



WHO WE ARE

For 80 years, Gates Family Foundation has partnered with communities across Colorado to help build a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future. Deeply rooted in the state, the **Foundation invests in people, places, natural resources, and civic institutions that strengthen communities and create opportunity for future generations**. Guided by values of **respect, creativity, engagement, place, and equity**, the Foundation works alongside communities to expand opportunity across Colorado.

Through listening, learning, convening, and investing alongside local leaders, the Foundation supports community-driven solutions that strengthen communities today and for the future. Guided by trust, learning, innovation, and a commitment to helping communities shape their own futures, the Foundation works as a collaborative partner in creating lasting impact across Colorado. This work includes a focus on **responsive capital and strategic grantmaking** across four core focus areas: **Community Development, Informed Communities, Natural Resources, and Public Education**. Together, these investments expand pathways to economic opportunity, strengthen access to trusted information, steward Colorado's lands and waters, and support great teaching and student success.



By investing in both the conditions and the systems that help communities thrive, the Foundation seeks to create lasting benefits for Colorado today and for generations to come.

WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

Colorado is home to a diverse network of local news organizations, public media outlets, and trusted messengers that help residents understand and engage with the issues affecting their communities. At the same time, the state is **experiencing many of the challenges affecting information ecosystems nationwide, including newsroom closures, declining local reporting capacity, increasing public distrust, and a growing mix of reliable and unreliable sources of information**. Rapid changes in technology, audience behavior, and business models continue to disrupt how information is created, distributed, and consumed.

The Foundation sees an opportunity to support a **stronger and more adaptive information ecosystem by investing in the relationships, infrastructure, and community-centered approaches that help people access trustworthy, locally relevant information**. Local news and trusted information sources are critical community assets that help residents stay informed, participate in civic life, build connections across differences, and strengthen the social fabric of Colorado communities. We support public-interest media and communications that serve historically ignored communities and provide platforms for underrepresented storytellers.

OUR APPROACH



The Foundation focuses on **strengthening the shared systems and infrastructure that underpin Colorado's local news and information ecosystem**, supporting **local news organizations as well as the intermediaries, networks, and support organizations that help the field build sustainable business models, adapt to changing conditions, and serve communities over the long term**.

**TRUSTED LOCAL INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD**

Strengthening access to reliable, community-relevant information that elevates community voices, broadens representation, and supports civic participation and accountability.

**SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY WORK**

Investing in operational systems that reduce costs and allow organizations to focus on serving their communities.

**SUSTAINABLE REVENUE FOR LONG-TERM RESILIENCE**

Building scalable revenue systems that strengthen financial stability over time.

**COLLABORATION THAT STRENGTHENS THE ECOSYSTEM**

Supporting partnerships and shared efforts that expand reach and reduce duplication.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- Investments that **build shared capacity across Colorado's information ecosystem** by supporting public interest media, trusted information sources, **and collaborative infrastructure that benefit multiple organizations and communities**, particularly historically ignored communities and underrepresented storytellers.
- **Shared systems and infrastructure that create long-term value.**
- **Cross-sector coalitions** that reduce fragmentation, build capacity, and support more inclusive decision-making.
- Approaches that **strengthen sustainability and collaboration.**

WHAT HAS CHANGED

- We are focusing more on long-term solutions that strengthen the entire system.
- Investing less in one-time projects and more in shared infrastructure, while also prioritizing sustainable approaches that last beyond initial funding.

