AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Grant Application; Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recove

Action Requested: Other consent

Parties to the Agreement: Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley has donated $12,000(from the Housing Authority and Rocky Mountain Health Foundation) and granted another $4000 from a grant request to DHHS to provide emergency assistance to the community.

Fiscal Impact: $12000

Submitted by: Elizabeth Holena **Submitter's Email Address:** elizabeth.holena@state.co.us

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
No concerns, will be included in a combined COVID-19 grant budget amendment request for 2020 budget. ln

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 4/29/2020

County Attorney Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
ok db 4/30/20

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 4/30/2020 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ( ) No (●)

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 5/1/2020

(●) Consent Agenda ( ) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 5/5/2020

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County
COLORADO

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Phone: (970) 641-3244 Fax: (970) 641-3738
220 N Spruce, Gunnison, CO 81230
Website: www.GunnisonCounty.org

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley
525 North Main Street
Gunnison CO 81230

To the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley:

We understand that you have received funding from both the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation and from the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority, both earmarked for COVID-19 related emergency needs of the vulnerable populations that are served by the Gunnison County Department of Health & Human Services. We have reviewed data and metrics required by these funders and we are able to meet the reporting requirements on a monthly basis. Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services has the infrastructure necessary to receive, administer and monitor grant activity. Thank you for considering Gunnison County DHHS as a resource during this time.

Elizabeth Holena

Elizabeth Holena
Manager, CSBG
Gunnison County DHHS
(970)641-3244

Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley - Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund
Gunnison County Health and Human Services Application

The Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley recognizes that the occurrence of the COVID-19 epidemic calls for grantmaking outside our regular Community Grants timeframe. The Foundation's COVID-19 Recovery Fund will assist nonprofits and appropriate public entities in meeting extraordinary needs. Initially, priority will be given to 1) those entities serving the most vulnerable populations in Gunnison County and 2) to meeting unmet and necessary immediate needs. The funds available, as well as frequency of distribution, depends upon the community's support. It is our intent to distribute grants on a rolling basis as money is available.

We will not limit the number of times that you can ask for help, but determination of priority will ultimately rest with the CFGV Board. CFGV reserves the right to ask additional questions and to audit the use of any grants made to ensure that monies spent are consistent with the Fund's intent.

Date: 4/13/2020
Name of organization: Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services
Name of person writing the request and their title: Mac Gray, Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Case Manager, Census Outreach Specialist
Mailing address: 220 N Spruce St., Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone number of the person writing this request: 970-641-7990 or 804-370-6539
Email of the person writing this request: dhaney@gunnisoncounty.org
Name and contact information for supervisor if applicable): Betsy Holena
Amount requested: $4,000.00

Tell us about the vulnerable population you are serving (give us specific numbers if you can), what the specific need is, and how you are working to meet the need. Also mention the time frame - will this help to meet a need that is an emergency RIGHT NOW?

Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) serves all individuals and families in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties. The vulnerable populations that HHS serves, specifically, include low-income individuals and families, immigrants, seniors, parents of young children, people with disabilities, and anyone who needs help meeting their basic needs.

During the COVID-19 outbreak and policies of social distancing, many of the 1,146 businesses in the valley have had to close their doors. With these closings, many people in our vulnerable populations, and the county in general, are not able to work or have had their hours greatly reduced. As a result, there are individuals and families who have lost income and are unable to meet their basic needs.
HHS is requesting $4,000 from the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley's (CFGV) COVID-19 Recovery Fund to provide rental/mortgage, food, and medical assistance to people in

Gunnison County who have been economically impacted by the outbreak. For the purpose of this grant, those economically impacted by the outbreak are defined as having experienced a loss of income due to no work or reduced hours - and are unable to cover rent/mortgage, food, and medical costs.

HHS manages several programs that can help alleviate some of these challenges. These programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), Medicaid, Medicare, and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). However, these programs are largely dependent on inadequate federal funding for a time of emergency and are almost entirely inaccessible to undocumented immigrants.

HHS has already seen increases in the number of clients seeking assistance since the COVID-19 outbreak started impacting Gunnison. Throughout the past 3 weeks, over 130 immigrants have contacted our Multicultural Resource Coordinator asking about available assistance to help meet their basic needs. While some of these individuals can apply for our existing programs, undocumented immigrants will not be eligible for most of these programs. There are no current services managed by HHS that could be used to provide rental, food, or medical assistance to undocumented individuals. The funding provided by CFGV will enable HHS to better serve this population.

Undocumented immigrants are not the only individuals who have recently sought assistance. There have been increased needs from TANF, Medicaid, and SNAP clients. Last week, our eligibility team at HHS had TANF clients ask for a total of $4,250 total in rental assistance. There have been 4 to 5 additional SNAP and Medicaid applications per day. There were also four CSBG applicants last week seeking rental assistance, who specifically said they won't be able to cover their rent for April or the following months as social isolation policies continue to leave them unable to work. With 127,393 initial unemployment claims in Colorado in the last three weeks, HHS anticipates an immediate and ongoing increase in the number of people who need assistance to meet their basic needs. HHS is dedicated to making sure Gunnison County residents do not lose access to necessary medical attention, daily meals, or place to live throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

Tell us how the need is connected to the COVID-19 epidemic and how it is not an ongoing operating expense. Why is this need important to the response and recovery effort? *

Food, medical, and especially rental assistance are always major needs of the vulnerable populations living in Gunnison County. However, with the impact of COVID-19 on the closure of businesses and widespread loss of jobs, these needs are becoming far more prevalent throughout the county. As mentioned in the previous section, HHS has already seen an increased need from the county's residents and anticipates that need growing as many

individuals continue to be out of work during the COVID-19 outbreak. It is essential for the recovery of Gunnison County that its residents are able to afford food, necessary medical treatment, and a place to live. If residents are unable to take care of these basic needs, then the county and its economy will not be able to truly recover from the COVID-19 outbreak.

Provide a very short narrative on how you will expend the grant. *

HHS will expend the grant by providing rent, food, and medical assistance to individuals and families who have experienced a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, the funding will be used to help make these payments for CSBG applicants who either do not qualify for assistance through the program or those we cannot help because of a lack of adequate federal funding. Our CSBG application will be used to evaluate the household's level of need. An internal review team will use a self-sufficiency matrix and established formula that incorporates expenses and needs to best determine who receives funding.

Eligible applicants will be able to show a loss of income as a result of losing employment or hours because of COVID-19 as well as an inability to cover their necessary expenses with this reduction in income. An additional qualification for receiving rental/mortgage assistance, specifically, will be that the client has to have already tried reaching out to their landlord or mortgage company to ask for a deferment on their payment. There have been instances in which landlords and mortgage companies have deferred a tenant's payment after the tenant asked them to. While we can hope that many of these landlords will choose to help their tenants out, we cannot assume they will. In fact, we need to plan that they will not defer on payments so that we have the appropriate resources to assist those potentially facing evictions.

The medical costs of eligible applicants don't necessarily need to be COVID-19 related. However, in order to receive such assistance, that applicant must meet the other eligibility requirements.

Approved applicants will receive one third of their requested assistance when it comes to rent/mortgage payments. The amount of medical and food assistance selected applicants receive, will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

What other financial avenues are you pursuing to meet this need? Do you have cash reserves to draw on? *

HHS receives $58,000 per year in federal funding for CSBG. We have also just received a $75,000 COVID-19 relief package for the same program. However, given the widespread economic impact of this pandemic, these funds will still not be enough to cover the needs we anticipate seeing during the coming months.