Heart of Colorado
RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS
Chaffee · Clear Creek · Custer · Fremont
Gilpin · Lake · Park · Summit · Teller

Heart of Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days
Oct. 29 & 30, 2026
Leadville, CO

October 29 & 30, more than 200 nonprofit professionals, grantmakers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials will unite in Leadville to exchange knowledge and expand professional networks at the Heart of Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days conference.

This opportunity only occurs once every four years in the Heart of Colorado region which is composed of **Chaffee, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, Summit** and **Teller** counties.

Scan QR code for conference resources

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
SUCCESS STRATEGIES FOR COLORADO NONPROFITS

Heart of Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days Conference Schedule - Leadville, Oct 29-30, 2026

Time	Event	Event
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 - DAY ONE		
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast, Registration, Resource Fair & Sign-Up for Funder Office Hours	Colorado Mountain College Leadville: Climax Building, 901 US-24 Leadville, Colorado 80461
8:30 - 9:00 AM	Welcome Remarks - Registration Continues	
9:20 - 10:20 AM	Skill Building Workshops Round 1	
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Skill Building Workshops Round 2	
9:30 -11:45 AM	Funders Only Tours - Off Site	
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Lunch, Welcome Remarks & Table Conversations	
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Entertainment with Rio Alto Theater Entertainment	
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Break	
2:30 - 4:00 PM	Funder Office Hours: One-on-One Connections with Funders	
2:10 - 4:00 PM	Rocky Mountain Public Media - CHF (Colorado Health Foundation) Pulse Poll Conversations	
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Transition — Carpool/drive from CMC to Tabor	The Tabor Opera House: 308 Harrison Ave, Leadville, CO 80461
4:40 - 5:40 PM	Tabor Welcome Remarks & COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) Panel Discussion	
5:45 - 6:00 PM	Transition — Carpool/drive from Tabor to Airport Hangar	Airport Hangar: 915 County Road 23 Leadville, CO, 80461
5:45 - 8:00 PM	Dinner & Grill Out	
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 - DAY TWO		
7:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast, Resource Fair, Career Connections, & Registration	Colorado Mountain College Leadville: Climax Building, 901 US-24 Leadville, Colorado 80461
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Welcome Remarks with Speaker: Adam Ducharme, “The value of overnight tourism”	
9:00 - 9:30 AM	Transition — Carpool/drive to Offsite Tours & Group Discussions	Off Site Various Locations
9:30 - 11:30 AM	Offsite Tours & Discussion Groups	
11:30 - 12:00 PM	Transition to Airport Hangar	Airport Hangar: 915 County Road 23 Leadville, CO, 80461
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Lunch	
12:45 - 2:00 PM	Panel 2: Funding the Future with Funders & Youth	
2:00 - 2:20 PM	Conference Ends: Closing Remarks & Raffle Drawing (*Must be present to win)*	
2:30 - 3:30 PM	Funders and Youth Only Debrief	
After 3:30 PM	Post-RPD Self-Guided Activity Suggestions: Walking tours, group bike ride or hike, local businesses	

Heart of Colorado RPD — Sessions & Connections

Thursday, October 29

Professional Development | Sessions One Session Per Round

Round 1 | 9:20 - 10:20 AM

CM404 — **Are Program Related Investments Right for Your Organization?**
Janice Fritsch, Kenneth King Foundation; Taylor Schafbush, the Colorado Trust

LB317 — **Ask With Confidence – Fundraising Training for Nonprofit Boards**
Lori Sharp, ThinkSharp! Consulting

CM401 (Gym) — **Building a Culture of Philanthropy: A Practical Framework for Rural Major Donor Engagement**
Joe Haines, CFRE, Joe Haines Consulting

CC701 (Caf.) — **Growing Your Capacity: Recruiting, Engaging and Retaining Volunteers**
Renny Fagan, Nostos Consulting

