



Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience

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To: Boulder County Commissioners
RE: Request for new grant funded position
From: Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resilience
Date: 12/27/2023

New Grant Funded FTE Request

The City of Boulder and Boulder County have partnered on the EnergySmart residential energy advising service since 2010. While the city has long contributed rebate funding to EnergySmart, they have never supported additional advising staff capacity, until now. The City of Boulder is offering long term, annually renewing funding to OSCAR for an additional bilingual preferred Residential Energy Advisor to focus on clients within the City of Boulder. OSCAR welcomes this support as our existing two Residential Energy Advisors are at maximum capacity, each advising up to 500 residents per year. Due to the Inflation Reduction Act and growing interest in home electrification, the number of calls and emails to EnergySmart continue to increase despite limited county marketing and promotion of EnergySmart since 2021. While individual one-on-one advising for each resident is not a scalable solution to decarbonize all our homes, we view one-on-one advising as part of a necessary suite of electrification support services from turnkey, full cost coverage services to low-income residents to self service virtual advising for high-income residents. We are increasingly trying to reduce the amount of time we spend with high-income residents and focus our work on middle-income, low-income and people of color. However, our capacity to do so is limited when the inbound volume of calls and emails from the public is all our two current advisors can handle. Adding in a third, City of Boulder funded advisor, will not only increase the number of residents EnergySmart can serve, but more importantly, free up time and capacity to be more equitable and strategic about what residents our existing staff are able to support.

Approval Request

We will bring a request to the January 30, 2024 business meeting for approval for this grant funded FTE position.

We welcome any feedback or questions you may have in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Zac Swank
Deputy Director
OSCAR

Claire Levy County Commissioner Marta Loachamin County Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann County Commissioner

