



Moonshot Innovation Space Applicant Guide 2025-2026

The Moonshot team has created this guide in the hope that it helps you decide if the Moonshot Innovation Space is the right program for you at this time, and to help provide clarity and transparency around our selection process. Thank you for your interest in Moonshot!

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About the Moonshot Innovation Space

The [Moonshot Innovation Space](#) is a 9-month fellowship where individuals explore the idea of designing and launching a solution to community-identified problems. The program occurs part-time, mostly nights and weekends, beginning Fall 2025. Fellows will assess and explore their leadership readiness to design and implement equity-centered solutions that positively impact youth.

The Moonshot Innovation Space offers Fellows a unique leadership experience to dream and launch their ideas alongside the community. Fellows are supported every step of the way, from ideation and planning to operational and logistics execution to team support and solutions piloting.

Note: Moonshot defines youth as individuals ages 0-24.

Candidate Eligibility

We require that prospective Fellows:

- Live in and plan to implement their solution in Colorado
- Identify as a member of a historically marginalized community, including but not limited to a person of color, nonbinary and/or gender-nonconforming individual, LGBTQ, or a woman
- Are over the age of 18
- Commit 2-3 hours per week, one weekend day per month, and two weekend-long retreats (Local Retreat: Saturday-Monday; National Retreat: Thursday-Sunday) throughout the 31-week program, which includes synchronous and asynchronous activities (see [calendar](#))

We require that solutions:

- Positively impact youth
- Align with Moonshot's mission and values
- Do not promote a specific religion
- Are developed alongside impacted communities

We've found that the leaders we work with typically fall into one of three groups. The Moonshot Innovation Space may be a great fit for you if your ideas align with any of the following (3) Fellow Profiles.

Moonshot Fellow Profiles	Examples
 Designers are individuals seeking to design and implement resources that impact youth.	• Create a transportation app for youth to get safely to/from school and extracurricular activities • Design a professional development/training series designed to equip mental health professional with culturally affirming knowledge to better support undocumented youth • Design and implement resources/tools as a consultant to support organizational systems and structures that positively impact youth
 Catalyzers are individuals seeking to design and implement solutions within existing organizations.	• A professional that develops and implements a program within their organization to support the integration and sense of belonging of migrants and recent arrival youth • A program staff member who wants to redesign an outdated postsecondary readiness curriculum • An Executive Director who wants to redesign a core organizational component, lead an organizational redesign, or create a new 3-5 year strategic plan • A youth-serving organization leader who wants to design and implement an initiative to retain BIPOC and historically marginalized employees
 Launchers are individuals seeking to design and launch new organization/program models.	• Develop and launch a socially responsible, equity- and justice-centered organization that supports youth cultural identity and affirmation. <i>For example, explore some past Moonshot Fellows' work:</i> • Tatenda Blessing Muchiriri's mobile Montessori vision • Bre Donnelly's mental health work with Joy as Resistance • Destiny Hardney and the Dream, Create, Inspire Tour

Moonshot seeks applicants who bring the following skills and qualities:

- Bring new ideas and unique ways to improve outcomes for youth, caregivers/families, and communities
- Personal humility and deep authentic respect that honors the perspectives of youth, caregivers/families, and communities
- Deeply believe in the power of community, caregiver/family, and youth input to co-create solutions to address the root causes of community-identified problems
- Cultural competency, including a sense of commitment to unpacking bias, developing a vision with integrity, and creating systems that improve outcomes for historically marginalized communities.
- Commitment to practicing self-awareness and introspection through coaching and reflection
- Demonstrate a willingness to support others in their journeys and acts in community using a mindset of reciprocity

Fellowship Agreements

Moonshot requires fellows to commit to the following agreements upon acceptance to the program:

