

Worthy Cause IV 2025

Questions submitted in July 2024

Q&A

Important Information

- August 28, 2024 at 4pm –Application process with close. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants must be:
 - a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization registered and in Good Standing with the Colorado Secretary of State
 - a Housing Authority or an Agency providing human services
 - Located and operating in Boulder County
- Review the [Request for Funding](#) document before submitting your application.

[Boulder County Worthy Cause Webpage](#)

[Boulder County Worthy Cause application](#)

Q: We would be applying for the first time and wish to learn as much as possible about the application process and how best to request funding from Worthy Cause.

A: You can find more information on the Boulder County Worthy Cause webpage. Specifically, please review the Request for Funding document.

<https://bouldercounty.gov/government/your-taxes-at-work/worthy-cause-sales-tax/>

Q: I want to understand the parameters around debt reduction. I believe that you can't exceed funding for more than 50% of the value of the property. Is that based on the actual value of the property or the assessed value of the property?

A: Award amounts will not exceed 50% of the total Project cost, even if the project has been/will be funded over multiple years. This is based on the total Project cost. Property value depends on the circumstances of the project. For example, if the Worthy Cause applicant has owned the property for a number of years, property value might be tied to the current assessed value. If the Worthy Cause applicant intends to purchase, or has recently purchased, the property, the property value might be tied to the purchase price.

Q: We would like to understand the matching requirements for Worthy Cause grant funding.

A: There are no specific matching requirements, but Worthy Cause award amounts may not exceed 50% of the total cost of the funded project.

Q: We are a 501(c)3 organization and we provide outreach services throughout Boulder, Denver, Jefferson County, and the Saint Vrain Valley including in-school outreach in Title 1 schools, performance outreach programs at retirement homes, and much more. You can read more about us [here](#). We are hoping to find affordable housing in Boulder under the umbrella of Parlando for our faculty members who are all Colorado-based musicians.

Based on this information, would we be eligible to apply for funding?

A: No – Only capital expenditures incurred by non-profit human services agencies and housing authorities are eligible for Worthy Cause awards.

Q: Are there any long-term obligations or attachments to the property associated with the grant if funded?

A: Yes, Worthy Cause Funding Agreements require that an agency continue to use the funded capital expenditure to deliver its human services for a term of 99 years. This obligation is secured by a Deed of Trust and, in some cases, a Restrictive Covenant, which are recorded on the property benefitting from the capital expenditure.

Q: Are there any restrictions on how the grant funds can be used within our capital campaign?

A: Please review Section 2 under "Worthy Cause Eligibility Requirements" in the [Request for Funding](#) guidance.

Q: Can you provide examples of past successful capital campaign grant projects funded by your organization?

A: The list of Worthy Cause Investment on the Worthy Cause webpage at <https://bouldercounty.gov/government/your-taxes-at-work/worthy-cause-sales-tax/>

Q: Are there any reporting or evaluation requirements after receiving the grant?

A: We require an annual certificate of compliance.

Q: How does your organization measure the impact of the grants it provides for capital campaigns?

A: We don't have any evaluation measurements after the award is approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Q: What is the process for getting contractor bids for the project?

A: This is not a question that we can answer for you.

Q: Does the grant cover rental costs for kitchen equipment during the remodel?

A: No – please review Section 2(a) under "Worthy Cause Eligibility Requirements" in the [Request for Funding](#) guidance.

Q: Are appliances included in grant costs?

A: No – please review Section 2(a) under "Worthy Cause Eligibility Requirements" in the [Request for Funding](#) guidance.

Q: Are we able to include repaving of a driveway and a new automatic gate?

A: Yes, these items would qualify as capital expenditures under the Worthy Cause Program.

Q: If we use one amount (which we believe is what costs will be) and find out that it will be less, can we readjust our amount even if we have already been accepted?

A: The award amount cannot be increased, but may be decreased as long as it is no less than \$75,000.

Q: Can we apply for this with 2 goals in mind? Something like debt reduction and capital purchases?

A: No. You must select one category when submitting your application. If something changes from award notification to executing of the Funding Agreement, contact the Worthy Cause Investment Coordinator (cokiyama@bouldercounty.gov).

Q: Would like clarification on the difference between HSSSN, HSF, and BCDCS funding.

