

Boulder County Search and Rescue and Trail Safety Grants

Spring 2026 Grant Round Eligibility and Requirements

Description and Purpose

The [Search and Rescue and Trail Safety Grant Program](#) is funded by the Boulder County Emergency Services Sales and Use Tax. Grants are awarded annually in the spring to help enhance emergency services and trail and trailhead safety services in Boulder County.

Grants can be applied toward:

- 1) **Capital, including facilities and equipment**, and operational costs of search and rescue organizations that can assist the County in responding to emergencies.
- 2) **Trail and trailhead safety services** to increase emergency response and public safety on public trails and open space/recreational areas in Boulder County.
- 3) **Innovative pilot program proposals** to enhance emergency response and public safety on public trails and open space/recreational areas in Boulder County.

Eligibility and Criteria

The Spring 2026 grant pool is open to search and rescue groups and any agency or organization working to make public trails and recreational areas in Boulder County safer and more accessible for all community members.

Eligible Applicants:

- Organizations that serve public trails and open space/recreational areas in Boulder County by providing:
 - Search and Rescue, and/or
 - Trail and Trailhead Safety services.
- Applicant must:
 - Provide services (wholly or in part) within Boulder County.
 - Demonstrate sound fiscal standing and responsibility.

Proposal Requirements:

Proposed projects (or requests) must demonstrate a need to be filled and serve to benefit users of public trails and open space/recreational areas **in Boulder County**.

Specifically, proposals should include responses to the following criteria:

- a) Fills a gap or need that will enhance an organization's effectiveness in either of these categories:
 - a. Search and Rescue (SAR)
 - b. Trail and Trailhead Safety Services
- b) Enhances emergency response of Search and Rescue and Trail and Trailhead Safety Services.

- c) Demonstrates positive fiscal impact (shows an ability to maintain project/program/service over time, provide matching funds, or reduce expenses for eligible organizations).
- d) Encourages replicability or collaboration across agencies and organizations.
- e) Seeks to address safety and risk concerns equitably and inclusively for all community members.

Grants Criteria:

- All-inclusive one-time grants only (no multi-year or ongoing grants).
- Awarded grants do not require repayment but must be substantiated with receipts within one year of funding.
- Cooperative and cross-organization grant applications and proposals that enhance coordination between organizations are encouraged.
- Availability of matching requirements or matching funds availability should be noted in the application but is not a requirement for funding.
- Boulder County promotes equity and inclusion of all community members. You will be asked to describe how your proposal promotes equity for all members of the community.

Completion of Project Requirements:

Boulder County requires reporting and documentation for awardees. Awardees will be asked to submit a final report identifying the project's accomplishments, such as:

- A brief narrative describing the use of funding,
- Proof of purchase/expenditures for the approved project/program,
- List of partners who contributed to the project (if applicable),
- Digital photos showing grant award funds in use.

Application Instructions

Link to Application:

Eligible applicants can [apply using the grant application portal](#) starting March 10.

Deadline to Apply

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Organizations must submit a completed application by the due date to be considered for funding.

Instructions

- Please carefully read Instructions For Using The Grant Platform and reply with specific responses and expenditures for each Narrative section:
 - **Section A:** Organization Information
 - **Section B:** Project/Proposal Description
 - **Section C:** Timeline, Detailed Funding Request, and Other Attachments

- Grant requests must be clearly explained in the Project Description section of the application and detailed expenditures must be included.
- Attachments can be documentation that directly supports the grant application, but these items may not be submitted in place of answering the questions on the Application.

Questions and Answers:

How much money is anticipated for the spring grant program?

Boulder County anticipates that \$500,000 will be available for distribution for the **2026** Spring Grant Program.

How are projects evaluated and awarded?

Award amounts will be determined using criteria including, but not limited to:

- The described organization and/or proposal need,
- Impact and reach of the organization and financial resources available to the organization,
- Number of organizations that apply for a grant,
- Whether a grant was received last grant cycle,
- Description and reasonableness of funding request.

Note: In some cases, an award may be partially granted instead of the full request. Please prioritize the list of items in your request in order of preference if your request includes multiple items or projects.

Who will decide how the funding is distributed?

The funds available under the Grant Program are at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners and will be determined on an annual basis. The Emergency Services Grant Program Advisory Committee, comprised of volunteer Boulder County residents, makes recommendations to the county commissioners on grant funding.

Funding will be awarded on a project-to-project basis depending upon described need, strategic value, and available funding. Boulder County reserves the right to award full or partial funding to successful applicants. Funding must be spent within one year from receipt of an award.

What is required at the project's completion?

Boulder County requires reporting and documentation for awardees. Awardees will be asked to submit a final report identifying the project's accomplishments, including:

- 1) Summary of the project,
- 2) Receipts or other proof of use of funds,
- 3) List of partners who contributed to the project (if applicable),
- 4) Photos.