

The Next 75



# 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

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Deepening our commitment to Colorado



# Gates Family Foundation

## 2022-2026 Strategic Plan: Capital Grants

Tuesday, Feb. 22  
12 to 1 p.m.

### AGENDA

#### Welcome

- Webinar overview and objectives

#### Presentation

- Gates Family Foundation Background
  - Mission, Vision, Values
- Strategic Plan Overview
  - Community feedback / development process
- What's Staying?
- What's New?

#### Discussion

- Questions from attendees

#### Closing

- Next steps and future engagement

Building on 75  
years of  
addressing  
some of  
Colorado's  
toughest  
challenges



- Celebrating 75 years of impact
- More than \$456 million in grants since founding
- Continuously evolving while maintaining intense focus on people, communities, and natural resources of Colorado.





# Strategic Plan Process: *Throughout 2021*

## LOOKING AHEAD

Trends, Challenges  
& Forecasting

## REACHING OUT

Community Feedback

## LOOKING BACK

Internal Reflection  
& Assessment

# Gates Family Foundation

## Mission & Vision

### **MISSION**

We work with partners and communities to build a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable Colorado for all.

### **VISION**

A vibrant and verdant Colorado where all people and communities thrive.



# Gates Family Foundation Values

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RESPECT

CREATIVITY

ENGAGEMENT

PLACE

EQUITY





# Commitment to Equity

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We prioritize individuals and communities that have been historically marginalized by addressing systemic barriers and creating pathways to opportunity.



# Foundation Approach

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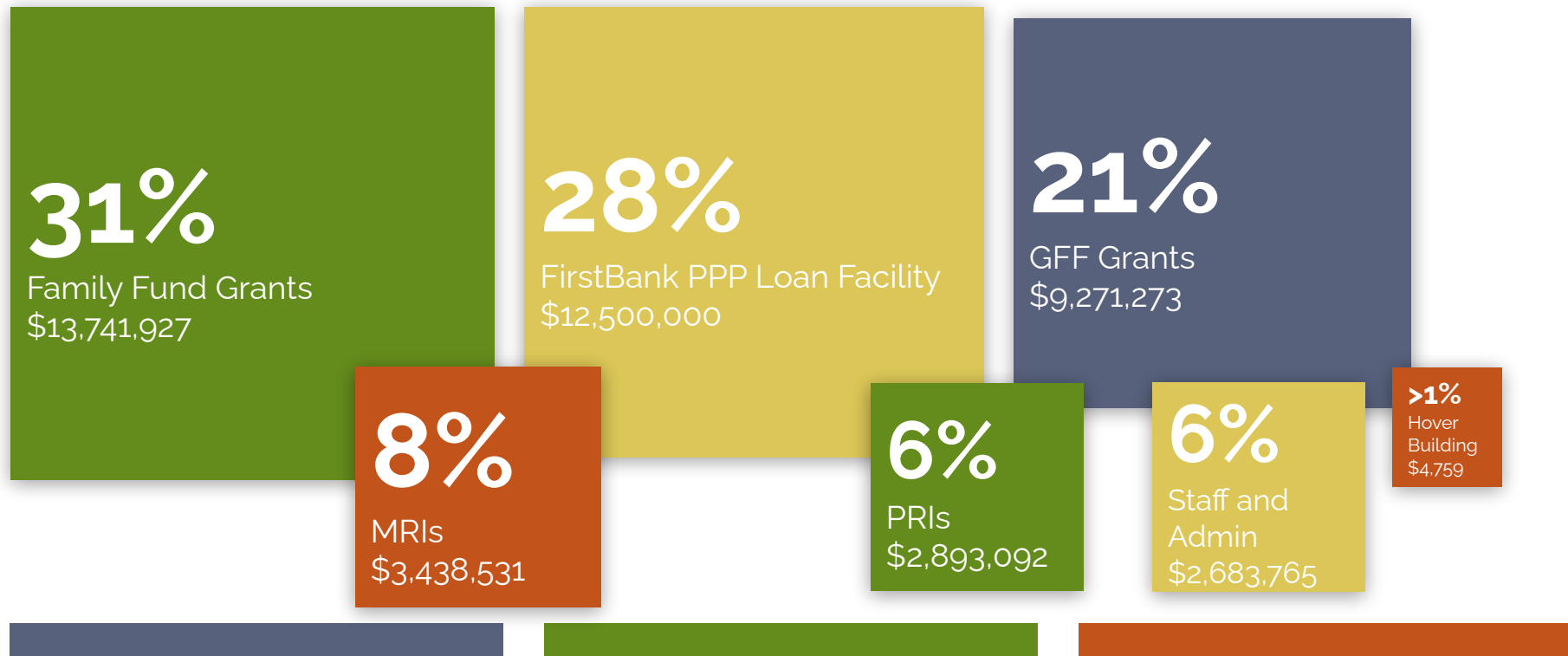
- We use both financial and non-financial tools to serve partners and advance core strategies
- Our staff serve as connectors, resources and thought partners in the ecosystems where they work
- We intentionally convene and participate in multi-partner, systems-level work to drive innovative solutions
- We actively seek to collaborate with an even more diverse array of stakeholders and potential partners





