



PROGRAM PORTFOLIO AND GRANTMAKING

AN OVERVIEW OF GOCO'S GRANT PROGRAMS AND GRANTMAKING PROCESS

APRIL 29, 2025

OUR AGENDA

OVERVIEW

- > GOCO 101 & general information
- > 2025 Strategic Plan update
- > GOCO programs and funding opportunities
- > The grantmaking process and submitting a proposal
- > Website walkthrough and resources



GOCO 101

OUR MISSION

To help the people of Colorado preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trails, and open space heritage

ARTICLE XXVII

- > Created by a vote of the people and developed as part of our state constitution
- > GOCO is funded entirely from Colorado Lottery proceed, no tax dollars
- > Independent political subdivision of the state
- > Governor-appointed board



FUNDING QUADRANTS

The Constitution requires GOCO to allocate funds in a manner that is substantially equal over time to achieve outcomes across these four areas.

The Constitution also outlines entities eligible to receive funding in each quadrant.

Outdoor
Recreation

Local
Governments

Wildlife

Open Space

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY



WHO CAN APPLY

- > Colorado cities, towns and counties
- > Title 32 special districts eligible to receive Conservation Trust Fund distributions
- > Land conservation organizations that support open space and natural area acquisitions
- > Political subdivision of the State of Colorado whose missions are to identify, manage, or acquire open space and natural areas
- > Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Please note: School districts, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations are not eligible for GOCO funding. However, ineligible organizations may partner with their local government or land trust to apply for funding. Please reach out to eligible organizations directly to discuss opportunities.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



STRATEGIC PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS



BASE PROGRAMS

Two submission cycles
Increased funding opportunities
Program refinements and consolidation



PARTNER PROGRAMS

Increased investment



COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY

Elevating the Outdoors Strategy
Special Regional Partnerships Initiative



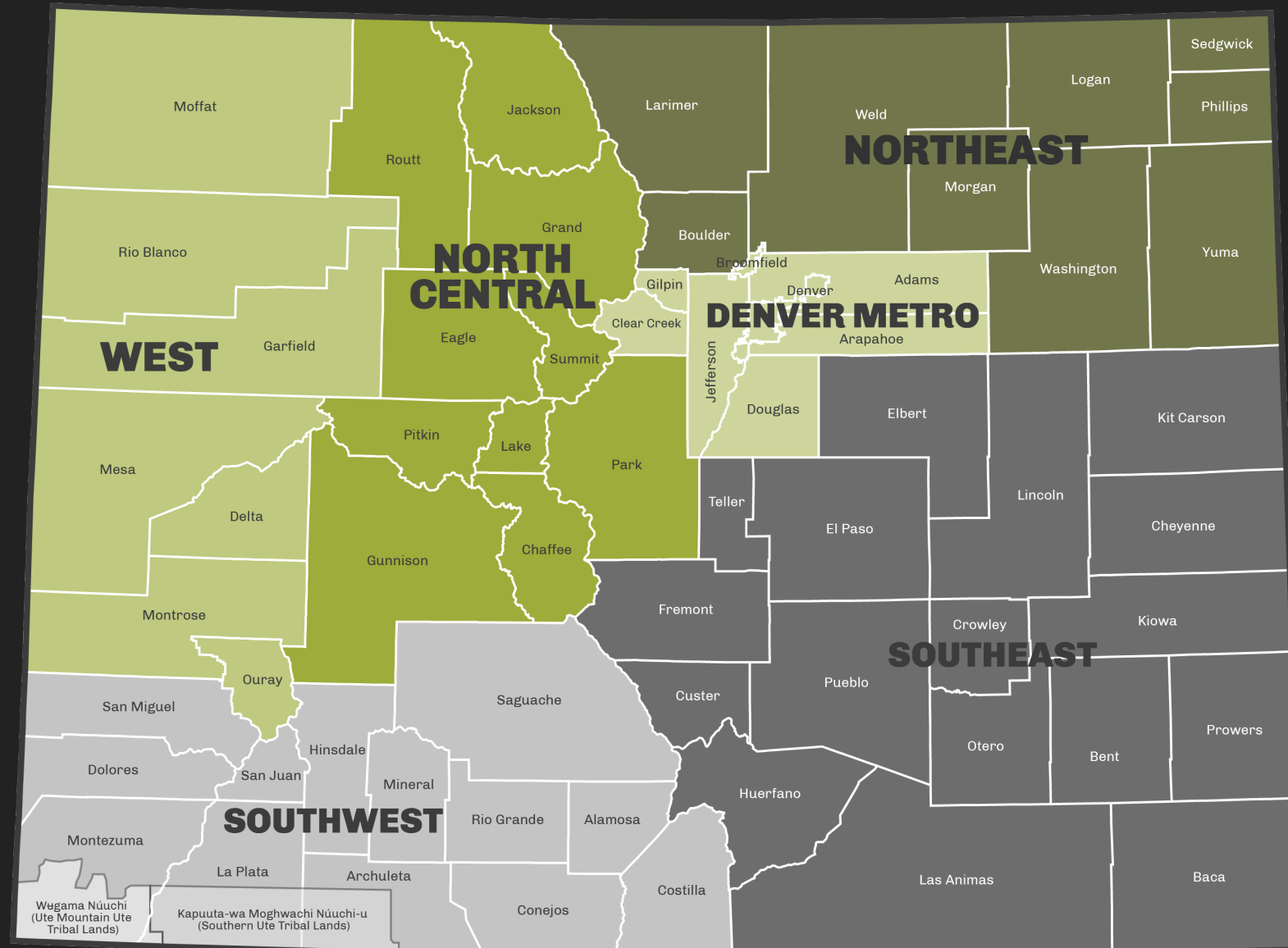
COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY



A statewide vision that elevates common goals, amplifies regionally rooted efforts, provides data and tools to inform local decision making, and advances coordinated, statewide strategies and funding for conservation, outdoor recreation and climate resilience.



REGIONAL UPDATE



The background of the slide is a green topographic map with white contour lines. The lines are more densely packed in some areas, indicating steeper terrain, and more spread out in others, indicating flatter areas. The overall color is a muted, earthy green.

GOCO

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

A summary of GOCO's grant programs

PROGRAM VALUES



RESOURCE CONSERVATION

We value strategic land conservation and resource protection work.



OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP

We support sustainability and improvements to the state's natural and recreational resources.



COMMUNITY VITALITY

We invest in conservation and outdoor recreation efforts that support communities and quality of life.



EQUITABLE ACCESS



We partner with communities to break down barriers to the outdoors.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

We support projects and programs that help children and families get outside more often and experience all the benefits of doing so.

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

 BASE PROGRAMS	 PARTNER PROGRAMS
Land Acquisition	RESTORE Colorado
Community Impact	Conservation Service Corps
Pathways	Transaction Cost Assistance Program
Generation Wild	Regional Partnerships Initiative

BASE PROGRAMS



LAND ACQUISITION

Supports important landscape, waterway, habitat, and public access land protection priorities.
Grant awards: Competitive proposals are generally up to \$3 million per project. However, when funding is available, GOCO may consider more significant investments in high-impact projects.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Supports planning and/or construction of new or upgraded parks, trails, natural areas, and other outdoor amenities. Funding may also support stewardship work at outdoor recreation sites.
Grant awards: \$100,000-\$2 million per project; large investment opportunities up to \$5 million starting in FY27.



PATHWAYS

Addresses pressing issues and opportunities through research and knowledge-building activities; data-gathering and analysis; development of tools and models; and expanding staff capacity.
Grant awards: There is no maximum request amount; however, competitive proposals are generally \$100,000-\$300,000 per project.



GENERATION WILD

A youth in the outdoors movement that invests in collaborative communities made up of local public, nonprofit and private organizations creating new outdoor experiences and career opportunities for historically underserved and underrepresented youth and families.
Funding opportunity not available at this time.

PARTNER PROGRAMS



RESTORE COLORADO *in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

Supports significant habitat restoration and stewardship efforts across the state.

RFP anticipated: August 2025 | Grants awarded: March 2026 | Visit [NFWF.org](https://www.nfwf.org)



CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS *in partnership with Colorado Youth Corps Association*

Supports projects that employ young people on critical outdoor recreation and restoration projects.

RFP anticipated: June 2025 | Grants awarded: December 2025 | Visit [CYCA.org](https://www.cyca.org)



TRANSACTION COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM *in partnership with Keep It Colorado*

Covers costs associated with conservation easement transactions that advance statewide land protection priorities. Visit [keepitco.org/tcap](https://www.keepitco.org/tcap)

Cycle 1 RFP anticipated: August 2025 | Grants awarded: December 2025

Cycle 2 RFP anticipated: January 2026 | Grants awarded: June 2026




REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE *in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

Supports Regional Partnerships as they collaboratively plan and implement project outcomes that promote sustainable outdoor recreation and climate-resilient conservation and restoration.

