

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2023
To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Carl Young, County Administrator
Re: DOLA Climate Resilience Challenge – 129 Kansas EOC/Dispatch
Attachments: Draft Application

Summary: We have been awarded a DOLA Energy and Mineral Assistance Fund Grant in the amount of \$3,669,750 to assist with funding the remodel of 129 Kansas into a Dispatch Center and Emergency Operations Center. The total cost of this project is \$4,893,000. The County has saved almost \$1M for this project over the last several years. We are applying for grants to cover the remaining matching funds.

Requested Motion/Action:

Motion to accept the award of \$3,669,750 from the DOLA Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund program for the 129 Kansas EOC/Dispatch Remodel in the amount of \$3,669,750 with an additional \$1,223,250 in matching funds.

Grant Program:

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) supports efforts by local governments to engage in Climate Resilience projects through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) program. Current EIAF program guidelines are scored in how they incorporate resilience, renewables, and hazard risk reduction. The Climate Resilience Challenge will take this work to the next level with a \$20M set aside for bold projects that move forward cutting edge climate work. The Climate Resilience Challenge will encourage and support local governments to promote and integrate climate resilience projects that capture multiple objectives across climate adaptation and climate mitigation solutions that holistically address the most high-risk vulnerabilities for the region while advancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). The Challenge supports a reduced local match and increased award opportunities. All applications in this Challenge will follow the regularly planned cycles of the EIAF Program. Grants under this Challenge will include a focus on social equity including the unique needs of the diverse demographics across Colorado's communities.

Our Project:

This project involves the remodel of 129 Kansas into a Dispatch Center and EOC. The remodel consists of converting the main level office space into a dispatch call center for Area Emergency Services. This includes all demolition, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, IT and general trade elements required to reconfigure the space. For ADA accessibility requirements, an elevator, updates to exterior ramping, accessible restrooms and plumbing will be installed. The electrical service will be upgraded and a new back-up generator will be installed. LED lighting and a VRF heat pump HVAC system and modern control system will be installed to advance electrification and meet

decarbonization goals. The basement remodel will include an IT area, sleeping area and shower facilities will be added to the basement or main level. The second floor will be remodeled into an emergency response center area that will also be a meeting and planning space for the public.

Alignment with County Objectives:

This project aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- **RESILIENCY:** Integrate disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and resilience into County operations, through training, planning, community involvement and land stewardship
- **INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES:** Maintain, preserve, and improve the quality of County-owned infrastructure and facilities, particularly the County Road System

Financial Considerations:

The County will apply to receive \$3,669,750 from the Department of Local Affairs. This special initiative of the Energy and Mineral Impact Fund Program requires a 25% Match. We are proposing a match of \$1,223,250 which is 25% of the project total. This is a reimbursement grant funded with State money.

Background:

Huerfano County has experienced multiple large incidents with significant impacts to their landscape and their communities. The EOC has been improvised in areas from a kitchen and hallway to a bay in a local fire department. Locations have been moved from temporary location to temporary location over the last ten years. The County has worked hard through the years to build an EOC response capability; however, we would greatly benefit by having a permanent physical location for operations. The EOC and Dispatch center both operate helping to cover Huerfano County and our communities. The dispatch center has been operating with equipment that is near its end of life and is in desperate need of upgrade and/or replacement. The office in which they are currently located is very small, resulting in an overcrowded workspace. Dispatch needs a larger space to sustain the support requirements of our emergency services and future growth of our communities. The update to their building and equipment is greatly needed and long overdue. Huerfano County has been working on a new replacement diligently for the last three years, working with contractors and engineers to explore any and all options. A firm did design a new building design concept that came in at over \$8M.

Signature of the Chair

Approved

Approved w/ Changes

Denied



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Local Government

November 8, 2023

The Honorable John Galusha, BOCC Chair
Huerfano County
401 Main Street, Suite 201
Walsenburg, CO, 81089

RE: EIAF 9755 - CRC Huerfano County Emergency Operations Remodel

Dear Commissioner Galusha:

Congratulations! After thorough review, I am excited to offer a grant award in the amount of \$3,669,750 to assist with the above mentioned project.

Your project was reviewed based on a variety of factors such as its connection to energy impact, degree of need, measurable outcomes, amount of request, relationship to community goals, level of local match and community support, management capacity, resiliency and readiness to go. Competition for these limited funds is intense and we are seeing great demand.

DOLA encourages and supports local governments to integrate climate adaptation and climate mitigation solutions that build resilience, mitigate hazards, and prepare communities for future climate-related impacts and social equity vulnerabilities. We are excited to fund innovative projects such as this and look forward to future updates on its progression.

These grant funds will be from state severance tax proceeds, which may cause you to go to election to receive and spend them. You should confer with your legal and budget advisors to determine if such an election is necessary.

Please contact your DOLA Regional Manager, Tara Marshall, at 719-250-6944 for information on how to proceed. Expenditure of State funds prior to the contract being fully executed cannot be included in the contract budget or reimbursed by the State. Per our program guidelines, this offer is valid for one year from the date of this letter.

I wish you success with your project. Thank you for helping Colorado build an economy where all Coloradans can thrive.

Sincerely,

Rick M. Garcia
Executive Director

cc: Rod Pelton, State Senator
Ty Winter, State Representative
Carl Young, Huerfano County
Tara Marshall, DOLA