# 2021 Total Philanthropic Activity: \$44.5M

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# 2021 Strategic Grants Paid: \$5,699,000

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**39%**

Natural Resources  
\$2,232,000

**39%**

Education  
\$2,209,500

**15%**

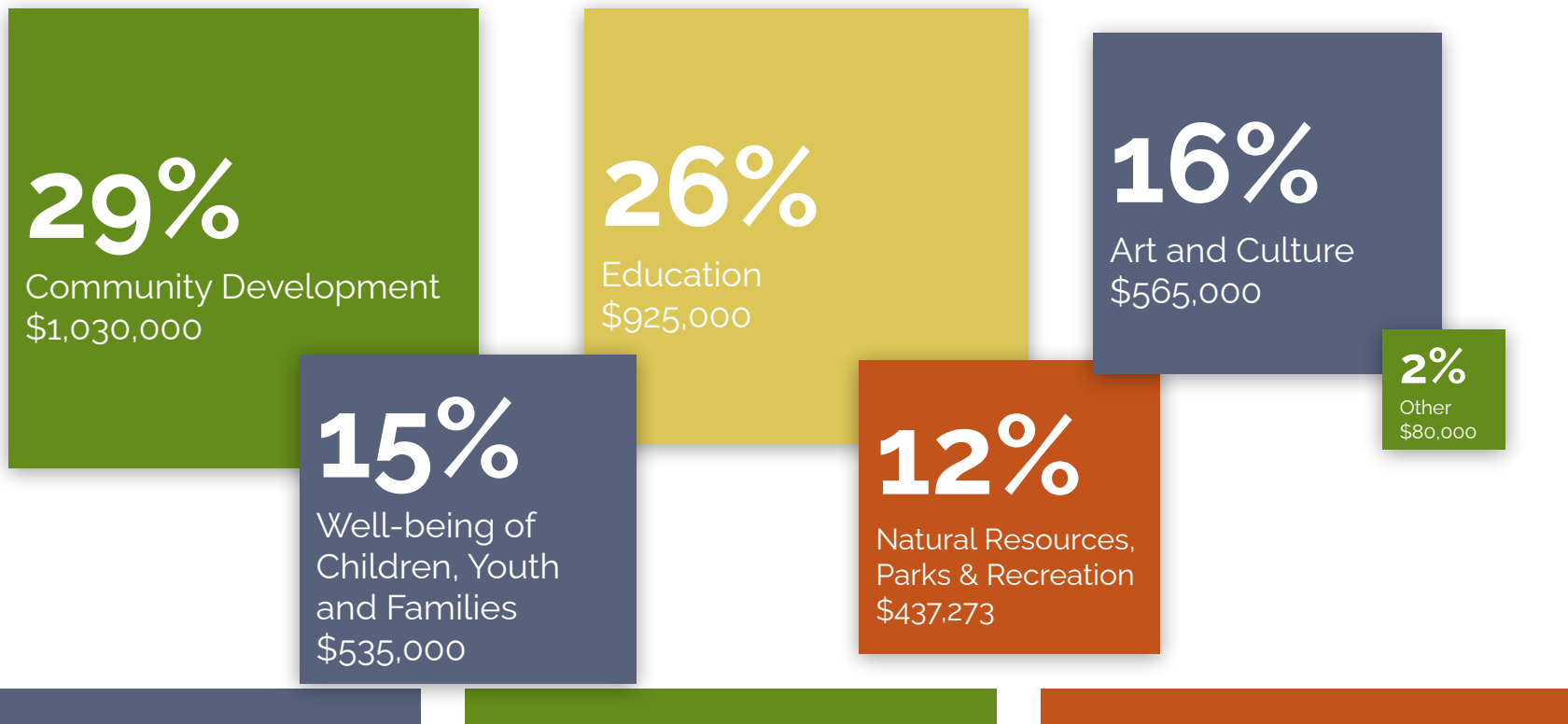
Community  
Development  
\$882,500

**7%**

Informed  
Communities  
\$375,000



# 2021 Responsive Grants Paid: \$3,572,273



# What's New

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- Foundation-wide focus on addressing **climate change** and advancing **diversity, equity and inclusion** across all programs
- Education increases focus on **rural education** (developing teacher talent, climate change education) and **out-of-system learning innovations**
- Natural Resources expands focus on **forest health** and **watershed restoration**
- **Informed Communities** formally becomes a fourth program area
- Community Development topics (mobility, food systems, placemaking, community planning) encompassed within new focus on **economic mobility** and **place-based community asset-building**, with a particular focus on **affordable housing**
- Increased focus on **leadership development** and **capital project planning support** for leaders and communities of color, and others needing early-stage support
- Increased percentage of Foundation assets dedicated toward **impact investments**





23%

## EQUITABLE EDUCATION

- Innovative Learning Environments
- Innovations in School Systems
- Conditions for Sustained Innovation



23%

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- Balanced Water Management
- Forest Health & Watershed Restoration
- Landscape Conservation & Land Trust Capacity



12%

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Economic Mobility
- Place-Based Community Assets



5%

## INFORMED COMMUNITIES

- Stronger Civic News Ecosystem
- Coverage in Gates' Core Focus Areas
- Inclusive News Leadership, Voices & Models



37%

## CAPITAL GRANTS

- Amplify Needs and Goals for Capital Projects
- Leadership and Capital Planning Support for Diverse Leaders



# CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

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We invest in capital projects because we believe that land and facilities are long-term assets that can help nonprofit and community organizations serve Colorado communities.

- Statewide – rural and urban
- Responsive to community needs
