

Jefferson County
2011 Letter of Interest
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
SECTION 1 (Fillable Form/No Points)

The goal of the Community Services Block Grant is to provide financial support for programs that have a measurable and potentially significant impact on the causes and effects of poverty. CSBG funds are limited to assisting individuals/families whose incomes do not exceed 125% of poverty level. The deadline for submission is 3:00 pm Friday, July 9, 2010. PLEASE PROVIDE 1 HARD COPY AND 1 CD OF ENTIRE SUBMITTAL.

1. Organization Name:
Address:
Contact Person for this Letter of Interest:
Phone:
E-Mail:

2. Mission Statement:

3. The applicant is a:
 501(c)(3) Housing Authority
 Governmental Agency Quasi-Governmental Agency

4. Amount of Funds Requested: \$

5. Which Jefferson County Goal does this project address?
 a. Fiscally Responsible Government b. Quality Customer Service
 c. Safe Communities d. Predictable Growth
 e. Mobility Options

6. The focus of 2011 CSBG funds is in meeting National Goal #6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments, specifically within National Indicator 6.2, Emergency Assistance (see National Indicators Summary, attached, for further detail). Please briefly describe how your program will provide emergency services and ultimately help move people toward self-sufficiency.

Jeffco Action Center is an agency providing an immediate response to basic human needs and promoting pathways to self-sufficiency run predominately by volunteers giving generously of their time. Daily 80 volunteers are needed to work in the clothing bank, food bank, donation dock and run the client desk, answer phones or do data entry. Volunteers and in-kind donations allow for 92% of every dollar to go towards program services.

The Action Center strives to Give Help, Provide Hope and Build Dignity for each and every individual and family who seek services from us. Our interdisciplinary approach focuses on; (1) Intervention services that are designed to make an immediate, significant impact. (2) Prevention services which help alleviate situations that will ultimately leave an individual or family homeless. (3) Connection assistance designed to support individuals and families in breaking the cycle of poverty through community resources and partner organizations.

Our program portfolio consists of 18 unique programs. Any kind of life improvement must begin with meeting basic human needs. Depending on a client's situation and where they are along the self-sufficiency and/or needs continuum, Jeffco Action Center works to meet those basic human needs while assisting in breaking the cycle of poverty by providing the necessary pathways, as well as remediation of problems all-the-while maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life for the most vulnerable population of Jefferson County; the homeless, near homeless and working poor.

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 SECTION 2 (Point Section)
PLEASE LIMIT THIS SECTION TO 2 PAGES
 (you may use separate sheets of paper for this section)

1. Provide a 250 word abstract describing your project or program. (30 points)

Food Pantry provides nutritious, well balanced, predominately donated, five-day supply of food six times a year. Hunger is on the rise!! Once family size has been identified and the ability to cook and store food along with transportation is determined, a slip is completed for the volunteers in the food pantry. The packaging for a family that has a refrigerator & stove and has come to us in a car is much different than an individual that is homeless with no means for cooking or storing food and has come to us on foot.

Homeless Prevention and Family Stabilization averts evictions through rental assistance and reduces the likelihood that individuals and families will become homeless. Counselors require and verify the accuracy of documents along with the client's hardship statement as part of the assessment for assistance. Additionally, counselors assist the client with prevention services and provide counseling on securing resources to facilitate family stabilization.

Transportation Services allow clients to use bus tokens for employment, education and medical appointments, as well as human services to access mainstream resources. Additionally, we provide emergency tokens for homeless clients during inclement and hazardous weather conditions to seek shelter.

2. Describe the problem and provide data/factual evidence and list sources. (20 points)

The Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, shows that 6.5% or 34,667 of our current 533,339 Jefferson County residents live in poverty. The report reflects, 13% are under the age of 5; 25% are ages 5-17; 57% are 18-64 and 5% are 65 or older.

Month	2008 Daily Average Clients Served	2009 Daily Average Clients Served	Percentage Increase
January	122	146	19.67
February	111	140	26.12
March	109	150	37.12
April	110	136	23.63
May	103	120	16.50
June	99	120	21.21
July	119	142	19.32
August	127	208	63.77
September	122	143	17.21
October	117	155	32.47
November	159	223	40.25
December	180	219	21.66

The National Center on Family Homelessness showed nearly 22,000 children in Colorado are homeless. One in 26 children doesn't know where their next meal will come from. Jefferson County School district goes on to report that 1 in 4 children, up from 1 in 3 last year, participated in the free and reduced lunch programs. The "Denver Metropolitan Area 2009 Homeless Point-In-Time, Key Findings" show that on January 27th there were 1242 homeless people living in Jefferson County

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment reports that the unemployment rate for the state was 7.4% as of January 2010 compared to 6.7% a year ago. The Jefferson County Workforce Center reports the county unemployment rate to be 5.7% compared to 4.1% a year ago. They go on to report that there are 20 applicants per job vs. 4 applicants last year. These rising unemployment rates and the subsequent increased prevalence of poverty directly affect the increasing numbers of low income individuals and families visiting Jeffco Action Center.

