

# Memo

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Rochelle Firth/Charlienna Chancey/Dave Reynolds  
**Date:** 07/15/2025  
**Re:** 2025 Grant Funding to Area Non-Profits Round 1

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## Background

Each year the Town of New Castle distributes municipal funds to local organizations to enhance community services, programs, and support for the residents of New Castle.

For 2025, the Town Council has budgeted \$16,000 for two rounds of outgoing grants. For this first cycle, staff is recommending expenditures totaling \$8,500.

In reviewing the grant applications, staff evaluated how each request meets community needs. While every applicant provides a valuable service, the limited funding must be allocated to maximize benefit for the community. Full applications are available for review in a binder located at Town Hall.

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## List of Potential Grant Awards

### Advocate Safehouse Project

*Mission:* To promote healthy relationships free from violence.

Advocate Safehouse programs assist individuals experiencing domestic or sexual violence in stabilizing within the community and progressing from survival to thriving.

- **Grant Request: \$1,500**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$1,000**

### Discretionary Funds – Town Hall

Each year, Town Hall staff receive requests from residents and local groups seeking funding for donations. Past recipients include the Coal Ridge Booster Club, Coal Ridge High School Yearbook, local talent shows, and individuals seeking support for community-focused projects.

- **Staff Request: \$1,500**

### **FocusedKids (New)**

*Mission:* To support children's brain development and strengthen adult-child relationships for lifelong success.

FocusedKids is seeking funding to continue implementation at Elk Creek Elementary and Kathryn Senor Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year. The in-school program helps address behavioral challenges and offers teachers self-regulation tools to reduce stress and prevent burnout.

- **Grant Request: \$3,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$500**

### **Great Expectations**

*Mission:* To strengthen and empower families, foster optimal child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Great Expectations provides free services to new or expecting parents through trained home visitors. Funding will support their signature Healthy Families America home visitation program.

- **Grant Request: \$2,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$750**

### **Journey Home Animal Care Center**

*Mission:* To provide shelter and care for homeless animals, encourage responsible pet care, and serve as a community resource for animal welfare.

Funds requested will support spay and neuter procedures for adopted animals.

- **Grant Request: \$2,500**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$750**

### **Lift-Up**

*Mission:* To provide essential humanitarian assistance in the communities they serve.

Lift-Up is seeking operating funds to purchase and distribute food through the New Castle food pantry and drive-thru distribution site.

- **Grant Request: \$5,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$2,500**

### **New Hope Church (New)**

*Mission:* To serve the community spiritually and civically through outreach, connection, and resource sharing.

New Hope Church is requesting funding to upgrade its audio, video, and stage systems to better support religious services, community meetings, performances, and multimedia events.

- **Grant Request: \$4,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$500**

#### **R.I.D.E.**

*Mission:* To provide equine-assisted activities through therapeutic programs to developmentally and physically disabled children and adults and offers equine-facilitated mental health activities.

Despite multiple follow-up attempts, the organization did not provide the required follow-up report from previous funding or fulfill presentation requirements to town council in 2024.

- **Grant Request: \$2,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$0**

#### **River Bridge Regional Center (RBRC)**

*Mission:* To provide collaborative services to child abuse victims, their families, and the community in a supportive, child-centered environment.

River Bridge is requesting funds for general operating support. Ten children from New Castle were referred to RBRC in 2024.

- **Grant Request: \$2,000**
- **Staff Recommendation: \$1,000**