AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Grant Acceptance; Gunnison Home Association; $5,00

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement: Gunnison Home Association

Term Begins: 01/01/2021 **Term Ends:** 12/31/2021 **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Due to a shortage of Homemaking services, many older adults are at risk of needing to leave their home prematurely.

Fiscal Impact: $5000

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

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
no concerns, kw

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\kweak Discharge Date: 10/29/2020

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

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ( ) No ( )

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 11/6/2020

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

Agenda Date: 11/10/2020

Revised April 2015

Health and Human Services Department
Health and Human Services Phone: (970) 641-3244
Fax: (970) 641-3738
220 N Spruce St., Gunnison, CO 81230
Website: www.GunnisonCounty.org/retailfood

09/09/2020

Gunnison Home Association
PO Box 1381
Gunnison, CO 81230

Don Crossley,

Gunnison County Department of Health and Human services, and more specifically Gunnison County Senior Resource Office, thanks you for your gracious outreach for assistance. On the following page is a projected proposal for use of funds from Gunnison Home Association.

Organization Name: Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services

Project Title: Home Independence

Grant Amount Requested: $5000.00

Preferred Method for Distribution of Grant Money: Check

Mailing Address: 220 North Spruce Street, Gunnison, CO 81230

Email: Elizabeth.holena@state.co.us

Project Start Date: 10/1/2020

Project End Date: 9/31/2021

Project Description:
The mission of Gunnison County Senior Resource Office (SRO) is to provide community outreach and education, preventive health, adult protection and advocacy services to low income seniors, at risk adults and their families so they can be more independent, healthy and connected to their community. Project Home Independence will address an identified need in the community by providing homemaking and cleaning services to both Gunnison and Hinsdale County's most vulnerable seniors.

Currently, Gunnison County Senior Resources Office is dedicated to offering services to individuals of Gunnison County, age 60 and older, without regards to race, color, national origin, sex or income. The Senior Resource Office targets low income, frail and elderly seniors, seniors living with a disability and minority seniors having over 9000 contacts each year. According to the United States Census, 7.3% of the senior population, age 65 and up, lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The American Community Survey also identified that 16.22% of Hispanic/Latino seniors age 65 and older live in poverty, compared to 7.03% of non-Hispanic/Latino seniors. Gunnison County provides seniors, and their families, a comprehensive efficient way to gain knowledge of resources in our community to help them maintain health and independence.

A Critical service that has been identified through community need assessments, focus groups and programmatic evaluation are in-home services, including cleaning and homemaking services. The existing programs in the community often face barriers to meeting the needs of the community due to lack of staff, remote location and inability to provide a living wage and difficult nature of the work. Without services in the home, many vulnerable seniors and families often have to lose independence more quickly, prematurely having to move from their homes to another environment that offers more services. Many seniors are able to live safely and independently with assistance from homemaking services, which can include shopping, meal preparing, cleaning, light personal care and general assistance. It is anticipated that Project Home Independence would be able to bring services to approximately 20 households through the year on a limited short term basis. Project Home Independence would only fund the direct cost of service.

The Senior Resources Office, a division of Gunnison County Health and Human Services, hosts several different programs providing services to low income seniors including Long Term Care Medicaid Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado, Medicaid Outreach, and Adult Protective Services. Through Long Term Care Medicaid, approximately 65 low income seniors are provided case management and in-home services to seniors who have a functional deficit in any Activities of Daily Living. The Adult Protection Program provides intervention and protection to Seniors have diminished capacity and may be experiencing mistreatment, such as physical or emotional abuse. Lastly, the Aging and Disability Resources of Colorado provides information and

referral assistance to older adults, family/friends, professionals, and community members. Services also include outreach/information, assistance activities and Medicare Counseling through the State Health Insurance Program(SHIP). Outreach/information and assistance activities include on site sessions at the Senior Center, Senior Housing complex, local thrift stores, Open access hours, the Food Pantry and Community Options along with facilitating education community presentations on a variety of aging and care giving related topics.
The office also maintains current materials, available in both print and electronic versions, of services and benefits available to seniors in Gunnison County and surrounding areas, including Hinsdale County, Salida and the Western Slope. The SRO leads coordinated collaborative efforts in the community to create new services to fill "gaps" in areas where demand is greater than the service supply, such as caregiver resources, out of town transportation, dental care and access to care for lower income, uninsured and under insured individuals. The SRO also helps identify overlaps or duplication in services in order to avoid resource waste and optimize consumer utilization of available services. Total the Senior Resource Office employs 4 full time employees and two part time employees. Programs are supported by state and grant funding. Funding for existing programs comes from both state and grant funding. The general operating budget of the senior resource office is approximately $200,000 which supports the existing positions.

Gunnison County has not applied for other funds or identified any additional funds to support Project Home Independence. Although Long Term Care Medicaid covers the cost of homemaking services, due to shortages the service is intermittent and Project Home Independence would allow individuals to remain in their home while services are in shortage.

Due to the changing landscape caused by the Pandemic, Gunnison County is seeing an increased need for basic needs such as home making services, housing, food, and assistance navigating Medicaid/Medicare. A gap that continues to be prevalent in Gunnison County is the need for homemaking services, dental and vision needs, cleaning services, transportation assistance, and emergency food assistance.

Gunnison County will recognize Gunnison Home Association contribution by displaying recognition in a public facing arena such as the front lobby and on grant applications.