

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION:

AMERICA 250 - COLORADO 150 GRANTS

JANUARY 20, 2026
TOWN COUNCIL



SERVICE CONTRACT PARTNER GRANTS

Aims to enhance the great lineup of events and initiatives brought to the community each year by the Town's service contract partners: the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, Castle Rock Economic Development Council, Castle Rock Historical Society/Museum, Castle Rock Senior Center, Douglas County Community Foundation, Douglas County Housing Partnership, Douglas County Youth Initiative, Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Merchants Association.

The Town encouraged these entities to pursue these funds to find unique and creative ways to celebrate America and Colorado with the community that go above and beyond their typical plans for community events and initiatives. Up to four grants of up to \$15,000 each were envisioned via this program.

Four of the nine partner entities applied under this program — the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Douglas County Community Foundation, the Douglas County Housing Partnership and the Downtown Development Authority.

Staff is recommending awarding grants totaling \$45,000 to the three entities that met the program's criteria of celebrating America 250 - Colorado 150 and engaging Castle Rock residents in the celebration.

RECOMMENDED REQUESTS

Chamber of Commerce

Purpose of request: Fair Parade, Artfest and Starlighting enhancements | **Amount of request:** \$15,000

Explanation of how the project celebrates America 250 - Colorado 150 and engages Castle Rock residents in the celebration: Special prize, banners, floats and more in the parade, which 18,000 residents attend; special artworks, contests and music at Artfest, which 12,000 residents attend; and commemorative ornament giveaway for Starlighting attendees

Douglas County Housing Partnership

Purpose of request: storytelling and mural project | **Amount of request:** \$15,000

Explanation of how the project celebrates America 250 - Colorado 150 and engages Castle Rock residents in the celebration: local seniors will be invited to share stories, which will be translated into a mural at the Reyn Rock building at 403 Perry St., that will be unveiled with a community celebration

RECOMMENDED REQUESTS

Downtown Development Authority

Purpose of request: light pole banners; red, white and blue flower boxes; and American and Colorado flags

Amount of request: \$15,000

Explanation of how the project celebrates America 250 - Colorado 150 and engages Castle Rock residents in the celebration: all items will be highly visible to Downtown visitors throughout 2026

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION GRANTS

Aims to get nonprofit organizations, homeowners associations and similar entities involved in the celebration of America 250 - Colorado 150. Castle Rock organizations were encouraged to undertake imaginative efforts to commemorate and celebrate the Country and State's history, using three grants of up to \$10,000 each.

Three groups applied under this program — the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance, the Haven Home Owners Association and the Castle Rock Historical Society. **Staff is recommending awarding grants to all three entities, totaling \$22,021.**

RECOMMENDED REQUESTS

Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance

Project description: provide 20 free community programs throughout Castle Rock during summer 2026, leading up to one larger event with a community partner for Independence Day and Colorado's 150th birthday. The events will feature live ambassador raptors — hawks, owls, falcons and a new bald eagle.

Amount of request: \$10,000

Haven Home Owners Association

Project description: HavenFest neighborhood event with flag-making, a musical performance, food, games and more, estimated to be attended by 70 to 80 residents.

Amount of request: \$2,200

RECOMMENDED REQUESTS

Castle Rock Historical Society

Project description: collection of “mock-up” façades (replicas) of historic Castle Rock buildings from near 1876. The replicas will include the 1875 Cantril (First) Courthouse, the 1873 City Hotel (moved to Castle Rock in 1877) and a “Star Saloon.” The replicas are planned as a foundational effort to build a replica of Castle Rock in the late 1800s, building on the 1981 celebration of the 100th anniversary of Castle Rock, in which a block of replica buildings was made and displayed on Wilcox Street. A skilled team will design and fabricate the replicas with lumber and plywood, scaling them to emulate the dimensions of the originals, with heights of approximately 8 to 12 feet. They would be ready in May 2026 for display at local America 250 - Colorado 150 festivities.

Amount of request: \$9,821



RECOMMENDED MOTION

"I move to award grants as recommended in staff's memo."