



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

BOARD SUMMARY REPORT

Date: September 14, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Jacquelyn Bayard, Administrative Specialist, Communication and Administrative Services

Subject: 2021 Arapahoe County Aid to Agencies Funding Recommendations

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this study session is to present the 2021 recommendations of the Aid to Agencies review team and to finalize grant awards as part of the proposed 2021 budget.

Background

The Board of County Commissioners provides financial aid to non-profit agencies that serve Arapahoe County residents in the areas of mental health, seniors, drug or alcohol addiction rehabilitation, and other vulnerable populations. The Aid to Agencies budget has remained flat over the past two years at \$1,679,500.

The grant program seeks to support at-risk and underserved populations through three core focus areas: human services, health and wellness, and crisis intervention. Applicants are also tiered to represent whether they have previously received Aid to Agencies funding (Tier I) or are new to the grant process (Tier II). Using established criteria, a review team comprised of Administrative Services, Community Resources, and Human Services staff determine if the submissions meet the grant criteria and to determine if any applicant is currently receiving funding from another County program or entity.

Arapahoe County received 26 Tier I grant applications, totaling \$1,669,823. The county received 24 Tier II applications, of which 16 were deemed qualified, totaling an additional \$1,055,000.

It should be noted that the review team does not have any knowledge of the legal status of clients served by agencies.

A summary of the qualified applications is listed below. Additional documentation included in the packet includes the applications, along with a funding spreadsheet and additional documentation.

TIER ONE – PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGENCIES

1. JUSTICE AND MERCY LEGAL AID CENTER

- 2020 allocation: \$20,000
- 2021 request: \$20,000
- Provides free, comprehensive legal services to low-income families in the Denver Metro area in the areas of family law and immigration, with a focus on survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other violent crimes.
- In 2019, 446 individuals from Arapahoe County were served, representing 24 percent of total individuals served.

2. AURORA INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 2020 allocation: \$51,000
- 2021 request: \$51,000
- Provides substantive emergency assistance to homeless and low-income Aurora residents, including food, clothing, transportation, personal goods, and housing and utility assistance.
- In 2019, 2,675 of the 4,960 unduplicated clients served were from Arapahoe County, comprising 54 percent of all served.

3. GATEWAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

- 2020 allocation: \$345,000
- 2021 request: \$345,000
- Provides emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, nonresidential counseling, a court advocacy program, and community development programs to domestic violence victims and their children. The Bailey Project allows pets to stay with their families at the shelter.
- In 2019, 4,378 Arapahoe County residents received onsite services and 7,291 accessed crisis support remotely for a total of 11,669 Arapahoe County residents served, representing 92 percent of all served.

4. SOUTH METRO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

- 2020 allocation: \$10,000
- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Loans durable medical equipment for up to three months, regardless of reason for the needed equipment or ability to pay.
- In fiscal year 2019, 285 of 717 clients, or 40 percent, were Arapahoe County residents.

5. A PRECIOUS CHILD

- 2020 allocation: \$10,000
- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides children access to basic essentials such as clothing, toiletries, school supplies, education opportunities, gifts of celebration, and extracurricular activities.
- In 2019, 5,336 of the 65,059 unduplicated individuals served were from Arapahoe County, accounting for 8 percent.

6. FAMILY TREE

- 2020 allocation: \$100,000
- 2021 request: \$100,000
- Focuses on child and youth services, domestic violence, and housing and family stabilization. The House of Hope program provides shelter for people experiencing homelessness and supportive services for up to 35 women and children at any given time, with a targeted stay of 90 days. The Generational Opportunities to Achieve Long-term Success (GOALS) program will assist families experiencing homelessness achieve economic independence and housing stability.
- During the 2018-19 fiscal year, Arapahoe County residents comprised nearly 9 percent of all clients served. Approximately 47 percent of those served by House of Hope were Arapahoe County residents. The GOALS program opened August 2019 so there is not data for the 2018-19 fiscal year, but it is anticipated that approximately 75 percent of those served will be Arapahoe County residents.

