

Questions from LIFT Off!

Below are the questions¹ that were submitted during the LIFT Off! event on May 20th, 2025 to launch the LIFT Academy (Learning Initiative for Fighting Homelessness Together):

Q: Can we have the slides?

A: Yes, the slides can be found [here](#). The videos from the various sessions can be found on the [landing page](#).

Q: Can we do a street outreach working group?

A: While the exact topics for the Learning Circles haven't been finalized, they will be shaped by input from THR recipients to ensure they are relevant and responsive to your needs.

Q: Will there be an opportunity to connect in a 1:1 capacity with the panel?

A: While there was not an opportunity to connect directly with the funders on May 20th, there will be opportunities to connect with funders throughout the LIFT Academy.

Q: What/who are these national funders interested in Colorado housing and Homelessness???? Can you give us specific examples (name em) of those national funders who are open to what we're doing? :) :

A: The following list includes some of the key funders to explore:

CO:

- Daniels: <https://www.danielsfund.org/colorado>
- Kaiser Permanente (Colorado): <https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/commitments-and-impact/healthy-communities/communities-we-serve/colorado-community/contact-us>
- St. Johns Cathedral: <https://sjcathedral.org/grants/>
- William McGowan Foundation: Denver or Eagle Counties: <https://williamgmcgowanfund.org/how-to-apply/>

National:

- Borealis Philanthropy has several funds which may be germane to your work: [Our Funds | Borealis Philanthropy](#)
- Nord Family Foundation: [Apply for a Grant | The Nord Family Foundation](#)
- Wells Fargo Foundation: [Grant Process](#)
- Bank of America Foundation: [FAQs for the Bank of America Charitable Foundation Request for Proposal \(RFP\) grants](#)

¹ The questions are reflected as they were submitted verbatim.

- Mutual of America Community Partnership Awards:
https://mutualofamerica.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9srfr08vtkOnSsK

The following funders do not take unsolicited applications, but it is worth looking at your network to see who is connected to them:

<https://melvilletrust.org/>
<https://www.ballmergroup.org/>
<https://www.aecf.org/grant-making>
<https://crankstart.org/>
<https://www.raikesfoundation.org/grants-partners>
<https://www.bezosdayonefund.org/>

Q: Also can we confirm that Mabel's group is a loan-only program? Thx

A: NFF provides a diverse set of loans: term loans, predevelopment loans, bridge loans, NMTC loans, and under special Program Related Investments we provide working capital loans. The rates and structure of the loan can vary. We also provide lines of credits. See more here: <https://nff.org/financing>.

Q: How is the funding community thinking about all of the federal funding cuts --to federal agencies and universities? Is there any hope that some funds may be reinstated through the courts? Or are the funds gone permanently?

A: The philanthropic funding community is actively convening and responding to the significant federal funding cuts affecting U.S. universities and federal agencies. Some private philanthropy is stepping up to mitigate the impact though leaders have acknowledged that it cannot fully replace the scale and scope of federal support. Examples include: (1) The MacArthur Foundation has raised its annual payout from 5% to 6% and is encouraging other foundations to do the same, (2) The Mellon Foundation has allocated \$15 million in emergency funds to support state humanities councils affected by cuts to the National Endowment for the Humanities, and (2) The Marguerite Casey Foundation committed \$130 million to organizations promoting racial and economic justice, countering federal reductions in DEI-related funding.

Several court cases are in process to address the reduction in federal funding but none have yet reached conclusion.

Q: With the threat of federal grant and HUD funding cuts, how can municipalities maintain program funding knowing many foundation funds are not available to municipalities.

A: There are many ways to address these types of challenges. A simple solution could include leveraging local nonprofits who are eligible for the funding. If nonprofits are active in this space, please coordinate your application efforts with them to avoid duplication and strengthen collaboration. If there are no nonprofits in your region doing this work, consider reaching out to local foundations to explain the limitations created by their criteria.

Q: Across my unhoused programs, I can identify ways in which we could improve the support that we are able to provide through more funding. How would we go to funders to show unique innovation towards identified issues to ask for funding within grants that may not be new in a time of uncertainty? Does that matter if we can show that the funding would be beneficial to the greater community and intersections of clients?

A: Unfortunately, there is not a one size fits all approach for funders. The answer to this will depend on the funder, the program, etc. This would be an excellent question to address in our 1-on-1 Transformational Assistance!

Q: Mile high United way has started doing zoom style presentations for grant applications. It's incredible. It's so much more natural. Why don't more funders do this and how can the funding landscape change to meet the needs of the organization like a change in grant applications "this is the way we've always done it"

A: Similarly, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach for funders. We can all continue to encourage funders to interact with their applicants and grantees in different ways.

Q: Can we hear more about Medicaid revenue for supportive services? I believe Sara was speaking to this earlier in the panel conversation.

