

October 20, 2022, CDBG-CV Application Amendment

Attachment A to Application

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The Housing Navigation Center (HNC) with cold weather shelter helps people to survive their experience of homelessness and helps to connect clients to resources that help them find housing and establish stability. The cold weather shelter benefits guests by providing a safe, warm place to spend the coldest nights of the year. Without it, hypothermia, other weather related illnesses and injuries such as frostbite, and even death, are potential fates for our most vulnerable neighbors. The cold weather shelter benefits police, fire, ambulance and other first responders, and healthcare workers by providing them an alternate location to take people they encounter other than jail or the emergency room, both of which are far more expensive options. The cold weather shelter staff include 1 director of operations, 1 shelter manager, 1 volunteer coordinator, and 14 shelter associates. The HNC provides a safe place for people to be during the day, while also connecting them to community resources, case management, mail access, locker storage, hygiene services, and more. Primary HNC activities include: 1) diverting people from the homeless services system; 2) assessing those who are experiencing homelessness and prioritizing them for a return to housing; 3) providing needed resources for those who are living out of doors (cold weather shelter, mail delivery, hygiene resources, etc.); and 4) connecting people to housing, jobs, health services, and needed livelihood services. The HNC staff include a team of 3 resources navigators and 3 housing navigators that help connect guests to permanent housing solutions, 1 program coordinator who manages internal programming, and a program director that oversees all HNC operations. The Housing Navigation Center is currently located at 870 28th Street, Greeley, 80631.

Both the HNC and cold weather shelter have made operational changes to respond to COVID-19. People experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. As such, the HNC and cold weather shelter screen for COVID-19 symptoms, serving as the first point of contact for sick individuals who may not be in regular contact with other providers. The HNC and cold weather shelter host COVID-19 vaccine clinics for guests. Furthermore, the HNC and cold weather shelter provide socially distanced sleeping areas, and hotel vouchers for COVID-19 positive or exposed individuals and for shelter overflow. Non-Congregate sheltering is the best way to keep vulnerable populations socially distanced, thus decreasing the community spread of COVID-19.

Additional funding is being requested to increase the hours of operations for the HNC day shelter and overnight cold weather shelter. Current daytime hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, and overnight shelter hours are from 7pm-7am, 7 nights per week from November 15 to April 15. Additional funding will allow for 24/7 shelter operations between November 15, 2022 to April 15, 2023. Removing the shelter gaps between daytime and night time operations and on weekends will prevent community spread of COVID-19 by providing a clean and controlled environment for people experiencing homelessness to be during the winter months. It will also create more opportunity for engagement to help guests get housed and access other community resources.

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In addition to the cost outlined below, this additional request in funding is needed to pay for additional direct service staff time associated with increasing hours of operations. This includes staffing to cover day shelter operations from 3pm to 7pm Monday to Friday and from 7am-7pm on weekends. The additional funding will also be used to pay for additional food costs associated with expanded hours.

CDBG-CV funds would be used to pay for rent at the Housing Navigation Center and cold weather shelter building to ensure a safe place for people experiencing homelessness to stay during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDBG-CV funds would also be used to pay for direct staff time at the cold weather shelter and Housing Navigation Center. Staff screen for COVID-19 symptoms, perform regular COVID-19 testing, maintain cleanliness of the space, enforce social distancing and mask requirements, and keep people safe. CDBG-CV funds would also pay for a professional cleaning crew to maintain the cleanliness of the space. CDBG-CV funds would support the cold weather shelter meal purchases for guests. Due to COVID-19, the cold weather shelter provides self-contained meals that allow guests to eat while socially distanced. Finally, CDBG-CV funds would be used to pay for motel overflow vouchers. This funding allows for overflow guests to have a safe place to sleep when the shelter is full. Hotel vouchers also can be used to quarantine and isolate guests who have contracted COVID-19. The above costs are directly related to the increased costs associated with operating the HNC and cold weather shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic and, as such, the CDBG-CV funds would fill the gap needed to make up the difference in operational costs. The HNC and cold weather shelter are also supported by ESG, ESG-CV 2, and ESG-CV 2.2 funds however there is not enough funding to support all of our operations. Therefore, CDBG-CV funds would be used to fill the gap in funding created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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See Attachment C for HNC Budget and CV costs.