7. COMITIS CRISIS CENTER

- 2020 allocation: \$68,000
- 2021 request: \$68,000
- Provides 24/7 shelter services, crisis intervention, emergency relief, behavioral health services, food assistance, counseling, outreach, and service linkages to residents and families in times of need in Aurora and the surrounding community.
- In 2019, approximately 85 percent of all clients served were Arapahoe County residents.

8. ALLHEALTH NETWORK

- 2020 allocation: \$179,540
- 2021 request: \$179,540
- Provides mental health and substance use treatment to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in Arapahoe County.
- In 2019, AllHealth Network served 7,141 unduplicated clients from Arapahoe County, accounting for 44 percent of the total clients served.

9. INTEGRATED FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 2020 allocation: \$80,000
- 2021 request: \$100,000
- Provides basic services, emergency assistance, and case management to help children and adults who are struggling to attain and maintain long-term economic security.
- In 2019, approximately 14,000 unduplicated Arapahoe County individuals were served. About 97% of individuals served reside in Arapahoe County.

10. NOURISH MEALS ON WHEELS (FORMERLY TLC MEALS ON WHEELS)

- 2020 allocation: \$30,000
- 2021 request: \$30,000
- Provides hot meals to homebound seniors and disabled adults 7 days a week, as well as non-perishable groceries once per month. The area served is from west of I-25, south of US-285, within the C-470 loop, encompassing parts of Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe and Douglas counties.
- Between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020, 636 Arapahoe County residents received meals, or 79 percent of 839 total clients.

11. DOCTORS CARE

- 2020 allocation: \$11,700
- 2021 request: \$15,000
- Provides accessible medical services to low-income people living in South Metro Denver, as well as free assistance with applying for Medicaid or private health insurance plans. Doctors Care also assists clients with connecting to social services and healthcare resources throughout the community.
- Approximately 70 percent of Doctors Care's patients and clients live in Arapahoe County.

12. JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF COLORADO – FAMILY SAFETY NET

- 2020 allocation: \$15,000
- 2021 request: \$15,000
- Jewish Family Service of Colorado's Family Safety Net program provides support to families experiencing crisis through financial assistance, case management, employment supports, and food assistance to promote self-sufficiency and financial security.
- In 2019, 20.5% of the 2,287 households/5,798 individuals served were from Arapahoe County.

13. VIA MOBILITY SERVICES

- 2020 allocation: \$10,000
- 2021 request: \$2,000
- Provides affordable and accessible transportation for low-income, rural seniors and people with disabilities in the I-70 corridor, including the towns of Byers, Bennett, Deer Trail, Watkins, and Strasburg.
- In 2019, Via Mobility Services provided about 100 trips for 4 Arapahoe County residents.

14. ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

- 2020 allocation: \$15,000
- 2021 request: \$15,000
- The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program provides volunteer advocates to children involved in child abuse and neglect cases throughout the 18th Judicial District to provide children with a dedicated and attentive voice in court.
- In 2019, 698 abused and neglected children were served on 325 cases. Arapahoe County cases represented 67 percent of all children served.

15. COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERS/AURORA HOUSING CORPORATION

- 2020 allocation: \$10,000
- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides affordable housing at two communities in Arapahoe County: Plaza Townhomes and Townhomes at Tollgate Creek.
- In 2019, 47 unduplicated households were provided case management, referrals, and assistance. 100 percent of the households are from Arapahoe County.

16. HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS ACTION TASK FORCE

- 2020 allocation: \$7,500
- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides motel vouchers on extremely cold weather nights to individuals experiencing homelessness in Western Arapahoe County (Englewood, Littleton, Sheridan), focusing especially on families with children, the disabled, and people with pets.
- In the 2019-2020 winter season, 104 individuals (35 men, 35 women, 34 children, 7 dogs, and 1 cat) were served. It is estimated that 90 percent of individuals served are Arapahoe County residents.

