Organizational capacity and qualifications
7. Representations and certifications

Please refer to the Solicitation for more information on application requirements.

4. Who is eligible to apply?

Any qualified organization located within the [59 member jurisdictions](#) of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Eligible applicants include organizations with the capacity to implement community-based projects, including nonprofit organizations such as 501(c)(3) organizations. Eligible entities must be 1) legally authorized to operate in their jurisdiction, 2) in good standing with applicable state or local requirements, 3) not suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds, and 4) able to enter a formal Subaward Agreement. Should you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact us at CEGrantProgram@kearnswest.com.

5. What types of projects or activities are eligible for funding?

Grant-funded activities must occur within the boundaries of DRCOG member governments. Eligible activities may change from year to year. For Fiscal Year 2027, grants will support community-centered engagement activities connecting residents and businesses with one or more Power Ahead Colorado program(s), such as:

- Organize block or house parties featuring heat pump demonstrations
- Meal-centered events held at libraries, schools, or local businesses
- Community pop-up events utilizing Power Ahead Colorado mascots, promotional materials, or demonstration equipment
- Ambassador or community liaison programs that build trusted relationships between community members and program resources
- Multilingual Outreach
- Neighborhood canvassing

6. When is the application deadline?

The submission deadline is October 30, 2026, at 5:00pm MT. You must submit your application electronically to the webpage.

7. How can I submit questions about the solicitation, and when is the deadline to submit questions?

Submit your questions to CEGrantProgram@kearnswest.com. All questions must be received by October 13, 2026, at 5:00pm MT. A Q&A document with responses to all questions received will be posted on the webpage by October 19, 2026, at 5:00pm MT.

8. What technical assistance is available to applicants?

Q&A webinars will be held on October 8, 2026, at 10:00am MT in English, and at 11:00am MT in Spanish, to provide technical assistance to applicants and will cover topics, such as sample budgets, award requirements, and other application guidance. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the webpage. You may register for the [English webinar here](#) and the [Spanish webinar here](#).

9. What are the insurance requirements to receive grant funding?

Applicants are not required to have the minimum insurance coverage in place at the time of application. However, organizations selected for funding must obtain and maintain the insurance coverage required under the Subaward Agreement prior to execution of the agreement and receipt of grant funds. Minimum insurance coverage is outlined below.

Coverage	Minimum Limit
Workers' Compensation	Statutory limits
Employer's Liability	\$100,000 each accident; \$500,000 disease policy limit; \$100,000 disease each employee
Commercial General Liability Insurance	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Automobile Liability or Hired & Non-Owned Vehicle Liability	\$1,000,000 each accident
Professional Liability Insurance	\$1,000,000 per claim
Security & Privacy Liability / Cyber Risk	\$1,000,000 per occurrence

Please refer to the Insurance Options for Grant Program document for more information on insurance requirements.

10. Is a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) required to apply for or receive grant funding?

Applicants are not required to have a UEI at the time of application, however, a UEI must be obtained prior to the execution of the Subaward Agreement in order to receive grant funding. If applicants do not already have a UEI, a one-time, free registration is required of selected grant recipients prior to award. Applicants can learn more about obtaining a UEI and begin the registration process through sam.gov.

11. What expenses are allowable for grant funding?

Allowable costs may include the following:

- Community engagement personnel costs

- Subcontractor or consultant services
- Travel
- Materials
- Event expenses

Other direct costs necessary to implement approved grant activities, including costs associated with meeting award requirements, where allowable.

12. How will applications be reviewed and selected?

All applications will be screened for eligibility and evaluated based on approach to engagement ("technical approach"), cost effectiveness, past performance, and current capability. Each proposal will be reviewed and scored independently by at least three evaluators to identify the proposals that best align with program goals. The scoring rubric can be found on page 11 of the Solicitation. Finalists may be invited to a short interview. Following completion of the application review and final award decisions, all applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

13. When will applicants be notified?

Following completion of the application review and final award decisions, all applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application. Awards will be announced in December 2026.

14. If I have questions on the application or experience technical difficulties in completing the online form, who can I reach out to?

If you have any questions, please contact CEGrantProgram@kearnswest.com.