15 Forever was established at the Community Foundation Boulder County in 2006 to promote civic engagement and leadership among Boulder County youth. Since that time, this youth-driven program has granted over $223,000. The intention of 15 Forever is to address the needs and concerns of Boulder County youth from a peer perspective. Students involved in 15 Forever learn about philanthropy and local issues by managing their own grant cycle over the course of the school year. Students raise funds for nonprofits addressing community issues that they have prioritized. 100% of funds raised by students will go directly to nonprofits.

This year’s 15 Forever Youth Advisory Committee is now accepting grant proposals for youth services in two distinct funding focuses:
- Marshall Wildfire Aid
- Youth Mental Health

**MARSHALL WILDFIRE AID**
On December 30th, 2021, a wildfire erupted in Boulder County, affecting up to 1,000 homes and businesses. Many families were displaced, and it’s estimated there is over $1 billion worth of damages. Thirty five thousand people were required to evacuate their homes right before the new year, causing worry, panic, and distress. 15 Forever members chose Marshall Wildfire Aid as a funding priority because they have personally have seen the effects of this fire. Whether by knowing someone personally affected, seeing the fires outside their windows, or evacuating out of precaution, every Boulder County youth has been impacted by the Marshall Wildfire in some way.

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**
Since the pandemic began, students across the country have felt strains on their mental health. Online learning and quarantine are incredibly isolating, and students have found it harder to access mental health resources during this time. The 15 Forever members have seen this mental health epidemic first hand through several of their peers at a local high school taking their own lives. In addition, Boulder County youth now face increased mental health repercussions in the aftermath of the wildfires. The wildfires have impacted many students in the community who are struggling from the trauma of evacuation and loss. The added weight of the pandemic and wildfires has caused a serious mental health issue for Boulder County youth, and 15 Forever would like to fund organizations focused on youth mental health needs and improving the affordability and accessibility of mental health services in Boulder County.

Please read further for more information and thank you in advance for applying,

- The 15 Forever Youth Advisory Committee
Eligibility Requirements:
Projects and/or organizations must meet one of this year's funding priorities.

Services or activities proposed must be conducted within Boulder County for the benefit of Boulder County youth residents between ages 0-18.

Grantees must be currently recognized as a public charity in the United States, including nonprofits with 501(c)(3), or governmental entities [170(c)(1)], or educational and religious institutions. Groups or organizations that do not have such designation may only apply in partnership with an IRS-qualified entity as a fiscal sponsor.

Funding can be used for a project, program, or general operating support.

The Community Foundation does not make grants to organizations where grant money from our unrestricted or field of interest funds would be used to advance a particular political or religious doctrine.

The Community Foundation values inclusive and transformational leadership, and we’ve institutionalized diversity and inclusivity in our grant-making. As such, diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels of the organization, and its program, are a crucial part of our application review.

Anti-Discrimination Statement
The Community Foundation believes that equal opportunity is important for the continuing success of our organization. The Community Foundation shall not discriminate and intends to preclude negative discrimination on the basis of race, disability, health conditions, color, religion (creed), gender identification or expression, age, sexual orientation, national origin (ancestry), ethnicity, citizenship, military status, political affiliation, marital status, pregnancy, or any other protected classification whether now in existence or as shall be determined from time to time in accordance with applicable federal, state, or local laws. This policy applies to all activities of The Community Foundation, including but not limited to employment, selection of volunteers, grant making, purchasing, and selecting vendors or consultants. The Community Foundation defines “negative discrimination” to include (but not necessarily be limited to) denial of services, employment, or volunteer opportunities to any class of individuals in a manner that negatively restricts opportunities to that class of individuals.

Thank you for your time and effort in completing this application. For more information, please contact the 15 Forever Program at 15forever@youthroots.org.

SCHEDULE

April 3, 2022 at 11:59pm - Due date: Applications must be submitted online using the online grant application at https://tinyurl.com/15forevergrantapp2022.

May 2022- Announcement date: You will be notified of the 15 Forever Committee’s final decisions in early May.

June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023 is the funding period. A final grant report is due by August 31, 2023.