17. THE SALVATION ARMY – CENTENNIAL CORPS

- 2020 allocation: \$15,000
- 2021 request: \$30,000
- Provides rental assistance and eviction prevention for residents on the brink of or in the process of eviction.
- In 2019, 86 percent of the 1,275 unduplicated individuals served were Arapahoe County residents. 100 percent of individuals afforded rent assistance were from Arapahoe County.

18. 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WELLNESS COURT

- 2020 allocation: \$35,235
- 2021 request: \$45,720
- Provides care coordination services to individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders within the 18th Judicial District Wellness Court. The case manager provides comprehensive, individualized support for substance abuse, mental health, job skills, life skills, and parenting to clients in an effort to reduce recidivism.
- In 2019, a total of 26 referrals were made to Mile High Behavioral Health Care from the 18th Judicial District Wellness Court, 100 percent of which were from Arapahoe County.

19. JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF COLORADO – AGING CARE AND CORRECTIONS (FORMERLY SENIOR SOLUTIONS CENTER)

- 2020 allocation: \$33,000
- 2021 request: \$33,000
- Jewish Family Service of Colorado's Aging Care and Corrections program provides care management for those who are 60 and older with in-home assessments of needs, healthcare advocacy, referral, and care coordination.
- In 2019, served 108 unduplicated older adults in Arapahoe County, representing 10 percent of the total 1,110 clients served.

20. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CRISIS PARTNERS

- 2020 allocation: \$9,000
- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides crisis intervention for behavioral health emergencies through 24/7/365 telephonic, online chat, and texting programs. Annually, nearly 60,000 episodes of care are delivered by trained counselors.
- Between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020, 5,607 unique individuals from Arapahoe County were served, accounting for 8.1 percent of total population served.

21. TRI-VALLEY SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

- 2020 allocation: \$12,000
- 2021 request: \$12,000
- Provides rural seniors access to transportation, health and wellness, nutritional, socialization, and safety services. The area served is west of Strasburg, extending along the I-70 corridor east of Deer Trail to the far eastern edge of Arapahoe County, and from the northern edge to the southern border of the Arapahoe County.
- In 2019, served over 157 Arapahoe County seniors by provided 155 transportation trips.

22. AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER – DETOX

- 2020 allocation: \$280,000
- 2021 request: \$280,000
- Provides withdrawal management and recovery services to adults over 18 who require safe withdrawal from drugs or alcohol who may be served in a social detox setting.
- In 2019, a total of 2,485 unduplicated consumers were served. Of those, 1,581, or 63.6 percent, were Arapahoe County residents.

23. STRIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

- 2020 allocation: \$48,479
- 2021 request: \$60,000
- Provides primary and specialty care to include medical, dental, behavioral, and community services on a sliding fee discount to medically underserved individuals in suburban Denver and throughout Arapahoe County through a network of health center locations.
- In 2019, STRIDE provided 59,181 service encounters to 19,309 unduplicated patients at health center locations in Arapahoe County. Across all locations,

STRIDE provided integrated medical health to 27,660 unique individuals with an Arapahoe County residence zip code last year.

24. ARAPAHOE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

- 2020 allocation: \$3,000
- 2021 request: \$3,000
- The Council on Aging advocates for services that best meet the needs of older adults in Arapahoe County through education, collaboration, and coordination in the community.
- 95 percent of individuals who participated in events were from Arapahoe County.

25. AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

- 2020 allocation: \$180,063
- 2021 request: \$180,063
- Provides behavioral health services, including mental health therapy, group therapy, medication, and outpatient substance use services, to individuals, families, and couples. The Connect to Care Clinic allows individuals to seek treatment without an appointment and is the main access point for services at the Aurora Mental Health Center.
- In 2019, the Connect to Care Clinic served 3,355 unique individuals, 66 percent of which were from Arapahoe County.

26. JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER

- 2020 allocation: \$28,000
- 2021 request: \$35,500
- Provides sustainable community and family connections to truant students in Aurora, Cherry Creek, Sheridan, Littleton, and Englewood School Districts. The Community Assessment Program (CAP) identifies root causes of behavior in school-aged youth and undiagnosed, unmet, or underserved needs, and allows for early intervention services.
- In 2019, 347 unduplicated Arapahoe County youth were served through the Community Assessment Program, about 75 percent of the youth served by the program.

TIER TWO – NEW APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. SECOND CHANCE CENTER COLORADO

- 2021 request: \$100,000
- Provides recovery programming (including mental health care, addictions counseling, peer mentoring, support groups, acu-detox, and cognitive behavioral change) and extensive supportive services (including housing, career training, and employment placement) to formerly incarcerated people.
- In 2019, 307 unduplicated Arapahoe County residents were served, comprising 19.4 percent of the total caseload.

2. FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES

- 2021 request: \$30,000
- Provides food and grocery items to food-insecure children, seniors, and families in Arapahoe County and throughout Colorado.
- In 2019, an estimated 70,150 unduplicated Arapahoe County individuals were served, representing about 12 percent of the 593,239 individuals served throughout the service area.

3. AURORA COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- 2021 request: \$50,000
- Funds are requested for an on-site Spanish/English bilingual mental health therapist to provide one-on-one and group therapy to low-income Arapahoe County residents from Latino immigrant families.
- In 2019, 48 percent of individuals served lived in Arapahoe County, corresponding to approximately 2,000 unduplicated individuals.

4. THERE WITH CARE

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides basic needs support including food, rent/mortgage assistance, utilities assistance, and gas cards to families with critically ill children.
- In 2019, 99 families representing 396 unduplicated Arapahoe County individuals were served, 14.6 percent of the total 676 families (2,704 individuals) served.

5. SECOND WIND FUND

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides mental health support to youth 19 years and younger who are at-risk for suicide by connecting them to professional, specialized mental health counseling.
- In the 2018-19 school year, 173 youth were served, representing 23 percent of the total number served.

6. COVENANT CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Funding is requested to support general operational spending for food purchases, rent, insurance, supplies, and truck expenses to provide food to people experiencing food insecurity.
- In 2019, 1,264 unduplicated Arapahoe County individuals were served, constituting 49 percent of 2,579 unique individuals served.

7. HOPE STARTS HERE FOOD BANK

- 2021 request: \$100,000
- Provides food to children, youth, adults, and seniors who struggle with poverty and food insecurity.
- In 2019, about 65 percent of the 93,600 unduplicated individuals served were from Arapahoe County.

8. PROJECT SAFEGUARD

- 2021 request: \$50,000
- Provides legal advocacy and attorney services in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, and Denver counties to assist victims and survivors of gender-based violence to use the civic legal system to increase their safety and build a successful future for themselves and their families.
- In 2019, Project Safeguard served 264 Arapahoe County residents, approximately 22 percent of the 1,214 total individuals served.

9. MOVEMENT 5280

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides assistance and a “family of support” to homeless youth and other at-risk young people lacking guidance as they transition to adulthood.
- In 2019, 400 Arapahoe County individuals were served, and 70 percent live in Arapahoe County.

10. TENNYSON CENTER FOR CHILDREN

- 2021 request: \$75,000
- Funding is requested for Tennyson’s Community-Based Services Program which provides in-home and community-based interventions for families referred through the child welfare system.
- In 2019, Tennyson provided Community-Based Services to 31 Arapahoe County families (approximately 70 unduplicated children and family members), representing 13-15 percent of agency services.

11. BREAK BREAD

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides free community meals on Saturdays to Littleton residents experiencing food insecurity.
- In 2019, served approximately 5,000 meals to 750-900 unduplicated recipients. It is estimated that more than 95 percent of meal recipients come from Arapahoe County.

