



LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION IMPACT DENVER



IMPACT DENVER COMMUNITY PROJECT FAQs

What is Impact Denver and what are community projects?

Impact Denver is a Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation program that puts emerging professionals on the fast track to making an impact in our community. Over a six-month period, class participants engage in pressing community issues and connect with others passionate about civic leadership. A major part of the experience challenges participants to work in teams of five to six on a project in partnership with a local nonprofit organization. The projects serve as an avenue for program participants to practice their civic leadership skills and give community organizations added resources through an energized group of volunteers ready to work on projects to help carry organizations' mission forward.

What can an Impact Denver project team do for my organization?

Impact Denver participants are an eager group of professionals looking to engage with the community. This a great opportunity for an organization to get a group of engaged volunteers to help carry out short-term projects to help advance their mission. If selected to work with an Impact Denver project team, an organization will be eligible to receive a \$500 contribution from the Leadership Foundation.

Who is eligible to submit a proposal for and Impact Denver project team?

Organizations that are registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit or government equivalent that serve in the Denver metro area are eligible to apply. Programs or organizations that operate through a fiscal agent designated as a 501(c)3 are also eligible. Nonprofits that have applied for a 501(c)3 status but have not yet received designation are not eligible.

What are the guidelines for project proposals?

- Projects must be located in the seven-county Denver metro area region (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Elbert, Douglas or Jefferson).
- Proposed projects should have a measurable impact.
- The project should be achievable, resulting in a realistic end-product or recommendation during a six-month period.
- The board or leadership of the organization must be fully aware and approve the project plan.
- The Impact Denver project team is expected to make a final presentation about their project results to your board, executive committee or executive director.
- The following types of proposals will not be considered
 - o Projects that are partisan or religious in nature
 - o Projects with fundraising as primary purpose
 - o Projects solely aimed at event planning

What kind of projects are selected by Impact Denver participants?

Impact Denver project teams have selected projects from organizations representing different industries and fields including, but not limited to education, technology, finance, youth development and environmental stewardship. Proposals range in scope from program creation, marketing and research and development among others. While various kinds of projects are selected, projects that connect Impact Denver participants directly to the populations served by the organization are more popular.



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In writing your proposal, be clear on your expectations for the project, whether you are expecting the team to solve a problem, provide an action plan or implement a solution. When class members evaluate proposals, they look at the scope of the project, if the project will result in added value and if the project will require participants to use a variety of leadership skills.

How are proposals selected?

Class projects are initially screened by Leadership Foundation staff to make sure they meet basic requirements. Participants are then divided into teams of five or six people and assigned proposals to review as a team on the first day of class. Teams develop criteria for proposal selection and notify Leadership Foundation staff of their selection. Team skills consist of: accounting, legal, marketing, and non-profit management. Selected organizations will be notified and contacted by a representative from the Impact Denver project team.

How will I know if my proposal was selected?

Leadership Foundation staff will notify selected participants after Impact Denver selects their projects at the beginning of the program. A member of the team will then reach out to the selected organization to set up an in-person meeting to determine the next steps with the project. Proposals that were not selected will also be notified.

What is my organization's role and in the partnership with an Impact Denver team?

Community partners will identify a contact person to be the primary resource to Impact Denver teams throughout the project. Once Impact Denver teams select proposals, a Leadership Foundation staff member will connect the team with their nonprofit partner to create a plan of execution of the project. Nonprofit contacts serve as the primary resource for Impact Denver teams to learn about the organization, work with the teams to outline the scope of the project and provide project teams with any resources they may need to complete the project throughout the six-month period. In addition, the contact will work with Impact Denver team members to coordinate a closeout presentation with the nonprofit's leader (i.e. executive director, board, senior staff members, etc.) to report on what was learned and accomplish during the project.

Impact Denver participants seek to make a difference in their community and are committed to investing the time to work with community partners. The Leadership Foundation seeks the same commitment from the nonprofits that work with this program. Please consider the capacity of your organization to commit to working with Impact Denver over the six-month duration of the project before submitting a proposal.

Is there a financial benefit to partnering with Impact Denver?

If selected to partner with a project team, an organization will be eligible for a \$500 contribution from the Leadership Foundation at the end of the program. Each project team will document and report on their accomplishments and experiences with the project on the final day of the program to the cohort. The cohort will then vote and select one organization to be awarded the \$500 contribution.

I want to submit a project proposal. What are the next steps?

Please submit a project proposal electronically. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact Jenna Diaz-Gonzalez at Jenna.Diaz-Gonzalez@denverleadership.org or 303-620-8073.

>> SUBMIT A PROJECT PROPOSAL HERE