LB325 — **Leveraging AI for Grant Writing: An Introduction for Nonprofits**
Katy Pepinsky & Hannah Max, ThinkSharp! Consulting

ND122 — **Strategic Planning in Uncertain Times**
Angela Schrefler, Centennial Nonprofit Consulting

ND216 — **The Work Before the Work: Building Civic Capacity in a Skeptical Community**
Brooke Murphy, Community Builders; Anne Schneider, Lake County Community Development & Planning

ND218 — **Turning Crisis into Opportunity**
Emily Olsen, Cloud City Conservation Center; Carlye Sayler, Lake County Build a Generation

Round 2 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM

CM401 (Gym) — **Cultivating Stability: A Practical Assessment for Rural Organizational Resilience**
Joe Haines, CFRE, Joe Haines Consulting

LB325 — **Don't Wait for the Crisis: Succession Planning for Nonprofits**
Katy Pepinsky, ThinkSharp! Consulting

CM404 — **From Short Ask Hell to Long Ask Heaven**
Courtney Johnson, Courtney Johnson Philanthropy Advisors

LB317 — **From Vision to Victory - Navigating Your Capital Campaign**
Lori Sharp, ThinkSharp! Consulting

CC701 (Caf.) — **Getting Your Organization Ready for AI (Even if Your Data Is a Mess or Nonexistent)**
Jackie Holt & Craig Drelling, Altavar.ai

ND218 — **Good Intentions Don't Get Funded: Colorado's Grant Prioritization Program and Youth Wellbeing Index**
Re Cupta-Fitzgerald, State of Colorado; Dr. Erin Wright-Kelly, Colorado School of Public Health, Ben Nichols, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

ND122 — **Nonprofit Financial Management**
Angela Schrefler, Centennial Nonprofit Consulting

ND216 — **The Work Before the Work: Building Civic Capacity in a Skeptical Community**
Brooke Murphy, Community Builders; Anne Schneider, Lake County Community Development & Planning

Funder & Statewide Partner Tours | 9:30 – 11:45 AM · Community tours for registered funders and statewide partners, held during the Professional Development Sessions.

Funder Office Hours | 2:30 - 4:00 PM · One-on-one connections with grantmakers · Sign up at registration

1. Adolph Coors Foundation
2. Anschutz Family Foundation
3. AV Hunter Trust
4. Boetcher Foundation
5. Buell Foundation
6. Caring for Colorado Foundation
7. Colorado Circular Communities
8. Colorado Creative Industries
9. Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA)
10. Community Resource Center
11. El Poma Foundation
12. Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka
13. Gates Family Foundation
14. Kenneth King Foundation
15. Next50 Foundation
16. The Colorado Health Foundation
17. The Colorado Trust

Friday, October 30

Offsite Tours & Discussion Groups | 9:30 – 11:30 AM

1. Affordable Housing
2. Arts/Heritage Tourism/ Heritage Preservation
3. Childcare
4. Community Recreation
5. Environment
6. Food Access
7. Immigration Services
8. Lower Healthcare
9. Outdoor Recreation
10. Public Services/Sustainability
11. Senior Services
12. Tourism
13. Youth Programming

Thursday & Friday

Statewide Partners, Presenters & Community Partners

Look for them throughout the conference and introduce yourself! No sign-up needed. Find every organization, with contact info, in the **List of Organizations:** pick up a copy at registration or find it on the HOC RPD Linktree.

Resource Fair | Thu 7:30 - 8:30 AM - Fri 7:30 - 9:00 AM · CMC

Stop by during breakfast and connect with these organizations!

- 1Table Collective
- BMO Bank
- Chaffee County Community Foundation
- First Southwest Community Fund & First Southwest Bank
- Growing the Good
- Mend Mediation & HR Consulting
- Office of eHealth Innovation
- Pinyon & Pine Strategy
- Ripple Affect LLC (Friday only)
- Summit Accountants, PLLC (Thursday only)
- Whitson Strategies / Fund Camp