

SyncUp Colorado Challenge

General Application Questions

- 1. Can we apply more than once?**
 - a. Yes - there is no limit to how many applications you can submit. That being said, we recommend you focus your efforts on 1-3 meaningful ideas that best answer the Challenge Question.
- 2. Can we do Seed with one partner and Scale with another?**
 - a. Yes - you can submit a Seed application with one partner and a Scale application with another partner.
- 3. We are uncertain if we are Seed or Scale. What's the difference?**
 - a. "Seed" refers to early stage ideas. These may be new ideas that have not yet been implemented (pilots) or young ideas that currently don't have evidence of impact.
 - b. "Scale" refers to proven ideas that have evidence of impact and are now looking to expand to increase that impact.
 - c. It's important to note that "Seed" and "Scale" is in reference to the stage of the solution, not the stage of the partnership.
 - d. The application is the same for both Seed and Scale, so you can begin the application and then change the stage (if necessary) before submission.
- 4. If an idea is already built out but is in a testing phase with participants, would that be considered scale or seed?**
 - a. We would recommend Seed. If you have not seen evidence of the solution positively impacting participants yet, then Seed is best.
- 5. If the solution has been implemented in other states, and you are bringing it to Colorado, is that Seed or Scale?**
 - a. In most cases, this would be a Scale application. If the new context significantly changes the approach / model, then it may be considered a Seed application.
- 6. When do we need an MOU?**
 - a. Round 1 submissions need to include a description of the partners, their roles, and the progress and alignment to date.
 - b. Round 2 applications will need to include a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all partners included in the application.
- 7. Does the partnership have to participate in direct service with individuals in the 12-24 age bracket? Or can it build capacity / support those types of organizations?**
 - a. If the approach directly serves individuals, those individuals must be within the 12-24 age bracket. If your approach also serves individuals outside of that age range, that is fine, but the SyncUp application should focus specifically on those individuals between 12-24 years in age.
 - b. We are also interested in applications that support the education-to-employment ecosystem more broadly. These applications should clearly indicate what direct benefit they deliver (and to whom), as well as how their work indirectly impacts individuals in the 12-24 age bracket.

- 8. Is there a suggested timeline for the implementation of the solution via the partnership?**
- The implementation timeline is flexible and can be determined by the applicant. While we anticipate most applications will be between 2-3 years, the specific implementation timeline and funding distribution schedule will be defined with the winners in their Grant Agreements.
- 9. Is there an application form? Or application guidelines?**
- Yes - you need to register here for the password protected [application portal](#), which you can also access by clicking the “Apply Now” button on the [Challenge website](#). Once you are registered, you can review the application itself.
 - Registration and submitting an application are free.
 - The Round 1 application should take between 1-3 hours to complete.
- 10. Can we focus on undocumented Coloradans in a target demographic?**
- Yes, the Challenge is focused on serving all Coloradans ages 12-24.
- 11. Can you share the Round 2 application requirements?**
- Round 2 will open June 22. Finalists will be expected to fill in the Round 2 application before the deadline of August 17. Round 2 will consist of additional application questions that go deeper into the same five Evaluation Criteria listed on the [website](#), plus a short interview with the judging panel.

Funding Use Questions

- 12. Are there any restrictions on where the funding is applied? Can the funds be used as incentives for employers?**
- The Grant Award must be used solely for charitable purposes and must not result in more than an incidental private benefit to an individual or for-profit business. In general, programs that work with a single for-profit company will need to demonstrate there is a greater ultimate benefit to a disadvantaged community or some other charitable class than to the company. The charitable purposes recognized by the IRS include, but are not limited to: (i) the relief of the poor, the distressed or the underprivileged; (ii) the advancement of education or science; (iii) lessening the burdens of the government; and (iv) combating community deterioration. You can read more about examples of charitable purposes in the [guidance document here](#) and on the [IRS's website here](#). Providing certain economic incentives to employers to achieve charitable goals—e.g., to expand into an economically depressed area or employ or provide below-cost services to members of a disadvantaged group—may be an appropriate component of an eligible project. Whether a particular incentive or subsidy to for-profit businesses furthers charitable purposes is a fact-specific question, and applicants are encouraged to consult with qualified legal counsel for more information and analysis.
- 13. Any indirect cost cap or other direct category restrictions?**
- The Grant Award is expected to be used for the purposes of the Project. We realize, however, that in some circumstances an Applicant may have necessary overhead that can be fairly allocable to the Project. The Competition Sponsor will

evaluate indirect costs on a case by case basis. The Competition Sponsor will examine carefully overhead costs, as part of the Reporting Obligations, that the Applicant asserts are attributable to, or can be allocable to, the project to ensure that the bulk of the award is to be spent on project expenses. Please see the [Competition Rules](#) for further details on use of funds and indirect costs.

14. Do you have an estimation of how many total awards (seed and scale) will be provided?

- a. There is no definite number. SyncUp will distribute the prize pool across promising winners from both categories.
- b. We anticipate a total of 4-6 awards (including both categories).

Challenge Process Questions

15. What is the plan with those proposals not funded or selected? Are you looking to incubate or support curation and exploration of those ideas?

- a. We see this Challenge as an opportunity to strengthen the education-to-employment ecosystem working in Colorado. After the challenge is complete, we will launch a 'community' to foster collaboration, coordination, and capacity building among the organizations and individuals working on education-to-employment solutions.
- b. While we hope to keep all applicants involved in the community going forward, this is not a requirement to submit an application.
- c. There may be an opportunity for applications that were not selected to be shared with other funders for consideration. This will only happen with the applicants written approval.

16. Do you anticipate the judges would suggest matchmaking between round 1 applicants to move onto round 2?

- a. Our intention is to help foster partnerships for the Round 1 finalists by facilitating introductions and connections on an as-needed basis. This is meant to be a 'value add' to applicants and no applicants will be required to work with any new / suggested partners to submit their Round 2 application.