



Community Engagement Grant Program Update

Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee- July 7, 2026



Community Engagement Grant Program

- Power Ahead Colorado's community engagement work is anchored by its grant program. The program will distribute \$2.2 million over the next three years to community-based Organizations (CBOs) to increase accessibility and understanding of Power Ahead Colorado programs.
- The grant program will be informed by a Community Advisory Group (CAG) made up of representatives with geographically diverse and strong networks.
- The CAG is anticipated to kick off this summer and the grant program is expected to go live this fall.
- Year one of the sub-grantee awards will total \$500,000 (with small, medium, and large grant amounts).

Grant Program Goals

- 1) Support the Power Ahead Colorado mission: ***“Power better homes, stronger communities, and quality jobs for Colorado’s clean, healthy future.”***
- 2) Increase awareness of Power Ahead Colorado:
 - i. General education and awareness.
 - ii. Workforce.
 - iii. Rebates and incentives.
- 3) Increase accessibility for prospective sub-grantees and remove barriers for hard-to-reach communities.
- 4) Cover a diverse geographic area reflective of the 59 participating member governments.



Grant Disbursement Approach

- Designed to provide sub-grantees with timely access to funding needed to implement approved community engagement activities while maintaining appropriate oversight, accountability, and compliance with program requirements.
 - Reduce administrative burden
 - Provide timely access to funding,
 - Offer technical assistance
 - Ensure that program administration and approvals occur in a manner that supports rather than delays implementation.
- The approach seeks to reduce administrative burden on grant recipients, support equitable participation, and ensure responsible stewardship of public funds.

Grant Program Activities



- Proposed variety of community engagement grant program activities (for sub-grantee implementation once awarded a grant):
 - Ambassador program.
 - “Keep it Cool” block parties.
 - Youth based engagement projects.
 - Energy advising training for CBOs.
 - Outreach toolkits.
 - Job fairs.
 - Workforce roundtables.
 - Other innovative activities recommended by CBOs.

Discussion

- In your recent grant experience, what has worked well for encouraging diverse participation in grant programs?
- Based on your experience working with grants and community organizations, what lessons learned or common challenges should we keep in mind as we continue to build our grant program?
- Thinking about the organizations and communities in your networks, what barriers might prevent relevant applicants from participating in this grant opportunity?
- What questions do you have for us?

Next Steps

- September Technical meeting:
 - We will provide an overview of the broader Community Engagement Program.
 - Update on summer engagement activities.
 - Seek approval on the policy to distribute community engagement grants.

