



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF OPERATIONS DIVISION

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UNDERSHERIFF
Joel Cochran

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*“Professionally
Serving Our
Community Since
1861”*

To: Sheriff Jaime FitzSimons
From: Commander Mike Schilling *MS 3/26/19*
Date: March 25, 2019

US Trochran 3.26.2019

Reference: Proposal to Submit a DOLA grant application to the BOCC to help fund the launch of the Sheriff’s Office Co-Responder Program

BACKGROUND:

I have prepared a grant application for the State of Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Peace Officer Mental Health Support Grant. The grant request is in the amount of \$342,500 to fund startup costs and the first year operations of a new Co-Responder Program (CRP).

The CRP will pair a full-time Sheriff’s Deputy with a full-time Mind Springs Mental Health Clinician (“the team”). The team will work together, 40 hours per week, and respond to calls with a mental health nexus throughout Summit County, to include the municipalities of Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne, Dillon, and Blue River. In addition, the team will support the Sheriff’s Office school resource officer program and provide support to inmates of the Summit County Jail.

This grant application requires certification from the County Attorney stating the County has voter authorization to receive and expend state grants without regard to TABOR. County Attorney, Jeff Huntley has confirmed Summit County may receive and expend state grant funds. He has provided a memo to DOLA stating as such.

This grant application requires an official action by the Summit County BOCC authorizing the application to DOLA.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend we meet with the BOCC to explain the grant program and work towards obtaining a resolution from them approving the submittal of the DOLA grant application.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Grant Application
- Copy of memo to DOLA from Jeff Huntly regarding TABOR compliance
- Draft resolution authorizing the DOLA grant application referenced herein

(Note: this application will be converted from a word document and input into the required DOLA online portal after internal SO approval is obtained)

State of Colorado Peace Officer Mental Health Support Grant

1. Applicant Name and Contact information:

Summit County Sheriff's Office

Principal Representative: Sheriff Jaime FitzSimons

Responsible Administrator: Commander Mike Schilling

Contact phone number: 970-453-2232

Contact email address: michael.schilling@summitcountyco.gov

2. Amount of grant funds requested:

The Summit County Sheriff's Office requests \$342,500 for this project.

3. Intended use of grant funds/project description:

This grant is intended provide on-scene response services to support peace officers' handling of persons with mental health disorders by helping fund the launch of the Summit County Colorado Co-Responder Program (CRP).

The CRP will pair a full-time Sheriff's Deputy with a full-time Mind Springs Health clinician ("the team"). The team will work together, 40 hours per week and respond to calls with a mental health nexus throughout unincorporated Summit County, to include the municipalities of Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne, Dillon, and Blue River. In addition, the team will support the Sheriff's Office school resource officer program and provide support to inmates of the Summit County Jail.

Summit County has a permanent year-round population of about 30,500 people. As a tourist destination located only 60 miles west of the Denver Metropolitan Area, the county often has between 80,000 and 100,000 people within its borders. Many people visit or relocate to Summit County with preexisting mental health diagnosis, looking to find relief. When the expectation of relief is not met, it often leads to mental health crisis. The result is a high volume of mental health related incidents relative to the county's small population.

According to the Summit County Health Improvement Plan, the county's suicide rate is about three times the national average, and 27 percent of residents report having symptoms of depression and/or anxiety. Additionally, more than one in four teens in Summit County report experiencing symptoms of depression, yet most do not receive mental health services. Demand for mental health services in local schools has nearly doubled over the last three years as a result. In 2018, Summit County had a ratio of 400 residents for every one mental health and substance use disorder provider, which is higher than Colorado's state ratio and the recommended national ratio for mental health provider availability. There is a clear struggle for Summit County residents and visitors to find the level of treatment they need.

All of this leads to more law enforcement interactions with people in mental health crisis. The need for a CRP in Summit County has become critical.

CRP goals include:

- 1) **Improve the level of care to people with mental illness and divert them from the criminal justice system:**
 - a) Improve our ability to divert people with serious mental illness from the criminal justice system;
 - b) Improve our ability to deploy specialized resources at the exact time of a mental health crisis;
 - c) Improve our ability to obtain voluntary mental health commitments;
 - d) Improve our ability to support and leverage existing mental health assets throughout Summit County and to reduce barriers of entry;
 - e) Improve the services within Summit County Jail for people with serious mental illness who need to be in the criminal justice system because of the severity of their crimes.
 - f) Improve reentry transition to link people with serious mental illness to community-based services when they are released from the Summit County Jail.