A: This question is not related to the Worthy Cause 2025 application process.

Q: Worthy Cause specifies that "The Applicant cannot rent out any portion of the Property to any other entity except other nonprofit human services organizations."

A: Please review Section 4(d) under "Worthy Cause Eligibility Requirements" in the Request for Funding guidance

Q: Are requests for debt reduction ranked equally with a building purchase?

A: Applications are reviewed on the merits of the application, the pool of applicants and the available funding.

Q: Could the Worthy Cause funding be used to create opportunities to reduce energy costs for participants living/working at a first Microgrid community in Boulder County? Our project is in the early stages of design but our mission is to develop a small mixed use development that addresses climate change, wildfire resiliency, and reductions on the dependance on fossil fuels. Would such a project be eligible for assistance to address capital costs, extremely high land costs at the location of the project in Original Town Superior? The Xcel Energy power outages that occurred for three consecutive days starting on April 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024 caused many families and businesses to lose frozen and perishable food. We would like to apply for funding to assist with predevelopment costs to become a mixed use microgrid demonstration. Could our team apply for assistance toward predevelopment costs for the design/development of such a microgrid? Our team has applied to the Colorado DOLA Microgrid grant program and if awarded funding could we use these grant funds as the required 50% match with the Worthy Cause funds? Would owner expenses and owner equity of the proposes Superior Microgrid be considered eligible as 50% match?

A: Worthy Cause funds are not awarded for predevelopment costs. There is no 50% match requirement, but Worthy Cause awards may not exceed 50% of the total project cost.

Questions from the July 16
meeting.

Q: Do the capital projects need to support educational programs or can they support general human services?

A: Capital projects eligible for Worthy Cause awards are those undertaken by non-profit human services agencies and housing authorities within Boulder County providing health, mental health, transitional and permanently affordable housing, and other human services, including but not limited to childcare and early childhood education, basic needs such as food and clothing, services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Q: Can we do one application for multiple projects for BCHA? If we can do one application, should we ask for a total for BCHA or breakout cost by each property?

A: You must submit a separate application for each project.

Q: Are the funding priorities for this grant split equally between housing authorities and human service providers?

A: The investments/awards are decided based on the merits of the application, the Board of County Commissioners priorities, pool of applicants and available funds.

Q: Can we submit for two capital projects within one site?

A: You can, however, make sure that the application is clear and concise.

Q: What qualifies as a "commitment of sale"?

A: Any written document signed by both parties demonstrating one party's promise to sell and to other party's promise to purchase a property.

Q: When will we be notified if we had a successful application (month)

A: Award notification will be sent in Fall 2024, most likely in November.

Q: Does WC award multi year grants?

A: No. We open a new fund round every year.

Q: If we have an affordable housing project but not yet sure about the extent of units that will be attainable and affordable units. Do identify the total possible units and ask for assistance accordingly?

A: Yes, you should provide as much information as you can about the project when you submit your application, and we recommend being specific about the minimum number of affordable units you intend to include in your project. To the extent your application is vague or indefinite, you are less likely to receive a Worthy Cause award.

Q. Our same project has applied for funding with the state and federal government to create an Energy Cooperative as a Public Benefit Company. The public benefit Energy Cooperative would occur in a separate building (within the same development) set up to assist all households served at the same Microgrid which would include some number of affordable units. The Energy Cooperative would be assisting for 99 years affordable housing homeowners at the site. This would be an example of a separate application right?

A: If you have more than one owner in your project that is eligible for a Worthy Cause award, you will want to submit separate applications on behalf of each owner. Keep in mind that only non-profit human services agencies and housing authorities are eligible for Worthy Cause awards.

Q: Can you share the amount of tax dollars that is in the 'pool' to distribute through WC 2025?

A: The estimated amount available in 2025 is \$4.1 million.

Q: If Worthy Cause helped us to purchase a building and then we have improved on it, increasing its value. Does the debt reduction formula still apply in terms of debt reduction covering only the original purchase price?

A: Yes, debt reduction is based on your original purchase price, not the assessed value of the property.

Follow up to this question Would like clarification on the difference between HSSSN, HSF, and BCDCS funding.

Q: Received an email linking to HSSN and concerns about overlapping funding and reduction in Worthy Cause funding? Looking for clarification.

A: we are not making any changes to the Worthy Cause language.