



Department of Housing & Human Services

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www.BoulderCountyHHS.org

MEMO

TO: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Susana Lopez-Baker, HHS Housing Division Deputy Director
Gwen Mossman, Supportive Housing Unit Manager
RE: HHS Housing Division Submission to the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs,
Division of Housing in response to Transformational Homeless Response Grant Program
Notice of Funding Announcement
DATE: February 7th, 2023

The Department of Housing & Human Services Housing Division is requesting approval to submit a grant proposal to the state Division of Housing in response to its Transformational Homeless Response Grant Program (HB22-1307 & HB22-1304 - NOFA 1122358, application link: [Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program NOFA 1122358 - Google Drive](#)).

This grant program has a total of \$243,000,000 to distribute in support of various services and capacity building activities related to homeless response. Categories include Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Bridge Housing, Eviction and Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Capacity Building. The minimum project award allocated per application is \$250,000 and the maximum is \$5,000,000. All dollars need to be expended by grantees by December 30, 2026.

The Department of Housing & Human Services Housing Division will be applying for funding for the following programs:

- **Family Homelessness Bridge Housing Program**
Request: \$1,577,895/3 years or \$525,965/year to serve a projected 228 households per year.
- **Housing Helpline**
Request: \$1,060,380/3 years or \$353,460/year for four-person team.

BCDHHS has been working in coordination with partners in the regional Family Homelessness Workgroup, an intergovernmental partnership with local nonprofit organizations, since January 2022 to create a comprehensive and coordinated funding request to maximize the funding allocation to Boulder County's family homelessness network. This proposal builds upon existing efforts of the Family Homelessness Workgroup to provide a comprehensive homeless resolution response through the Housing First approach. As a result, the request in this submission is in support of and in conjunction with homeless and housing service providers across Boulder County. The proposed application is requesting resources for the following Family Homelessness Bridge Housing and Housing Helpline efforts over a three-year funding period:

Family Homelessness Bridge Housing Program

Between 2020 and 2021, sheltered homelessness experienced by people in families with children increased in just 10 states. The largest absolute increases were in Delaware (429 more people or 104%) and Colorado (344 more people or 16%). Boulder County follows a similar trend. Reduced income and/or increased debt during COVID for families that are already heavily rent burdened combined with the winddown of the ERAP program in the first quarter of 2023 is expected to result in more housing unstable families. In fact, according to [MDHI's 2022 –2023 State of Homelessness Report](#), 1 of every two families presenting to the system is experiencing homelessness the first time. In addition to reduced income due to COVID, unhoused families typically experience other barriers to accessing housing



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(language, prior eviction or criminal record, transportation, immigration status, literacy) and often belong to marginalized groups (BIPOC, people with disabilities, single parent, etc.) making access to appropriate housing difficult.

According to the 2022 PIT count, Boulder County is sheltering approximately 50 families experiencing homelessness at any given point in time. In lieu of a family shelter, a network of local nonprofit organizations-EFAA, OUR, Sister Carmen, SAFE and SPAN-have elected to provide hotel vouchers for families with children that are literally unhoused (sleeping in cars, camping, other situations considered unsafe). While there is debate as to whether a family shelter might be needed for our community, hoteling has been the network’s emergency shelter model of choice for the following reasons:

- Increased privacy and autonomy: Hotel rooms typically offer more privacy and autonomy than traditional shelters, which can be important for families who may feel uncomfortable living in a communal setting.
- Increased safety: Hotels can offer increased safety for families, as they typically have security measures in place such as locked doors and surveillance cameras. Disbursed sites also provide added safety for the entire sheltered population should the safety of on household be breached.
- Flexibility: Hoteling provides flexible scaling that can parallel the development of affordable housing over the next 3 years and shrink when need returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- Clients are distributed system-wide which helps to overcome neighborhood resistance

While hoteling has long been utilized in our community, this proposal marks the first time that the Family Homelessness Network has come together to create a structure around this emergency shelter model to ensure that a household’s experience with homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. The program will remain distributed among local agencies-SPAN, SAFE, EFAA, OUR Center, and Sister Carmen (with Boulder County serving as the administrative hub)-as this allows low-barrier access to the resource when and where the client needs it. However, the program will be standardized across agencies to enhance tracking of hoteled clients during bi-weekly case conferencing and to simplify reporting into the county. The program embraces a rapid resolution/rapid exit philosophy and seeks to match clients with exit resources, along with case management, food, and transportation resources, during the entry interview. Possible exits include:

- Self-resolve
- Diversion
- Boulder County’s Community Resource Housing Panel
- Short Term Housing – EFAA/Inn Between
- SPAN/SAFE emergency shelter for DV-impacted families
- Coordinated Entry/Family assessment for CoC/ESG programs including separate RRH funding specifically targeted for this bridge housing pilot.

Request Details: \$1,577,895/3 years or \$525,965/year to serve a projected 228 households per year

Bridge Housing (hotel, food, transportation)	\$333,965
Rapid Rehousing (deposit and rental assistance)	\$192,000

- 50% match obligation met through existing CBO hoteling /rental assistance/food/transportation/personnel funding provided to literally homeless clients.
- **Bonus request:** \$25,000 one-time funding of damage fund (like Landlord Assurance Fund) to cover possible damage/loss during hotel stays



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Housing Helpline

Boulder County’s Housing Helpline was established in 2020 to help the community quickly navigate to emergency rental assistance resources. It has provided multi-faceted services to the public including housing and general resource navigation, landlord outreach, helping clients breach the digital divide, program coordination, and communication with community partners. With the winddown of ERAP funding in progress, we seek to establish the Housing Helpline as a permanent resource for our community.

The Housing Helpline offers an effective and efficient way to connect households with housing resources, as they provide a centralized point of contact that can help people navigate the complex system of housing assistance programs. Additionally, as service is offered over the phone, it allows for easy and accessible communication for people who may have limited internet access or need translation services. Optimally, a team of four Housing Resource Navigators (two of which are already internally funded) would fulfill the following ongoing functions:

- Serve as front door for housing related questions from the public and landlords
- Provide navigation to other supportive resources-TANF/Medical/Workforce/SNAP
- Provide light touch case management and housing navigation for stability voucher and bridge housing clients as well as for FCS and Colorado Works clients that receive short term rental assistance through the Housing Panel.
- Serve as Boulder County’s family Coordinated Entry point by assessing household for homeless resource eligibility and conduct Family ViSPDATs as necessary
- Track households in the above proposed Family Homelessness Bridge Housing Program by facilitating a regional, bi-weekly case conferencing for hoteled households

Request Details: \$1,060,380/3 years or \$353,460/year for four-person team

Coordination (Coordinated Entry)	\$88,365 (approx. 1 person)
Resource Utilization Acceleration (housing support and navigation)	\$265,095 (approx. 3 people)

- 50% match obligation met through either the 2 internally funded positions or possibly through the HSP funding already allocated to our community partners for HSP housing support specialists at each agency.
 - Direct Personnel cost breakout: \$258,000/year
 - PS3 - \$84K
 - PS2 - \$64K
 - PS1 - \$55K
 - PS1 - \$55K
 - Benefits 30%: \$95,460/year
- \$353,460