- 2) **Cost savings to the community through on-scene crisis resolution:**
 - a) Reduce incarceration when appropriate resulting in a reduced population of mentally ill inmates;
 - b) Reduce calls for service from high utilizers;
 - c) Reduce traditional emergency department admissions;
 - d) Reduce unnecessary EMS transports;
 - e) Reduce psychiatric hospital admissions;

- 3) **Improved public health and quality of life through:**
 - a) Improved job satisfaction for law enforcement, emergency room staff, and other first responders
 - b) Improved community attitude towards law enforcement and first responders by introducing an innovative and effective solution to both criminal and non-criminal events.
 - c) Improved community disaster response;
 - d) Prevention of post-disaster trauma reactions.

Funds from this grant will be used as follows:

Instant On-Scene Response with a Sheriff's Deputy and Mental Health Professional working together:

When an officer is on scene with an individual in mental health crisis, minutes seem like hours. Often times a "badge" can be a barrier to voluntary compliance. Having a mental

health clinician co-respond to a scene makes a peace officer's job much more efficient, and vastly improves the level of service provided to the person in crisis.

Each member of the co-responding team can use their specific skills, experience, and training. Other deputies can be returned to their daily patrol duties much quicker.

The result of a co-response is that very often assessments can be done on scene and transport to an emergency room is not required.

Mental Health Response Training for additional Deputies:

The CRP will allow deputies and mental health professionals to train and work to their strengths, ultimately providing a better response to the community. However, the team cannot be everywhere at once.

It is a goal of the Summit County Sheriff's Office that every deputy become Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified.

This grant requests funds to help the Sheriff's Office achieve its goal of all Deputies becoming CIT certified.

Peace Officer Mental Health Counselling:

Included in this grant request are funds to help protect the mental health of Sheriff's Deputies tasked with repeatedly responding to critical incidents. The Sheriff's Office would use the funds to offset agency costs of professional counselling services following critical incidents.

4. Detailed Budget:

1. \$85,000 - Annual cost of one dedicated CRP Sheriff's Deputy. Includes benefit burden.
2. \$85,000 - Annual cost of one dedicated CRP mental health field clinician.
3. \$85,000 - Annual cost of one dedicated CRP office clinician to provide follow up for field contacts and to provide mental health support for Summit County Jail inmates.
4. \$11,000 - CIT training for approximately 8 deputies to attend CIT training to further their skills dealing in mental health related incidents. Benefits of this training would last the deputies entire career. This is an annual expense until all Operations and Detentions Deputies are CIT trained.
5. \$7,000 - Annual funds to offset costs of professional counselling services following critical incidents.
6. \$57,000 - Cost of one dedicated CRP Sheriff's Office Vehicle, 5 year life span, includes electronic and security equipment.
7. \$7,000 - Technology for dedicated Sheriff's Deputy and Clinicians (computers, radios, etc.), 5 year life span.

- 8. \$3,000 - Uniforms and equipment for CRP personnel, year life span
- 9. \$2,500 – Ballistic Vest for Deputy and Clinician

Total Request: \$342,500

5. Collaboration with Mental Health Centers

With the implementation of this grant, the Summit County Sheriff's Office will expand its existing collaboration with Mind Springs Health as the CRP's mental health provider. Mind Springs is the largest mental health provider on the Western Slope and is successfully operating Co-Responder programs in multiple jurisdictions. Mind Springs Health will employ the field and office clinicians dedicated to the CRP.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office currently collaborates with Mind Springs to provide Jail Based Behavior Health Services. The two entities have a strong working relationship.

6. Advance Payment Request - Not requested

Official County Board Action Date: _____

Tabor Compliance (County Attorney Sign Off) _____



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f
www.SummitCountyCO.gov

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68
Breckenridge, CO 80424

To: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

CC: Summit County Sheriff, Jaime FitzSimons
Summit County Manager, Scott Vargo

From: Summit County Attorney, Jeffrey L. Huntley

Date: March 19, 2019

Re: Summit County - Retention of Revenue

This memo is to confirm that in 1998 the Summit County Board of County Commissioners referred a ballot measure to the electorate regarding Summit County's retention of all revenues under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, otherwise known as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights ("TABOR"). In particular, the measure asked to voters to approve Summit County's retention of "all revenues and other funds from any source during 1998 and each subsequent year as a voter-approved revenue change" which measure is generally known as a broad form "De-Brucing" question. The Summit County electorate overwhelmingly approved the measure at the General Election on November 3, 1998.

As a result, Summit County and the Summit County Sheriff's Office can receive and expend revenues from any state grant without regard to any revenue or spending limitations under the TABOR Amendment to the Colorado Constitution.