

Memo Requesting County Grant Program Funding Cycle Approval

TO: Board of County Commissioners

CC: Robin Bohannon, Director, Community Services Department

FROM: Carlene Okiyama

County Grant Program: Worthy Cause

Funding Cycle: 2026

Date: November 13, 2025

Introduction

In 2017, Boulder County voters approved an extension of the Worthy Cause sales and use tax fund. The ballot measure provides investment dollars to nonprofit human service agencies and housing authorities for capital projects, including the purchase of land or buildings, construction, renovation, and debt reduction.

Consistent with Policy 1.06 and Policy 9.02, the evaluation committee recommended 15 grant awards totaling \$4,998,658 for Worthy Cause 2026. *Note:* We are budgeting a 0% increase in sales and use tax for 2026; however, the available fund balance is high because \$925,000 in awards were cancelled/returned to the pool in 2025.

Following an administrative meeting, staff amended the evaluation committee recommendations as follows:

- Because HOPE has located a new, less expensive prospective property, we are recommending funding HOPE's proposal to provide much-needed services in Longmont, which is otherwise underrepresented among this proposed pool of awards;
- Accordingly, we've reduced our recommended proposed awards to Boulder Housing Partners, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless dba AllRoads, Trinity Commons Housing Corporation, and YMCA of Northern Colorado because these awards will not fund new projects; rather, they will provide debt reduction assistance.

If there is any fund balance, we recommend providing the remaining fund balance to Boulder Shelter for the Homeless dba AllRoads.

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Application and Evaluation Process

We opened the 2026 fund round on June 25, 2025, held a Q&A with applicants on July 29, and closed on August 27. To share the information with the community, we issued a press release and posted information on the Worthy Cause and County grants webpage. We received 31 applications totaling \$14,640,345 in requests.

The 9-member evaluation committee consisted of staff from Community Services, Human Services, Housing, and the Board of County Commissioners' Office. All members of the committee center race in their work as per Policy 1.06.

The following criteria was used to score the applications: Racial Equity (25 pts), Client Impact (20 pts), Community Need for Services (20 pts), Community Value (of project) (20 pts), Financial Stability & Funding Need (10 pts), and Project Plan (5 pts). Organizations receiving a minimum score of 70 were considered for funding.

Award Recommendations

Name of Awardee	Investment	Project/Request	Amount Requested	Funding Recommendation
AFFORDABLE HOUSING & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING – 57% of total award amount				
Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA)	Construction	Willoughby Corner, 16-32 new IDD units	\$750,000	\$750,000
Boulder Housing Coalition	Improvements and/or Renovations	Heating and cooling renovations for low-income cooperative housing, 2 homes	\$133,658	\$133,658
Boulder Housing Partners	Construction	3300 Penrose Affordable Housing Community, 118 new permanently affordable units	\$1,000,000	\$500,000

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Name of Awardee	Investment	Project/Request	Amount Requested	Funding Recommendation
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless dba All Roads	Purchase (acquisition)	Apartments for formerly homeless residents of Longmont, 6 new units	\$600,000	\$300,000
HOPE for Longmont	Purchase (acquisition)	Shelter	\$700,000	\$500,000
Thistle Communities	Purchase (acquisition)	Fairways affordable housing expansion project, 35-50 new affordable units	\$500,000	\$500,000
Trinity Commons Housing Corporation	Debt Reduction	Trinity Commons, 16 permanently affordable units for older adults	\$300,000	\$150,000
CHILDCARE - 16% of total award amount				
TEENS, Inc.	Construction	Expand childcare in West Boulder County/Nederland, 65 slots	\$850,000	\$425,000
Wild Bear Nature Center	Construction	Expand childcare at the New Wild Bear Nature Center/Nederland, 150 slots	\$300,000	\$200,000
Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families	Improvements and/or Renovations	Early childhood playground substrate replacement, 104 slots	\$75,000	\$75,000
YMCA of Northern Colorado	Debt Reduction	Capital debt reduction for all YMCA facilities – Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, and Camp Tumbleson Lake	\$500,000	\$100,000

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HUMAN SERVICES - 27% of total award amount				
Boulder Valley Women's Health Center, Inc. dba Boulder Valley Health Center	Construction	Ambulatory surgery center	\$750,000	\$250,000
Coal Creek Meals on Wheels	Construction	New meal site facility in southeast Boulder County	\$1,500,000	\$250,000
Outreach United Resource Center, Inc. (dba OUR Center)	Improvements and/or Renovations	Service expansion: food pantry, classroom, meeting space, children's play place	\$300,000	\$300,000
Recovery Café Longmont	Improvements and/or Renovations	Recovery Café Capital Project	\$1,000,000	\$240,000
The Tiny Tim Center, Inc dba TLC Learning Center	Construction	Early learning collaborative build-out of tenant space for Blue Sky Bridge to expand service delivery and therapy in Longmont	\$550,000	\$325,000

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Recommending to not fund

Name of Awardee	Investment	Project/Request	Amount Requested	Funding Recommendation
AFFORDABLE HOUSING & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING				
Boulder County Housing Authority (BCHA)	Construction	Kite Route Crossing	\$750,000	\$0
The Inn Between of Longmont, Inc.	Construction	1886 Hover Crossing Apartments	\$400,000	\$0
CHILDCARE				
Alaya Preschool	Purchase (acquisition)	Preschool	\$500,000	\$0
HUMAN SERVICES				
Boulder Pride dba Rocky Mountain Equality	Debt Reduction	Equality Center of the Rocky Mountains	\$500,000	\$0
Center for People With Disabilities	Debt Reduction	Main facility in Boulder	\$100,000	\$0
Center for People With Disabilities	Debt Reduction	Facility in Longmont	\$118,000	\$0
Community Cycles	Debt Reduction	Workshop	\$300,000	\$0
Harvest of Hope Pantry	Debt Reduction	Food pantry	\$80,596	\$0

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Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley	Improvements and/or Renovations	Outreach office repairs	\$80,596	\$0
Studio Arts Boulder	Debt Reduction	Groundworks Art Lab	\$100,000	\$0
The Old Gallery	Debt Reduction	Community facility in Allenspark	\$93,741	\$0

Monitoring/Reporting Requirements

The County’s investment is secured by a Promissory Note, Deed of Trust and Restrictive Covenant.

Distribution of Funds

Funds are distributed upon execution of Funding Agreement, Promissory Note, Deed of Trust, and Restrictive Covenant.

Action Requested: Approval of the Worthy Cause 2026 Recommendations allocation \$4,998,658 from the grant portion of the Worthy Cause Sales Tax revenues (Fund 125) revenues and direct staff to execute funding agreements and distribution of funds according to County Grant Program Policy 9.02D. Approval to delegate signing authority of all Worthy Cause 2026 Funding Agreements to the County Administrator in accordance with Policy 9.02D effective January 1, 2026.