- Benefiting Colorado and its residents
- Gates grants often serving as matching dollars
- Median grant size is \$25,000 - \$30,000
- Building purchases or new construction
- Expansion or renovation
- Land acquisition
- Land conservation



# ARTS AND CULTURE

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*Artistic expression arouses the imagination, stimulates creativity, and prompts self-discovery.  
Organizations dedicated to art and culture enrich the spirit and enhance economic vitality.*

## **We support capital projects that:**

- enhance the cultural quality of community life while also strengthening the economy
- link a community with its heritage and contribute to usable community infrastructure
- serve as an educational resource for children, youth, and adults

## **Funding examples:**

- libraries and museums
- community theaters
- performing arts organizations
- historic preservation that contributes to community revitalization





# EDUCATION

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*Closing the achievement gap for children from low-income families and increasing access to experiential, lifelong learning for all Coloradans enhances the economic, social, and civic life of our communities.*

## **We support capital projects that:**

- serve a majority of low-income students
- build or improve education facilities that will be heavily used by a majority of the community
- increase access to education in rural areas
- provide learning opportunities for a broad audience

## **Funding examples:**

- charter schools seeking matching funds for a BEST grant
- rural schools improving an auditorium or athletic field for community use
- early childhood education centers
- GED, literacy, or vocational training centers



# WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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*Healthy individuals have greater opportunities to be productive members of society who contribute to the economic, social and cultural life of their communities.*

## **We support capital projects that:**

- develop the well-being and independence of disadvantaged families and the elderly
- increase leadership and life skills
- maintain good health and well-being rather than cure disease

## **Funding examples:**

- human service organizations promoting self-sufficiency
- community and senior centers
- family resource centers
- youth mentoring organizations
- transitional housing facilities
- job training centers