- Desire to co-design a solution with the community to improve positive outcomes for youth and families in Colorado communities
- Hold high standards of excellence for completion of deliverables for all sessions by the deadlines set or in a timely manner
- Agree to cohort accountability norms and demonstrate the [Moonshot Core Values](#)
- Responsiveness to feedback and a desire to learn and improve through coaching
- Availability to attend and be an engaged participant in workshop sessions:
 - Fellows must be able to commit 2-3 hours per week, one weekend day per month, one Friday in the fall, and two weekend-long retreats (Friday-Sunday) over the course of the 31-week program, including both synchronous and asynchronous fellowship activities (see [calendar](#))
 - Fellows will need to request off from work on the following weekdays:
 - Monday, 9/15/2025 - Local Retreat (Bailey, CO)
 - Friday, 10/3/2025 - Full Day of Site Visits
 - Friday, 1/23/2026 - National Retreat
 - NOTE: Thursday, 1/22/2026 will be a travel day and fellows are expected to be able to travel starting at 6 pm. Please plan accordingly
 - Thurs, 5/14/2026 - Showcase (arrive at 3 pm for setup and prep)
 - Moonshot Innovation Space Expectations Outside of Workshops:
 - Executive Coaching - 6 hours total
 - Pre-work/Post-work - ~30 minutes per workshop
 - Weekly Office Hours (optional, but encouraged)
 - Mid and End of Fellowship check-ins with Moonshot staff
- Confidentiality of conversations that take place over the course of the fellowship, both formally in and out of sessions.
 - *The Moonshot Innovation Space provides a confidential, intimate community through which leaders explore matters of career, family, identity, and challenges that participants face personally and professionally.*
- **Program Fee:** We ask that each Moonshot Fellow contribute a \$600 investment as a commitment to joining the Moonshot Innovation Space. This investment represents how you will be showing up for yourself, your cohort, and the community as you step into this transformative journey. All investments will be absorbed back into program costs for the fellowship. Scholarships are available to those with financial need.

We want to ensure all Fellows can participate in this program. If finances are a barrier, or if you have any questions, please email us at info@moonshotadventures.org.

- **The first program fee is due by August 4, 2025.**
- **The second program fee is due by September 4, 2025.**

Applying to the Moonshot Innovation Space

Details on the fellowship and applications can be found here: moonshotadventures.org/apply
Begin the application [HERE](#)

- Below is an overview of the application process for the fellowship:

- Stage 1: Written Application: The application asks for a resume, a self-assessment against the Moonshot Fellow Qualifications, and early ideas for your community solution. Should you be a fit, Moonshot will invite you to the video submission stage.
 - **Priority Application Deadline** - *Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5 pm MST*
 - **Extended Application Deadline** - *Monday, March 31, 2025 at 5 pm MST*
- Stage 2: Video Submission: This is an opportunity for us to dig further into your application and candidacy. This stage involves submitting a recorded video of yourself responding to a series of prompts that will help us learn more about you, your passions, ideas, and experiences.
 - Please note, the video submission is SEPARATE from the option to submit a brief video response during the Written Application stage
 - Applicants will be notified mid April 2025
- Stage 3: Group Interview Day (GID): Group interviews will consist of activities that introduce the cohort culture at Moonshot by engaging in several individual and group activities. GIDs will take place at the [Moonshot Office](#), 3840 York Street, Suite 100 Denver, CO 80205.
 - **GID #1**: Thursday, 5/29, 5:00 - 8:00pm
 - **GID #2**: Wednesday, 6/4, 5:00 - 8:00pm
- Selection: The final group of applicants selected for the 8th cohort of the Moonshot Innovation Space will be notified in early July 2025, with the program beginning September 4, 2025.

Moonshot Innovation Space FAQ

Why does the Moonshot Innovation Space exist?

Moonshot addresses two needs that we see as most pressing related to systems that impact youth in Colorado:

- **Need 1:** Our work is driven by the need for sustainable solutions that are designed from a systems-change perspective and address root causes—rather than only the symptoms of—inequities that impact youth.
- **Need 2:** We believe the change needs to come from the impacted communities themselves, who deeply understand hopes, desires, and the path they want. We want local leaders who come from communities with shared identities and lived experiences with the youth that their solutions are designed to positively impact.

What makes Moonshot unique?