A sample taken in 2009 reveals that 99% of our clients fell below the Health and Human Services 185th percentile. The average number of households served in 2009 varied from 120 to 208. In 2009 Jeffco Action Center saw a significant increase in daily services which is best told in the "Daily Average of Clients Served" table, above.

3. How will your proposal specifically address this problem? (10 points)

The problem of poverty is as multi-faceted as each individual client. While we are looking for funding in 3 program areas, in-house we have 18 different programs that we can wrap-around a client in crisis and help bring them to self-sufficiency. When we help with food, shelter and transportation we bring an individual or family out of crisis and stabilize them so that they can make informed decisions about their future. So often we find that by simply providing a 5-day supply of food clients are able to pay their rent or

utilities. Another scenario might be that someone has lost their job and fallen behind on the rent. If we are able to pay their rent and give them bus tokens for job interviews we are helping prevent homelessness and thus stabilizing the family unit for a brighter future.

4. What are the outcomes that will indicate that you are addressing the problem? (10 points)

Outcomes might best be told in this success story: Andrew Szeremy probably doesn't fit your idea of the typical shelter resident. He's young, charismatic, articulate, and goal-oriented. But Andrew is the first to admit that he wasn't always that way. After bouncing from one dead-end job to another over a ten-year period, Andrew found himself without a job. After two months without an income, he was evicted from the apartment he was renting with his brother, who was also out of work. "Homelessness was a real wake-up call," Andrew says. "I lived in my car for 6 weeks." He realized he needed to turn his life around and that began with a visit to Jeffco Action Center.

Today, Andrew is a student at Red Rocks Community College where he'll spend three years working towards his accounting degree. He will then transfer to Regis University where he will get his Bachelor's Degree, followed by two more years at Regis pursuing his Master's Degree in International Accounting. He even applied for and received a Daniels Fund scholarship to pay for school and currently has a 4.0 GPA! Good fortune seems to be smiling down on Andrew. He visited with a job coordinator at Bayaud Enterprises and it just so happened they had a position open up that morning as a payroll specialist, a position that plays perfectly to his strengths and his plan to become an accountant. He interviewed and was offered the job!

5. Describe who and why you targeted the population identified in your proposal; include things such as age, gender, ethnicity, geographic area, etc. (10 points)

In 1968 a group of faith-based congregations, concerned citizens and the Jefferson County Human Relations Council identified an issue for Jefferson County residents of "making ends meet". As the years passed the county grew and Jeffco Action Center has been challenged with meeting the growing needs of the residents. Poverty knows no barriers, it does not see race, gender, age or education. Poverty is cruel and ruthless, and along with it comes hunger, despair and crime. We help all that come through our doors. Last year we added 23,898 individuals to the Homeless Management Information System now totaling over 60,000 individuals, they were 1,597 or 6.7% American Indian; 181 or .8% Asian; 1,465 or 6.1% Black/African American; 114 or .5% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 9,961 or 41.7% Hispanic; 10,581 or 44.3% White.

6. How many people will be assisted through your project/proposal and what is the cost per served party? (10 points)

While we can't exactly identify a specific number of people that will seek our services, we can venture to estimate that with the economic turn-down we will exceed last years numbers which are documented below:

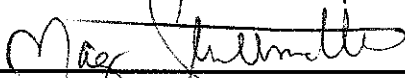
- **Food Pantry** - Averaging a 140 people per day last year, we gave out 52,001, 5-day supplies of food for a total of 156,003 meals, with a dollar value of \$2,080,040. We give away over 4 tons of food a day.
- **Homeless Prevention and Family Stabilization** - We helped 232 households last fiscal year with rental assistance for a total of \$273,729.
- **Transportation Services** - Last fiscal year 184,500 bus tokens were distributed to deserving clients, for a dollar value of \$18,450.

Last year's Jefferson County CSBG contribution of \$54,701 attributed to 2.30% of the necessary funding for the above three programs.

7. How will you collect data and measure effectiveness? Provide an assessment plan. (10 points) Jeffco Action

Center measures the impact of empowering at-risk individuals to transform their lives to achieve self-sufficiency and health by the success and strides of each client served. When a client is able to find stability and self-sufficiency, then the Action Center has successfully assisted in the difficult transitional period for many individuals and families.

For the purpose of tracking results and gathering information, the Action Center utilizes the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) upon intake of each client coming into the Center. The HMIS allows for the Action Center to monitor participants and their activities within the organization as well as provides longitudinal tracking to monitor the length of time between when a client comes to Jeffco Action Center before they reach a stable and self-sufficiency level. Jeffco Action Center uses anecdotal and observational records which are completed by staff to measure the effectiveness and impact of the Action Center's programs.


Chief Executive Officer


Chairman, Board of Directors