12. READY TO WORK AURORA

- 2021 request: \$50,000
- Provides a “work-first” approach to help individuals experiencing homelessness including one year of housing, employment in social enterprise, and case management supportive services as a stepping-stone to independence.

- In 2019, 260 adults applied to Ready to Work and 87 met the criteria to become a trainee. Self-reported data indicated that 39 percent of participants were from Aurora or other sections of Arapahoe County.

13. IMMIGRANT PATHWAYS COLORADO

- 2021 request: \$10,000
- Provides “self-development” grants to immigrants, refugees, and asylees who are documented and live at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level to assist with things including learning English, becoming a citizen, training to become a medical/dental assistant, becoming a real estate appraiser, and obtaining tools for work.
- In 2019, Immigrant Pathways Colorado made 16 “self-development” grants to families in the metro area. 52 percent went to Arapahoe County residents living in Aurora.

14. LINCOLN HEALTH

- 2021 request: \$500,000
- Funds are requested to open a new primary care clinic in Deer Trail to serve the surrounding area and address healthcare needs.
- In 2019, Lincoln Health provided care for 464 patients to residents along the I-70 corridor, representing 7.8 percent of total patients seen by Lincoln Health.

15. RAY OF HOPE CANCER FOUNDATION

- 2021 request: \$20,000
- Provides financial assistance grants for low-income Colorado cancer patients to assist with basic needs including housing, food, utilities, and transportation.
- In 2019, 81 cancer patients from Arapahoe County were served, representing 14.31 percent of total patients served.

16. THE KEMPE FOUNDATION

- 2021 request: \$20,000
- Funding is requested to provide Trauma-Responsive Implementation and Practice training to school specialists from mental health centers within Arapahoe County to children who have experienced trauma.
- In 2019, the Colorado Cross-Systems Training Institute has provided formal training to 95 professionals who work in Arapahoe County, approximately 10 percent of professional trained.

Discussion

Based on established criteria and a flat budget assumption, the 2021 Review Team recommends the following:

- Award the Tier I agencies with the same amounts as awarded in 2020, with the exception of the following:
 - a) Recommend a \$1,000 increase in awards to Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners to match their 2021 request.
 - b) Recommend an \$8,000 decrease in awards to Via Mobility Services to match their 2021 request.
- The review team considered whether any of the Tier I agencies are currently receiving or have applied for CARES Act funding. Tier I agencies that requested an increase were contacted to find out if the increase was related to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore eligible to be funded through CARES Act funds. Based on the responses received, the review team determined that none of the increases were eligible for CARES funds.
- The review team looked at each Tier II application for community impact, a diverse set of services, and areas that have gaps in services. Therefore, the recommendation is to award funding to the following Tier II applicants:
 - a) Second Chance Center Colorado, the amount of \$24,992, to help provide recovery programming, housing, career training, and job placement to formerly incarcerated people.
 - b) Ready to Work Aurora, the amount of \$24,992, to help provide housing and employment to adults experiencing homelessness.
 - c) Food Bank of the Rockies, the amount of \$30,000, to provide food assistance.

Fiscal Impact

The county received 42 eligible applications, totaling \$2,724,823, more than \$1,045,323 above a flat budget assumption.

If the Board adopted the recommendation above, the county would allocate \$1,679,500, leaving no unspecified funds in the account for 2021.

The Board could also choose to fund all eligible Tier II applicants, which would require allocating additional funding to the 2021 Aid to Agencies program in the amount of \$1,055,000.

The Board could also reduce the 2021 Aid to Agencies program budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic by 5 percent (\$153,309) or 10 percent (\$233,635). This could result in decreasing funding for recommended applicants or eliminating applicants from funding altogether. If the board desires to pursue reductions, these projections are listed on the funding spreadsheet.

Reviewed by:

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