



Board Summary Report

Date: 8/13/20
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director
From: Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager
Subject: Community Services Block Grant Needs Assessment

Request and Recommendation

The purpose of this study session is to provide the results of the 2020 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Community Needs Assessment to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). As required by the CSBG process, we are requesting that the BOCC formally accept the Community Needs Assessment and approve the plan to continue providing the Homemaker and Emergency Rent Assistance Programs in the 2021-23 grant cycle.

Background

Arapahoe County Community Resources receives Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds on behalf of Arapahoe County Government annually. CSBG funds are federal funds that originate from the Office of Community Services, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Our allocation has increased over the past three years to an anticipated allocation for 2020 of \$543,000. We currently utilize these funds for our Homemaker Program, Eastern Plains Emergency Services, the Emergency Housing Program, and staffing to support these programs.

The Community Services Block Grant requires grantees to undertake a needs assessment every three years. The needs assessment must:

- determine the causes and conditions of poverty in the community
- determine the unmet needs of low income community members
- examine current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, race and ethnicity
- gather data from people living in poverty
- gather data from community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, public sector, and educational institutions
- Analyze both qualitative and quantitative data
- Make recommendations for actions within the scope of the CSBG grant that may impact identified needs or gaps

Following discussions with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and the Colorado Community Action Association, it was decided that we would complete the Community Needs Assessment as an in-house project rather than working with an outside organization for the purposes of retaining more of the funding to use directly with clients. It is likely that we will need to occasionally hire a consultant to undertake this project but not each time.

Links to Align Arapahoe

The CSBG Needs Assessment links to Align Arapahoe through Quality of Life and Fiscal Responsibility. Identifying the unmet needs of low income citizens in Arapahoe County allows us to direct CSBG funds to the areas of greatest need and may impact the quality of life for recipients of assistance through CSBG. Appropriately utilizing the funds is part of our Fiscal Responsibility.

Discussion

The Community Needs Assessment Survey results are attached to this BSR. They have been reviewed and approved by the CSBG Tri Partite Board as required by the grant. Based on the results of the Community Needs Assessment we are recommending that we continue the current course in utilizing CSBG funds to assist low income citizens in our community.

Currently we utilize funds for the Homemaker Program providing low income senior and disabled people with housekeeping services to assist them in remaining independent in their own homes for as long as possible. We also provide emergency rental assistance/eviction prevention for people in danger of losing their housing or in need of securing housing after an eviction. In the past we have had a separate program for the Eastern Plains rent assistance which has been subcontracted to Integrated Family Community Services. Moving forward in 2021 we will retain that program as an in-house program. We made this decision based on the amount of rent assistance that we are currently doing with the various CARES Act funds and the very few applications we receive from the Eastern Plains.

Alternatives

The results of the CSBG Needs Assessment are informational only.

Fiscal Impact

CSBG funds are allocated on a formula basis to Arapahoe County. There are no County General Funds involved.

Concurrence

The CSBG Advisory Committee received the results of the Needs Assessment at their meeting on 7/22/20 and has approved the Needs Assessment and Services plan.

Attorney Comments

Reviewed By:

Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Manager
Don Klemme, Community Resources Department Director
Todd Weaver, Finance Department Director
Tiffanie Bleau, Assistant County Attorney