

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.

Mountain Resource Center's (MRC) 20 year historical and current primary purpose is to provide emergency health and human services and family support to at-risk residents in the mountainous communities of Jefferson County. Under National Performance Indicator 6.2, MRC provides 10 of the 11 types of assistance (all except legal) and meets Indicator 6.3 for child and family development as well. During 2009, MRC provided 3,296 emergency services impacting 1,949 people. Emergency assistance includes: food pantry, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, clothing, fuel and other necessary assistance discovered during the intake conversation. (MRC also has a pediatric health clinic and domestic violence counseling on site.) People needing assistance make an appointment with a case manager in order to understand all the needs of the family (which are often not disclosed at the initial phone call). The case manager assists the client with the most critical needs first, normally within the same week as the first call.

MRC helps move clients toward self-sufficiency through a variety of programs such as an on-site workforce center and the Family Development Plan. Six MRC staff just completed an 8-month Family Development Credential program designed by Cornell University. It is highly respected at the national level and is evidence based for improving self-sufficiency within 120 days. MRC will begin implementing this program with specifically identified clients in Fall 2010. Clients not enrolled in the Family Development program specifically are still tracked and rated on a 16 point assessment scale of self-sufficiency that is used by the Family Resource Center Association for all family resource centers in the state. Unemployed clients are able to utilize MRC's workforce center for assistance with resumes, job hunting, or skill development.

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SECTION 2

1. Provide a 250 word abstract describing your project or program.

Mountain Resource Center's (MRC) *Community Support Services* program provides **emergency services for basic and essential needs**, workforce services through an on-site workforce center (developed in partnership with Jefferson County), and adult life skills education for at-risk and/or low-income families and individuals. Community Support Managers (case workers) determine the most appropriate services with the clients to improve their safety and well-being, with the goal of relieving the crisis environment and building self-sufficiency. Family Development Plans provide on-going and follow-up coordination for family support, which reinforces sustainable life changes. Financial assistance is provided when possible to provide families for basic life necessities, including medical care, prescriptions, housing, utilities, clothing, fuel and food. There is an on-site food pantry and MRC has a pediatric health clinic for the uninsured/underinsured as well as it is a Presumptive Eligibility Site for CHP+ and Medicaid enrollment. MRC's comprehensive array of services means that no matter which program area residents initially enter MRC through, they are able to receive assistance or referrals to address their most critical needs.

2. Describe the problem and provide data/factual evidence and list sources.

The major problem is the continued recession which is driving the increase in number of people seeking assistance. MRC experienced a dramatic 48% increase in services provided in 2009 and a recent poll of the database for clients served from Jan. 1 to June 20, 2010 shows 35% of 393 clients who answered the question are unemployed. 16.5 % have only part-time jobs and only 23% are fully employed. This soon results in a struggle to find money for the basic needs of rent and food, and the families that were doing "okay" month to month quickly get behind. The same data indicates that of 714 clients, 56% have no health insurance and 23% qualify for public insurance such as Medicaid or CHP+ for children. There has been a 142% increase in food pantry visits the first half of 2010. Much of the mountain community workforce was in construction and there is no improvement in sight for that industry. Until an economic recovery is felt at the blue collar workforce level, more people will need help. It is astonishing that MRC experienced a 48% increase in the number of services provided in 2009 and the first half of 2010 is showing a 25% increase over 2009. It is very difficult to meet this growing demand when funding for emergency/crisis services has been reduced since last year.

3. How will your proposal specifically address this problem?

Funding from CSBG will help MRC provide emergency/crisis assistance through the *Community Support Services* program by helping MRC meet the expenses in providing rent/mortgage and utility assistance, clothing, food, fuel, and fostering hope for regained self-sufficiency. These dollars can make a huge difference for families at a very critical time. Assistance is often the difference between becoming homeless or even staying together as a family. MRC now provides additional support to families after a crisis. Through the Family Development program, families are helped with developing their own "what's next" plan with goals of their own choosing: to get a better job, to create a household budget, etc. Staffs work with that these families in a more comprehensive way. Family Development requires more staff time, but it is worth it when the situation of a family usually improves within four months. Keeping a roof over a family's head and food in their stomachs seems so basic, but in this recession it's a genuine challenge.

4. *What are the outcomes that will indicate that you are addressing the problem?*

The outcomes will be that 140 individuals receive emergency assistance and 40 individuals will choose to participate in Family Development in order to improve their self-sufficiency rating on the scale at least two points, or to "stable" condition. All outcomes will be recorded and tracked in the Efforts to Outcomes database developed specifically for this purpose.

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

MRC 2009 clients were made up of the following demographics: 1) Low-income/working poor: 94.2% , 2) Racial/ethnic composition: 92% White, 3% Hispanic, 1% African Am, 1% Am Indian, 1% Asian, 2% Other, and 3) Gender: 55% Female and 45% Male. This population is indicative of the mountain communities in Jefferson County and of school enrollment population. MRC specifically reaches out to rural, geographically isolated residents who lack basic services, but during the last year the traditionally middle class families have lost jobs and now need assistance. For the purposes of this grant, MRC's target population includes all at-risk residents in need of basic and essential services.

6. *How many people will be assisted through your proposal and what is the cost per served party?*

The grant amount will allow MRC to assist 140 individuals (with an impact on 448 family members) with emergency services and provide family development case management to 40 families with the goal of them achieving a stable level of self-sufficiency. The average per participant cost is projected at \$280.

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

Mountain Resource Center utilizes standardized evaluation instruments in order to compare participant progress with national, state, and professional standards for programs and services. Intake records, case logs, class enrollments, documented interviews, and pre-post surveys help measure outcomes and determine levels of success with each client. As a member of the Family Resource Center Association (FRCA), MRC is required to utilize the **Colorado Family Support Assessment** evaluation tool developed by OMNI Research specifically for FRCA. The tool is a research based self-evaluation system that assesses the stability and sustainability of families by measuring 16 potential barriers to self-sufficiency. The assessment allows each Center to identify outcomes and determine needs. All evaluations are entered into ETO (Efforts to Outcomes) a statewide database developed specifically for FRCA. **Efforts to Outcome** and is administered through Omni Research and reports can be pulled at any time as well as a comprehensive annual report on the Family Development assessment scale. The general family development assessment has 16 questions that are rated on a 5 point scale. It tracks families with 3 follow-up assessments for measuring progress towards self-sustainability.

Signature: _____

CEO

President, Board of Directors