



Clear Creek County

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March 14, 2023

Ray Rears, County Manager
Board of County Commissioners
Gilpin County
P.O. Box 366
Central City, CO 80427

RE: Animal Shelter Subsidy Request

Dear Ray and the Gilpin Board of County Commissioners:

Clear Creek County would like to request your support in the upgrade and sustainability of the Clear Creek-Gilpin Animal Shelter in the form of a one-time contribution toward the County's RENEW/Department of Local Affairs grant, Renewable and Clear Energy Initiative; and a letter of support for the County's grant application to upgrade the shelter facility.

Charlie's Place, aka, the Clear Creek-Gilpin Animal Shelter, turns, 18 years old this year! With any aging facility, infrastructure begins to wear down and need repair or replacement. Since its construction in 2005, Charlie's Place has served the six municipalities within Clear Creek and Gilpin counties as well as the unincorporated area of each County. Even before the facility was finally built, these communities collaborated together to ensure animal safety and control was sustained. Over the past year, the shelter's HVAC system has ceased efficient operation requiring the shelter to install several space heaters in the facility --- which, as you know, is not only inefficient but unsafe! Clear Creek has engaged their energy consultant, Iconergy Ltd., to design an energy efficient solution, vet contractors, and provide cost estimates. Simultaneously, during this past year, Iconergy performed a solar assessment of several of the County facilities. The animal shelter demonstrated an appropriate solar array with savings of over \$3000 per year. County staff began working with Department of Local Affairs to verify eligibility to apply for the RENEW grant, which cycles simultaneously with the energy and mineral grant process, and focuses on the initiation and replacement of infrastructure with an energy efficient solution. The approach would be to combine the energy efficient HVAC system with the installation of solar PV at the animal shelter site. The grant application is due on April 3, 2023 and most of the background, supporting assessments are complete. Another bonus of the RENEW grant is only a 25% match. In working with the County's Department of Local Affairs Regional Manager, Todd Leopold, it was recommended that a demonstrating match from each of the partners in the shelter operation would be extremely favorable to the County's application. Hence, Clear Creek's request to you today.

The timing for this grant application could not be better. This project at normal cost would total approximately \$700,000. With the collaboration of both counties and all six

municipalities, the project could be completed and the shelter facility sustained for \$175,000 match. The RENEW grant is a perfect fit for the proposed project and the lower match requirement is very attractive. While Clear Creek will handle a majority of the match, in order to meet Department of Local Affairs' expectation in partnership, the County requests your participation in the grant application with the match amount requested below.

We see the animal shelter project as a region-wide investment—financially and through collaboration. We propose a request to each of the major stakeholders in the animal shelter and control services to commit funding toward the Clear Creek County RENEW grant application due on April 3, 2023. The proposal includes the following requests:

- Clear Creek County \$150,000
- Idaho Springs \$2,000
- Georgetown \$1,500
- Empire \$500
- Silver Plume \$500
- Central City \$1500
- Black Hawk \$1500
- Gilpin County \$17,500

We are sending this request to each of these jurisdictions to request participation and partnership.

As a **second request**, we would greatly appreciate your consideration of a letter of support toward the County's grant application. Attached here, we have crafted an individual support letter for your agency. Please feel free to edit, add your letterhead, sign and scan back to Rebecca Abrahamson, Grants Administrator, rabrahamson@clearcreekcounty.us, 303-670-7533. **Your letter of support is greatly needed by Monday, March 20, 2023.**

We thank you for your consideration of this request in this grant application to sustain our joint solution for animal shelter safety and control services for all of our communities.

Thank you and please share any questions you may have about the project through County Operations Director, Beth Luther, bluther@clearcreekcounty.us, 303-679-2312.

Sincerely,


Beth Luther, Operations Director
Clear Creek County

cc: Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office