

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.

A grant of \$25,000 is requested to help enhance education, pre-employment and employment services for low-income young adults (ages 17-25) through The ROAD. This project will help eliminate and prevent poverty and increase self-sufficiency by providing GED services and testing, life skills training and career services. The target population for The ROAD are at-risk youth/young adults, many of whom have behavioral or mental health disorders. These youth may be at risk of academic failure, unemployment, becoming involved with the juvenile justice system, substance abuse, becoming homeless, or other significant life challenges. Over the course of one year, The ROAD will provide employment and education services to approximately 200 low-income Jefferson County residents. 100% of participants will receive services that help build competencies required for employment. An estimated 50% of job seekers will achieve employment and 50% of those seeking a GED will attain one.

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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)**

A program operated by Jefferson Center, The ROAD is an award-winning youth drop-in center. The mission of The ROAD is to provide youth with the skills necessary to positively transition to adulthood, effectively manage their symptoms, and achieve greater self-sufficiency. The ROAD was honored with the Asset Builder of the Year Award by PACCT (Parents and Community Coming Together) and a Promising Practices Award by the Jefferson County Workforce Center.

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

The impact of a prolonged recession, which included massive job losses and fewer employment opportunities, has been widespread. While many community members face challenges, young adults are among the hardest hit. In April 2010, the U.S. unemployment rate for workers under the age of 25 (16-24) hit 19.6 percent – the highest rate for young workers since the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began tracking unemployment in 1947. Job prospects that may have previously held promise for someone who recently attained their GED or graduated from high school are now being snatched up by more highly educated community members. According to Jefferson County Workforce, today there are 20 applicants for every job, compared to four applicants for every job a year ago. Lack of education and limited experience in the workplace are obvious barriers, and these are compounded for low-income youth who may be struggling with a history of family poverty, substance abuse, and/or emotional disorders.

Studies have shown that youth with emotional or behavioral disorders drop out of school at a rate that is about three times higher than their peers without disabilities. Also, they experience poorer outcomes in securing jobs (about one-third), in living on their own (about two-thirds), and in accessing postsecondary education (also two-thirds), and have about three times higher rates of arrests and incarcerations than youth without disabilities (Rusty Clarke et al, 2007). The ROAD is therefore benefiting not only the youth who participate in these services, but also the community at large. The ROAD was developed with the philosophy that youth have the potential to become healthy, fulfilled, and productive community members if they are able to access support and guidance from caring adults and organizations. Staff members work to emphasize protective factors and mitigate risk, so youth participants have the best chance possible to graduate from school or get their GED, obtain employment, and become more self-reliant.

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

A Community Services Block Grant would help strengthen the employment and GED services offered at The ROAD. Working in partnership with the Jefferson County Workforce Center and with the support of 2010 CSBG funds from Jefferson County, The ROAD has recently developed a “Community Learning Center” designed to help clients become more employable. The Center provides:

- Specialized computer software that provides a self-paced tutorial on career-readiness
- Remediation in basic reading, writing, and math skills
- GED tutoring, books, test materials

- Hands-on tutoring and support provided by an employment specialist
- A "Career-Ready Certificate" program that measures applied math, reading comprehension and information gathering/research skills
- Community referrals and networking opportunities with "Next step" options such as Red Rocks Community College, Job Corps, the military, and other potential employers.
- Resume writing, interview skills, and other employment supports.
- Life skills classes (e.g. budgeting, cooking, etc.)
- Mental health screenings, counseling and/or referrals to other Jefferson Center programs.

The Career Ready Certificate is part of a new statewide initiative that certifies job seeker skills. The certification program helps job seekers demonstrate their abilities to employers, and helps employers quickly identify candidates who have the skills needed for specific jobs. The initiative is being launched with Work Keys assessments developed by ACT, the national testing company best known for the ACT college admissions test. When job seekers pass three work-related assessments, they earn a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate. Those who do not pass may use free tutorial software at workforce centers or other partnering locations to improve their skills. The CRC is a portable credential that is recognized throughout the state and the nation.

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

This project meets several of the CSBG federal objectives including employment, education, income management and increased self-sufficiency. Over the course of one year, The ROAD will provide employment and education services to approximately 200 low-income Jefferson County residents. 100% of participants will receive services that help build competencies required for employment. An estimated 50% of job seekers will achieve employment and 50% of those seeking a GED will attain one.

Program participants will benefit from the services by achieving their GED, paid employment, and/or increased earnings. They will also gain valuable life skills that promote maximum self sufficiency and build protective factors/assets for youth/young adults who would otherwise be at high risk of poverty, becoming homeless, using illegal drugs or alcohol, and/or becoming involved in the juvenile or criminal justice systems, etc. The ROAD will mitigate these barriers by providing access to GED Services, life skills training, and mental health care. All services will be designed to meet each individual's unique needs with the goal of maximizing their ability to be self-sufficient.

**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)**


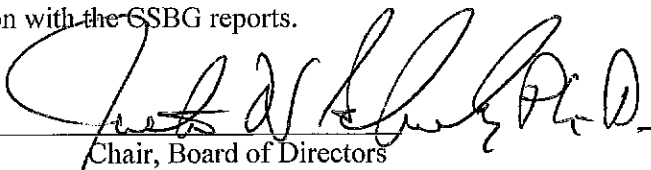
The target population is low income young adults (ages 17-25) from throughout Jefferson County. Based on The ROAD's current clientele participants will be 55% male and 45% female. Racial/ethnic breakdown is as follows: 31% white, 44% Hispanic, 7% African American, 6% Native American, 1% Asian, 7% Multi-Racial and 4% unknown. An estimated 1/3 of The ROAD clientele have a mental health diagnosis.

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

An estimated 200 young adults will be served over the grant year. A grant of \$25,000 would translate to \$125 per person. (Note: the total program costs with all other funding sources included are much greater.)

**7. How will you collect data and measure effectiveness? Provide an assessment plan. (10 pts)**

The ROAD Participant database will track outputs (e.g. number of youth/young adults served) and outcomes (# employed, # to receive GED, # who achieves increased earnings.) Data will be collected at client intake and upon completion of services, with all services offered on an ongoing basis. Program success will be monitored quarterly, in conjunction with the CSBG reports.

Signature:  Chief Executive Officer  Chair, Board of Directors