

John Galusha, Chairman

**Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners**

March 28, 2024

Vashti Thomas-Wachterman, Chair  
Huerfano Community Corporation  
24840 Highway 69  
Gardner, Colorado 81040



RE: Letter of Support for Huerfano Community Corporation FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Request

Dear U.S. Senators Michael Bennet & John Hickenlooper,


I write in firm support of Huerfano Community Corporation's (HCC) application for FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding to pursue Phase 2 of their Co-Op project. The HCC is a vital grassroots organization in our community, dedicated to addressing both the critical needs of our residents and promoting health equity in Huerfano County. Their innovative approach will increase equitable access to resources by breaking down barriers, particularly in rural, underserved Gardner where community members drive an average of 40 miles for basic supplies such as gas, food, and healthcare.

Phase 2 of the Co-Op buildout includes adding a commercial kitchen, a community garden, dedicated space for the community library that is currently housed in a bus, a gear library, accessible outdoor play spaces, and a sports court structure. This project addresses significant health disparities in our community, particularly food insecurity, limited access to nutritious options, transportation, housing, and healthcare. Additionally, establishing a dedicated infrastructure for jobs to support food distribution, access, and educational programming will have a transformative impact on health equity in Huerfano County.

Supporting HCC's application for FY25 CDS funding bolsters their dedicated community engagement efforts as well as their collaborative partnerships with our local organizations, and helps fulfill the County's mission to promote the well-being of all residents. Investing in HCC's Co-Op Project will address long-standing inequities, improve access to essential resources, and help create a healthier, resilient future for Huerfano County. Thank you for considering HCC's application for CDS funding.

Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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John Galusha, Chairman