

Sterling Community Fund

Frequently Asked Questions



About the Fund

What is the Sterling Community Fund?

The Sterling Community Fund is a permanent endowment created by local residents to support projects that promote economic development and enhance quality of life in Logan County over time as the community evolves. It is part of the NoCo Foundation family of funds serving Eastern Colorado.

Why was the Fund created?

The Fund was established in response to the ongoing loss of local wealth (land, water rights, mineral assets, etc.) and a desire among community members to contribute to strengthening the community. It provides a simple and effective means to “give back” to the region where we have raised our families, established successful careers, and enjoyed fulfilling lives. If just a small portion of the wealth generated here can be retained, it can benefit current and future generations.

What is the SCF long-term vision?

Our vision is to build a growing endowment that generates sustainable funding, which can be used to provide amenities taken for granted in urban areas, amenities that would not be possible in Logan County without charitable support. We seek to help establish or improve public facilities, expand recreational opportunities, and beautify our community through green space and public displays of art throughout Sterling and its periphery, thereby ensuring that Logan County remains a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire for decades to come.

Fund Growth & Fundraising

I thought you already reached your goal, why are you still raising money?

Our initial goal was to build a strong foundation (\$2–3 million) prior to funding any grants. After exceeding this milestone, we continue to work to grow the Fund. Because the SCF is an endowment, all donations are held and invested; only investment earnings may be used to fund projects. As the corpus of the Fund grows, investment income increases, and more money is available for grants. Continued giving increases long-term impact.

Are fundraising events like galas still happening?

Major campaigns and events may be less frequent than during the initial push, but periodic events or campaigns may still occur to support specific projects or grow the endowment. The approach is now more strategic and an opportunity to celebrate the community of Logan County.

Grants & Community Impact

What types of projects do you fund?

The SCF works closely with both the City of Sterling and the Logan County Commissioners to fund public projects – projects that every resident of Logan County can enjoy. Grants will predominantly be used to create or improve brick-and-mortar facilities and/or outdoor recreation/beautification ventures with substantial long-term community impact.

What has the Fund supported so far?

Completed and current projects include:

- Ceiling “twinkle lights” and electrical upgrades at the LC Fairgrounds Indoor Arena
- Design and construction of Heritage Park in downtown Sterling
- Artwork in Heritage Park by local artists, Bradford Rhea and Nate Laybourn
- Donations to Sterling’s City Trail System
- Currently, we are working to design/construct a Children’s Splash Park in downtown Sterling

Why aren’t grants made every year?

As part of a public foundation (the NoCo Foundation), the SCF has no obligation to disburse earnings within a given year. Thus, each year, all or a portion of all expendable funds may be retained and given time to appreciate, to be spent on projects at a later date. Holding funds in this manner affords the opportunity to support larger projects, thus maximizing our impact.

Who determines what grants are funded?

The Sterling Community Fund is guided by a seven-member committee of local residents. The committee works in partnership with the City of Sterling and Logan County leadership to identify community priorities and evaluate grant opportunities, ensuring continued alignment with local needs.

Can my organization apply for a grant?

The SCF can support community-led grant proposals, partner in strategic community projects, and initiate projects. Eligible nonprofit organizations, public entities and community groups serving the Sterling/Logan County area may apply. Please see grant guidelines on the SCF webpage.

To apply for a grant, contact a SCF Committee member or John Chapdelaine (970-580-1013).

Why Give?

In addition to giving now, why should I consider including the SCF in my estate or giving plans?

An investment in the SCF is:

- Permanent (your gift keeps giving)
- Local (supports the Logan County community)
- Flexible (addresses evolving needs over time)
- Impactful (leverages professional investment and grantmaking expertise)
- A gift to the SCF is an ideal way to leave a lasting legacy in Logan County.

About NoCo Foundation

What services does the NoCo Foundation offer the SCF, and what fees does it charge?

- Investment management of endowed funds
- Grantmaking expertise and oversight
- Administrative and legal compliance
- Donor services (including complex gifts like stock, estate gifts, etc.)
- Community leadership and philanthropic strategy
- The Foundation charges the SCF an annual fee of 2%

Learn more at nocofoundation.org/sterling