# PARKS AND RECREATION

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*Appreciation and conservation of Colorado's natural beauty, resources, and opportunities for outdoor recreation are fundamental to the quality of life and the economy of the state.*

## **We support capital projects that:**

- protect and steward land and water resources, habitat, and the health of natural systems
- preserve the state's agricultural legacy
- construct and improve parks, trail systems, and open space for public recreation and access
- provide environmental education and leadership opportunities for young people

## **Funding examples:**

- land conservation and easement purchases
- greenways and trail systems
- outdoor/indoor recreation facilities
- urban public spaces and community gardens



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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*The economic health of the state is dependent on the vitality of all of its communities, large and small, urban and rural.*

## **We support capital projects that:**

- create economic opportunity, add to the quality of life, and enhance stability for the residents of a community
- involve partnerships between public and private sector organizations that seek to improve the economic and cultural health of communities

## **Funding examples:**

- restoration of historically significant architecture that contributes to community revitalization
- heritage tourism or development of rural main streets as a means of promoting economic health for rural areas
- public-private partnerships for economic development



# Capital Grants: How to Apply

## Outreach to Program Officers (Lisa Rucker or Focus Area)

- Send an email
- Submit an inquiry via online form
- Call to talk through your idea

## Submit Application

- Use the Colorado Capital Common Grant Application
- Proposal deadlines: **March 15 and September 15**
- See full at details at: [www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org/how-to-apply](http://www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org/how-to-apply)

## Gates Board Decision & Grant Agreement

- Decisions at meetings in June and December
- Notification, grant contracts signed, funds released
- Ongoing communication w/program officer
- Interim and final reports

# CAPACITY BUILDING

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*Within the capital grants program, Gates also supports organizations that build capacity and leadership in the business, government, and nonprofit sectors*

- Nonprofit capacity building
  - Community Resource Center
  - Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Leadership development
  - Gates Harvard Fellowship
  - CiviCo Fellowship



# HARVARD GATES FELLOWS

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The Foundation has sent almost 300 state and local officials from across Colorado to Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government's program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government

- Two three-week in-person sessions held over the summer
- Fellowship covers \$16,000 of the \$16,900 tuition costs
- The Foundation typically selects seven Fellows each year
- Fellows represent all sectors of government

**Deadline to apply for 2022 fellowship is March 8**

<https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/types-of-support/gates-fellowship/>





# STRATEGIC GRANTS PROGRAM

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Our program officers initiate partnerships and projects with path-leading organizations throughout the state in order to leverage our impact in four areas we believe are vital to protecting long-term quality of life for all Coloradans: **public K-12 education, natural resources, community development and informed communities**

- Project and organizational support
- Align with key interests in each focus area
- Portfolio approach drives large-scale outcomes
- Statewide – rural and urban
- Initiated by Gates Family Foundation staff
- Inquiries welcome; apply by invitation



# Application Process for Strategic Grants

## Outreach to Program Officers (By Focus Area)

- Send an email
- Submit an inquiry via online form
- Call to talk through your idea

## Define the Project & Submit Application

- Back and forth process
- Define learning questions, goals, project milestones, impact indicators
- May take 1-6 months
- Time-sensitive proposals may be fast-tracked

## Gates Board Decision & Grant Agreement

- Decisions at meetings in April, June, September, December
- Notification, grant contracts signed, funds released
- Ongoing communication w/program officer
- Interim and final reports

# Questions From The Community

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- ▣ Does your Foundation-level commitment to advancing equity mean you expect to fund more BIPOC-led organizations?
- ▣ How will your focus on climate change impact priorities in your capital grants program (and others)?
- ▣ Are you still interested in historic buildings and preservation?
- ▣ Do you have a preference for ongoing program versus shorter-term projects?

*Please view the last 15-20 minutes of the video for answers!*



# What's Next?

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

- ▣ **Education** (Feb.28, Noon to 1 p.m. MT)
- ▣ **Community Development** (March 1, Noon to 1 p.m. MT)
- ▣ **Natural Resources** (March 2, Noon to 1 p.m. MT)
- ▣ **Informed Communities** (March 3, Noon to 1 p.m. MT)
- ▣ **Impact Investments** (March 14, Noon to 1 p.m. MT)





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# Thank You

Let's keep the conversation going!