RFP anticipated: June 2025 | Grants awarded: December 2025 | Visit cpw.state.co.us

FUNDING REQUESTS

 BASE PROGRAMS	Funding Opportunity	Request Amount
Land Acquisition	Approx \$16 million (\$9 million in local government funds and \$7 million in open space funds)	No Cap
Community Impact*		\$100K to \$2M
Pathways		No Cap
PARTNER PROGRAMS		
Conservation Service Corps	\$1.2M	No Cap
Transaction Cost Assistance Program	\$1M	\$75,000
RESTORE	\$3M+	No Cap
Regional Partnerships Initiative	\$50 M over 5 years	Varies

* Starting in fiscal year 2027 limited grants up to \$5,000,000 per project will be available for high-impact projects .GOCO expects to select no more than 1 to 2 projects for this level of investment annually.

FY26 CALENDAR

BASE PROGRAMS

Community Impact, Land Acquisition*, and Pathways grant opportunities are available twice a year.

**Proposals for urgent land acquisitions will be accepted at any time.*

FIRST CYCLE

Concepts accepted up to:
July 24, 2025

Applications invited:
August 8, 2025

Application due date:
September 11, 2025

Grants awarded:
December 12, 2025

SECOND CYCLE

Concepts accepted up to:
January 15, 2026

Applications invited:
January 30, 2026

Application due date:
March 5, 2026

Grants awarded:
June 2026



Canyon Edge Open Space, Larimer County. Photo by Charlie Johnson.

The background of the slide is a solid olive green color with a subtle, intricate pattern of white contour lines, resembling a topographic map. The lines are more densely packed in some areas and more spread out in others, creating a sense of depth and texture.

GOCO

GRANTMAKING PROCESS

A summary of GOCO's grantmaking process.

BASE PROGRAMS GRANT PROCESS



EXPLORE GRANT PROGRAMS

Review our grant programs and requirements on our website.



CONNECT WITH YOUR REGIONAL OFFICER

Contact your regional officer to learn more and develop a concept if you have a project.



CONCEPT PAPER → APPLICATION

Regional officers are available to review draft concept paper materials and provide submission guidance.



PEER REVIEW & BOARD APPROVAL

Experienced peer reviewers evaluate proposals and advise GOCO in making funding recommendations to the Programs Committee; the Committee advances their recommendation to the board for review and approval.





COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT & SUBMIT FINAL REPORT

Projects are generally completed in 2-3 years.

CONCEPT & APP MATERIALS

CONCEPT & APPLICATION DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

 CONCEPT	 APPLICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Two Page Narrative<input type="checkbox"/> Budget & Optional Budget Narrative<input type="checkbox"/> Up to two maps<input type="checkbox"/> Up to two pages of photos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Five Page Narrative<input type="checkbox"/> Budget & Optional Budget Narrative<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution from governing body of each applicant<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Review<input type="checkbox"/> Indication of support<input type="checkbox"/> Maps<input type="checkbox"/> Planning documents<input type="checkbox"/> Photos<input type="checkbox"/> Timeline

MATCH & LEVERAGE



MATCH & LEVERAGE

No predefined match requirements for any programs. Work with program officers to provide a reasonable match amount based upon availability of local resources and other sources.



PARTNERSHIPS

We encourage diverse partnerships in project planning, development, implementation, and activation. Leveraging partnerships for collective impact can bring additional resources to projects and build buy-in.



Mile High Youth Corps, Intemann Trail. Photo by Sean Sheridan.

BEFORE YOU APPLY



COMPETITIVENESS

We invest in large and small projects that advance the highest and best use of GOCO funds. For the upcoming fiscal year, we have \$16 million to invest across all base program projects.



PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We encourage partners to take a community centered approach to their work and consider community engagement when appropriate.



EQUITY & ACCESS

We encourage partners to engage with a diversity of voices in project visioning, planning, and decision-making, especially those from disproportionately impacted populations, including Black, Indigenous, Latine, and racially and ethnically diverse people; those from people across the spectrum of sexual and gender identity; those with disabilities; and those from low-income, urban, and rural communities.



CAPACITY

GOCO will fund capacity related to your project.



REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING

Payments are made on a reimbursement basis except in cases of financial hardship.

HAVE AN IDEA?

CONNECT WITH STAFF

It's never too early meet. We are ready to answer your questions and talk through project concepts. We want to hear about your ideas and provide feedback and resources.

ROADSHOW VISITS

We'll be hosting events throughout the state. Come check-in with us.



WEBSITE RESOURCES



GRANT CALENDAR

Schedule of grant program concept/application releases, decision dates, etc.



PROGRAM MATERIALS AND GUIDANCE

Grant program materials and guidance documents.



PARTNER RESOURCES

Relevant tools and resources to support your project.



FAQ

A few of your questions answered.

GOCO.ORG

Visit the website for more information.