A: In the near future, the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) will participate in a Virtual Assembly and will provide updates on Medicaid and how it can be used for supportive services. [This is the current information](#) for peer support services and how HCPF defines them. There is a push to have non-recovery related peer support covered as well. Several local advocacy organizations are working to get more extensive Medicaid coverage for peer support writ large.

Q: What is NFF's metro Denver fund called?

A: It is called the Metro Denver Nonprofit Loan Fund (this fund is fully deployed). The fund was made possible under our fund management services we provide, see more here: <https://nff.org/investing-communities>.

Q: It might be helpful for Mabel to share how CDFI work, how do they get their funding?

A: You can learn more about what a CDFI is – as well as a CDFI locator that lists the CDFIs serving CO [here](#).

Q: Do you think there will be nonprofits that will close their doors in the next two Years?

A: Unfortunately, there is a possibility over the next two years of nonprofits having to adjust/reduce operations or even shut down due to reductions in federal and other funding types. The change in the philanthropic landscape has already led to closures, layoffs, and service disruptions across various sectors, including environmental justice, public health, education, and community development.

Q: Do you have any insight as to the state's plans / goals for ongoing funding?

A: The [Division of Housing Funding Opportunities web page](#) provides funding opportunities to identify affordable housing solutions and homelessness prevention. Discover various opportunities, including requests for proposals, applications, and notices of funding availabilities, all tailored to support vital housing solutions. Additionally, the page offers invaluable guidance on securing grants and loans for further housing development initiatives.

Q: Can Sara please repeat who she said to follow at the national level to track what non profits are most at risk with changing EO's? Thanks!

A: Consider following these two groups:

- [National Council of Nonprofits](#)
- [The Impacts of the Recent Executive Orders on Nonprofits](#)

Q: Are any of you aware of social mission organization impact investment Opportunities?

A: Yes, there are impact investment opportunities related to social missions. Examples:

- Housing for Health Fund – Los Angeles (<https://dhs.lacounty.gov/housing-for-health/our-services/housing-for-health/>)
- Housing for Health - Kaiser Permanente (<https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/expertise-and-impact/healthy-communities/improving-community-conditions/housing-security>)

Q: Will there be a contact list so we can contact one another in between sessions/ or maybe a group landing page to connect and share?

A: We encourage all participants who want to connect to share their info on [this google sheet](#). This is a public sheet that can be viewed by anyone who has the link.

Q: Is there an example of practical implementation of transformational policies that have positive results? What are some strategic partnerships that have proved helpful?

A: This is a topic that will be discussed in depth at upcoming virtual assemblies. Please [check this link](#) for upcoming and recorded trainings.

Q: On the subject of NIMBY: which communities have had success where at first folx didn't want "this xyz" here, but it turned out ok! How can we take stories/those neighborhoods to new place and have them assuage the new neighborhood? (Cassy's notes from Sarah: be proactive to the community versus reactive and only responding when there are issues. Types: PSH, nav centers)

A: This is a topic that will be discussed in depth at upcoming virtual assemblies. Please [check this link](#) for upcoming and recorded trainings.

Q: When onboarding new employees, what training should they receive?

A: This is a topic that will be discussed in depth at upcoming virtual assemblies. Please [check this link](#) for upcoming and recorded trainings.

Q: Working groups with emergency shelter program director and staff.

A: This is a topic that will be discussed in depth at upcoming virtual assemblies. Please [check this link](#) for upcoming and recorded trainings.

Q: For shifting mental models, how do we get community members and service systems/orgs to realize that folks w/lived experience are also community members?

A: This is a topic that will be discussed in depth at upcoming virtual assemblies. Please [check this link](#) for upcoming and recorded trainings.

Q: I understand that 2-5 year funding cycles/opportunities aren't currently as available. But in thinking thru balancing the intersection of funding sustainability and performance excellence, how can we promise professional advancement (long-term) w/focusing on shorter-term (3-6 month) financing opportunities? There's a natural conflict between the term "funding sustainability" and the advice of "focus on 3-6 months" of funding. I understand needing flexibility in uncertain times and how do we promise services and employment when we're not looking beyond 6 months for revenue?

A: This is a tough and important question. [Trust-Based Philanthropy](#) is sadly not as prevalent as it was once hoped to be. Most funders look at past fiscal performance (1-3 years) and see if you have 3+ months of operating funding in the bank. While this answer isn't helpful, diversifying your fundraising is really the only way to have real sustainability and make the case for short-term raises. Thinking about things like legacy giving, growing an individual donor program, local business partnerships, expanding major gifts and prospecting for high-net-worth individuals will help diversify. One consideration is to partner with like-minded organizations to co-support the salary/consultant fees for a shared fundraiser with higher dollar goals.