



# Arapahoe County Guidelines

## 2026 Tier III SCFD Grant Application

Multi-County grant deadline: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Single County grant deadline: 4:00p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2026

### ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must have received SCFD eligibility prior to submitting a grant application. Eligibility requirements are listed on the [SCFD website](https://scfd.org). Please contact SCFD staff about eligibility questions [scfd@scfd.org](mailto:scfd@scfd.org). Applicants must continually maintain compliance with all eligibility requirements. Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

### FINAL GRANT REPORTS

Organizations with any outstanding Final Grant Reports will not be able to submit a new grant application. This is not a requirement for first-time applicant organizations.

### HOW TO APPLY

All grant applications must be completed through SCFD grants management system: <https://scfd.org/grantmaking/funded-organizations/tier-iii/>. Please read the Grant Application Directions in their entirety before contacting SCFD. Online Grant Tutorials are provided on the SCFD website above for your reference and are highly recommended.

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding and revisions after the grant application deadline will not be accepted.

### CULTURAL COUNCIL STUDY SESSIONS

The Cultural Council will discuss applications during public study sessions. Applicant organizations will have the opportunity to listen in on study sessions and provide written responses to any questions from the cultural council.

### TIMELINE FOR USE OF FUNDS

Funds awarded in October 2026 are to be spent between October 2026 and December 31, 2027. A Final Grant Report for funds awarded during the 2026 cycle is due February 9, 2028.

### GRANT AMENDMENTS

To request any amendments to your grant as awarded please see the [Grant Amendment](#) section on the SCFD Tier III web page.

By statute, SCFD funding cannot be used for scholarships, pass-through funding for other entities, capital expenses, to retire debt, or political or religious purposes. Read [SCFD Statutory Exclusions for Use of Funds](#) for more information.

### DEFINITIONS

Activities: events that are open to the public, such as performances, exhibits, or outreach performances. Events that are not considered activities include classes that are not open to the public, rehearsals, and fundraising.

Educational Programming should be inclusive of the community. It does not refer exclusively to Title I schools. This may also include adult education.

# Arapahoe County Funding Criteria

Organizations may apply for **one grant only**. Either one GOS request **or** one project grant request. **Not both**, per the guidelines below.

## TYPES OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

**General Operating Support (GOS):** Unrestricted funds available for organizations whose programming benefits the residents of Arapahoe County.

- Organizations applying for GOS in another county cannot apply for GOS in Arapahoe County. The Council encourages those organizations to apply for project funding in lieu of GOS.
- Only organizations that are focused on Arapahoe County and/or have attendees of which at least 51% are Arapahoe County residents may apply for GOS. Applicants must demonstrate that it **specifically benefits the residents of Arapahoe County.**
- The GOS funding request must not exceed 30% of the previous year's expenses or revenues, whichever is less.
- GOS funding decisions for the 2026 grant application will be made using financials from the organization's most recently completed fiscal year.

**For GOS, virtual attendance/activities for the most recently completed fiscal year will not be included to determine compliance.**

**PROJECT:** A restricted grant given to support a specific event or connected set of activities that occur within Arapahoe County or benefit Arapahoe County residents.

- The project must have a beginning and an end date, explicit objectives, and a predetermined cost.
- The funding request may not exceed more than 50% of the total project budget.
- The project must demonstrate that it **specifically benefits the residents of Arapahoe County.**
- For multi-county applicants applying to Arapahoe County, an Arapahoe County-only project budget is required.
- The Council may prioritize funding festival requests that expand cultural access and enrichment for the county. Additionally, the Council encourages these applicants to focus on the following in their narrative: uniqueness of offering; accessibility of the festival; plans to actively market/target the event for residents of Arapahoe County; and how it will impact the residents of Arapahoe County.

For Project Grants, virtual programming will not be accepted. For hybrid programming, the project request budget can only reflect the in-person portion of the program.

## EVALUATION PROCESS

For consistency in the evaluation process, SCFD has implemented universal scoring criteria which will be used by all cultural councils. We encourage applicants to review the new scoring criteria on the [SCFD website](#) when developing applications.

Municipal and government-affiliated applicants will have their matching funds and other funds from local support considered in making an award.

Impact is greater than attendance. Examples of impact may include: engagement with underserved communities; partnerships with schools or service providers; paid opportunities for

local artists; programming in areas with limited access to cultural resources; or efforts that generate local economic benefit.

Applicants should not assume Council familiarity with their organization, financials, programming, or community role. Applications must demonstrate clarity and specificity. Failure to meet this standard could adversely affect scoring. Organizations receiving a final grant score lower than 60% may not receive funding.