- We invest in local, underrepresented leaders, independent of title.
 - Working harder, faster, more efficiently with the same overrepresented leadership won't change the life outcomes of youth of color. We need to invest in leaders who come from the communities they want to serve to ensure long-lasting, sustainable change.
- We care deeply about the quality of the leaders.
 - A strong solution design is necessary but insufficient. We invest equal amounts of time in the leader as we do in the design of an idea.
- We co-create with youth, caregivers/families, and communities.
 - Our Fellows have good ideas. So do their communities. We create opportunities for Fellows to source community needs and co-design their ideas with youth and communities, and frequently solicit feedback from them to make ideas better.

What will I get by participating in the Moonshot Innovation Space?

The Moonshot Innovation Space supports Fellows by providing access to resources and opportunities such as:

- **Squads:** As a member of Moonshot Innovation Space, you'll gain an invaluable network comprised of a cohort of values-aligned leaders focused on community solutions design, alongside access to mentors and coaches dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging, bridging community connections, and providing personalized guidance and support.
- **Skills:** Through the Moonshot Innovation Space, you will develop liberatory leadership knowledge, skills, and mindsets essential for leadership in learning and continuous improvement, strategic and operational excellence, and effective people leadership, equipping you to lead transformational change with confidence and agility.
- **Spaces:** As a Moonshot Fellow, you'll access specially curated design spaces that serve as enabling environments, where you can build trust, deepen your political analysis, ideate, and take risks. These spaces, supported by strategic partnerships, provide the ideal setting for exercising creativity and passion, ensuring both your success as a leader and the impact of the community solution you're designing.
- **Sustainability:** Upon completing the fellowship, you'll continue to receive sustainability support through our Alumni Services, including access to mini-grants, mental health services, and an extended community of support, bolstering both your personal well-being and the enduring impact of your solution on youth outcomes.

How will the Moonshot Innovation Space help me develop the design of my idea?

- We want Moonshot Fellows to define their own vision and set of principles, allowing for the flexibility and freedom to explore a variety of approaches to their community solution design.
- We believe equity-centered, community-driven solutions must embody the following elements, and guide Moonshot Fellows' development in each of these areas:
 - The solution is responsive to and inclusive of the intersectional identities of youth
 - The solution addresses the root causes of a problem identified by the community
 - The solution is co-designed with the community most impacted

Moonshot Alumni Testimonials

Moonshot has supported [100 leaders](#) over six cohorts.



"Really, this was the first space with people who look like me, who came from similar backgrounds... And it is the only safe space...where my full self can show up, be innovative, and encouraged to build."

Cory Montalvo, Executive Director and Founder, [YEBO](#), Cohort 1



"My time at Moonshot has been amazing! As a person who already launched my program, I still gained insight on how I can polish my program and how to develop my areas of growth as a founder and as a leader! If you are a person who has recently launched your program or you have a great idea to impact our students in Colorado, you owe it to yourself to apply for Moonshot!"

Shalelia Dillard, Executive Director and Founder, [SCD Enrichment](#), Cohort 3



"My experience with Moonshot allowed me to tap into my own genius, my confidence, and my vision of the world as it should be. Every virtual space we were in was magical, filled with so much passion and energy to enhance myself professionally and push forward my idea and my vision. My cohort was beyond inspirational. I wouldn't have chosen a better group to grow together with. The speakers truly dropped golden nuggets of knowledge at every turn. It was a phenomenal experience. "

Luis Antezana Alba, Executive Director and Founder, [Juntos](#), Cohort 4



"My experience as a Cohort 5 Moonshot fellow was defined by the community the fellowship created. We tried a lot of new things together, we were vulnerable, we encouraged each other. With all of the resources, content to learn, challenges to figure out, I had a crew that made it impossible for me to be unmotivated or uninspired."

Destiny Hardney, Founder, [Dream Create Inspire Tour](#), Cohort 5



"Moonshot is one of those experiences that you know will change the trajectory of your life -- your way of thinking and doing, the people you stay in touch with, and what you choose to be involved with going forward. You embark on this journey with fellow cohort members that become your greatest champions and supporters. I highly recommend Moonshot to all changemakers looking to make their next move!"

Annie VanDan, Executive Director, [Colorado Asian Culture & Education Network](#), Cohort 6