



# CENTENNIAL PROGRAM - VISIONING

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is excited to announce the largest initiative of its 2020 strategic plan, the Centennial Program. Through this nearly \$100 million program, GOCO will invest in high-value, once-in-a-generation projects that will have transformative impacts on the state and future generations.

Over GOCO's 30-year history, certain investments have had a catalytic impact, transforming communities and creating destinations where residents and visitors can appreciate Colorado's great outdoors. Whether it's a vast protected open space between two major metropolitan areas, a significant regional trail connecting communities, or an equine pavilion that draws upon Colorado's storied western heritage, GOCO's milestone investments continue to define, refine, and shape Colorado communities. The Centennial Program provides another opportunity to accelerate transformational projects across the state.

The Centennial Program visioning opportunity aims to support planning efforts that tackle complex, multi-faceted, and potentially multi-site projects that would otherwise take years to complete. We recognize that it takes time for a community to develop and refine a vision for projects that are more complex, more expensive, longer-term, and encompass multiple conservation and outdoor recreation values. The visioning phase of the Centennial Program is intended to give partners the time and resources required to bring people and organizations together, build trust, develop a shared vision, and move towards a common implementation goal. Selected partners will be invited to submit an application for implementation funds through the Centennial Program beginning in 2023. Grants of up to \$10 million will be available to help communities realize their vision.

Through this program applicants may request funding, as needed, for the following:

- Capacity support for existing staff, community members, outside experts, facilitation professionals, and/or consultants;
- Planning, convening, and collaboration costs including travel; community surveys and/or other data gathering efforts;
- Project management and design documents;
- Research, clearances, surveys, and/or other government requirements necessary to move the vision forward.



Proposed visions must reflect two or more of GOCO's program values as identified in our 2020 strategic plan and outlined later in this document. These values are intentionally open to interpretation and definition by our partners; how they are or could be reflected in each community is unique.

GOCO regional program officers look forward to working with partners to ensure your valuable time is spent on projects that will compete well in this program. We know the needs of our statewide network are vast and we look forward to hearing your ideas and working with you to advance visions throughout Colorado.

**ABOUT US:** GOCO invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. Our independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created by voters in 1992, GOCO has committed more than \$1.2 billion in lottery proceeds to more than 5,300 projects in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. For more information, please visit [www.GOCO.org](http://www.GOCO.org).

## General Guidance and Grant Information

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:** Contact your GOCO regional program officer to discuss your project in detail using the contact information on our staff [webpage](#). Together, you will determine whether your vision will compete well in the Centennial Program.

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:** This program is open to entities eligible to receive GOCO open space and local government funds as listed below. Ineligible entities can partner with an eligible entity to apply. GOCO will consider awarding funds to ineligible entities on a case-by-case basis; please contact your regional program officer to discuss. As always, GOCO strongly encourages partnerships.

- a. Colorado municipality or county
- b. Title 32 special district eligible to receive distributions from the Conservation Trust Fund
- c. Political subdivision of the State of Colorado that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas
- d. 501(c)(3) non-profit land conservation organization that includes in its mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas, e.g., land trusts
- e. Colorado Parks and Wildlife



**APPLYING:** Applicants must first submit a concept paper in consultation with your GOCO regional program officer. GOCO will accept concept papers on a rolling basis up to the deadlines listed [here](#). Staff will collectively consider concept papers and invite the most competitive projects to submit a full application. GOCO may ask clarifying questions of applicants at the concept or application stage to better understand your project. We may also seek additional written information for certain proposals. The content of conversations and any additional information submitted become part of the concept or application and open for discussion during staff or peer review as a means of vetting the merit of individual projects.

**PROGRAM VALUES:** Projects should encompass one or more of GOCO's program values as identified in our [2020 strategic plan](#):

*Resource conservation* | We value strategic land conservation and resource protection work.

*Outdoor stewardship* | We support sustainability of and improvements to the state's natural and recreational resources.

*Community vitality* | We invest in conservation and outdoor recreation efforts that support communities and quality of life.

*Equitable access* | We partner with communities to break down barriers to the outdoors.

*Youth connections* | We believe children and their families deserve opportunities to get outside and experience all the benefits of doing so.

**GRANT AMOUNT AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS:** GOCO will consider grant requests between \$50,000 and \$150,000, with consideration for requests outside that range on a case-by-case basis. Please remember that GOCO serves communities throughout Colorado and appreciates applicants keeping requests reasonable and reflective of expected outcomes. Applicants will work with their GOCO regional program officer to customize a request and match amount for your project based on your community's ability to match and to identify expenses eligible as match.

**TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Applicants will work with their GOCO regional program officer to customize a timeline for your project based on the various deliverables. GOCO will prioritize projects that will begin immediately upon notice of award or execution of a grant agreement.

**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:** The applicant or partner entity must own or have control over the property upon which the proposed project will take place. GOCO requires a formal agreement



between parties when the applicant is not the owner or controlling entity. Applicants seeking funding for projects involving federal land must discuss the proposal with GOCO staff prior to submitting a concept paper or application. GOCO cannot fund the recreational development of a property that a government entity condemned specifically for that recreational development. GOCO may consider participating in recreational development on lands previously acquired through condemnation for a purpose *other* than recreational development.

**WILDLIFE REVIEW:** Applicants should work with their GOCO regional program officer and the local CPW Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) to understand, document, and mitigate any impacts to wildlife habitat. GOCO's regional program officer will provide the wildlife review form along with AWM contact information, upon request and as a component of the application packet. We ask that you contact the AWM well in advance of the application deadline.

**ELIGIBLE COSTS AND MATCH:** The following table, though not comprehensive, outlines specific eligible costs for this program. Please discuss any potential project expenses with GOCO to determine the eligibility of those expenses prior to applying.

ELIGIBLE COSTS
Costs associated with project planning/coordination/implementation/communications/celebration
Staff expenses incurred by the applicant and any contracted service providers for professional services directly related to project outcomes and administration
Contracted or consulting services
Facilitation, training, and workshops
Costs of surveys, engineering, design, GIS/mapping, etc.

**PROPOSAL REVIEW:** The guidelines and criteria that inform GOCO's project review and decision-making process is available on our website, GOCO's *Grantmaking Philosophy*. GOCO strives to support applicants through the application process with feedback and guidance to minimize the investment of time and resources on concepts and applications deemed less competitive. GOCO is committed to a fair, equitable, and efficient review process from concept papers to applications and will use a consensus-based process to arrive at funding recommendations. GOCO relies upon on the collective wisdom of reviewers rather than vesting power or authority in individual reviewers.



GOCO staff will review concept papers on a rolling basis, prior to the concept paper submission deadline for the concurrent grant cycle. The concepting stage is an iterative process between GOCO's regional program officers and partners to generate the best possible proposal for any given grant round. GOCO staff will evaluate the merit of each proposal and assess the project's relative potential to help advance one or more of GOCO's program values. GOCO staff will invite successful concept paper applicants to submit a full application and will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Invited applications submitted by the due date are subject to a formal peer review process where GOCO will convene a group of peer reviewers to evaluate project merit. Reviewers will assess each application, including any additional supplemental or clarifying information submitted. As with the concept paper review, GOCO will provide feedback, to unsuccessful applicants.

## **Grant Administration Information**

If a grant is awarded, GOCO will assign a Grants Officer to work with the project lead on all aspects of grant administration including execution of a grant agreement, reporting criteria, and grant payment options.

GOCO prefers to disburse funds on a reimbursement basis with a single payment occurring when the project is completed. However, grantees can request one progress payment of up to 50% of the grant amount prior to project completion with the remaining 50% paid upon project completion. Should either reimbursement option create barriers for project completion, please discuss available alternatives, including advanced and partial advanced payments, with your regional program officer.

Please contact a Grants Officer now if additional grant administration information is a necessary consideration prior to application. You can find relevant contact information at the link below.

## **Contact**

Our Grant Programs team is available to discuss your project and proposal so feel free to reach out using the contact information found on our staff [webpage](#). We look forward to working with you!



CENTENNIAL PROGRAM - VISIONING  
**CONCEPT PAPER**

## Project Summary Information

Project Title:

Applicant Organization:

Applicant Name:

Partner Organization (if applicable):

Partner Name (if applicable):

Amount Requested:

Estimated Total Project Cost:

Estimated Grant Period (years):

Brief Project Description (limit to space provided, below)



Please submit a concise narrative using the following prompts. Responses need not follow the formatting below but should answer all considerations put forth. Please limit narrative responses to 2 pages:

- Describe vision and scope of the open space and/or outdoor recreation amenity (or amenities) you envision for your community, including the partners involved and their respective roles. Discuss the issue, need, and/or opportunity your vision seeks to address. Discuss how this vision is transformative for the community or communities served. Discuss how your visioning will contribute to the vibrancy, resiliency and/or fabric of the community and surrounding natural resources.
- Discuss any barriers that exist to fully realizing this vision and how GOCO funding will support partners to overcome them. Describe the timeline needed for visioning and approximate a timeline for implementation.

## **Budget**

Please use the GOCO Budget Form provided on the [program page](#).