

Agenda Item

DATE: APRIL 10, 2023
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FROM: DOUG DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER
SUBJECT: **ARPA SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT FUNDING**

On September 6, 2022, the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners approved \$8,923,300.00 in County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for mental and behavioral health, including \$1,500,000.00 for suicide prevention. This allocation for suicide prevention is designated to a grant program for established non-profits and community-based organizations serving Douglas County residents.

County staff formed a suicide prevention grant committee to create the grant application and review proposals. The committee members are:

- Barbara Drake, Deputy County Manager, Douglas County
- Michael Hill, Executive Director, Douglas County Health Department (DCHD)
- Laura Larson, Assistant Director of Community Health, DCHD
- Laura Ciancone, Mental Health Initiative Coordinator, Douglas County
- Dr. Stephanie Crawford-Goetz, Director of Mental Health, Douglas County School District
- Ashleigh Phillips, Quality Outcome Program Coordinator - Behavioral and Community Health, Centura
- Jennifer Morris, School-Based Mental Health Specialist and Licensed Therapist, AllHealth Network

Internally, grant development and review has been supported by staff of the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI) and the Health Department. Together, DCMHI and DCHD approach suicide prevention as a joint venture, leveraging the position and partnerships of each entity to successfully reach 2026 benchmarks for behavioral health and injury prevention in the DCMHI's long-term plan and the Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP).

The grant application criterion was designed to solicit responses that collectively offer a comprehensive, strategic and targeted approach to suicide prevention including prevention, intervention, recovery and postvention. Proposals that demonstrated innovation or expansion of successful service(s) were encouraged. Applicants were required to be a non-profit and/or community-based organization operational for a minimum of one year and either actively serving or able to serve Douglas County residents. Applicants were encouraged to review the DCMHI's Blueprint for a

Community-Based Mental Health Delivery System (Blueprint), the DCMHI's Suicide Prevention Roadmap (Roadmap), and DCHD's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and 2021-2026 PHIP as part of the application process. Additionally, they were asked to identify how their proposal aligns with data, priorities and recommendations within these assessments.

Based on County specific data from the Roadmap, CHA and PHIP, four priority populations with higher incidence of, or at risk for, suicide were identified for the grant: middle aged men, older adults, youth and young adults aged 14-24 years old and prenatal and postpartum families. Proposals could be submitted for any target population, however, those who specifically addressed one or more of the four priority populations were looked at favorably. Applicants were required to submit ample evidence to support the need for the offered services among their target population.

The applications and the Grant Committee's recommendations will be discussed at the work session.