



Chaffee County Government

PO Box 699 ~ 104 Crestone Ave, Salida, CO 81201

719.539.2218 ~ www.ChaffeeCounty.org

4 February 2025

Letter to our Community: Chaffee County Response to Federal Funding Risks

The recent upheaval in federal funding has created new challenges in the budgetary realities of Chaffee County Government and within the many nonprofit partners who provide direct service to our community. Though the current federal and state funding landscape may be volatile and inconsistent right now, Chaffee County's resolve to provide critical services and on-going support for our local community remains steady and consistent. In fact, it is stronger than ever.

We understand that it is a scary and unsettling time for many of our most vulnerable residents and for the dedicated service providers and organizations who care for our whole community. We want you to know we are fighting hard on your behalf to navigate this uncertainty with the adaptability and resilience Chaffee County is known for. While the work we do may be strained in the near future, we remain resolute in commitment to our county's values and priorities. As we always do in times of challenge, Chaffee County, our partner organizations, and our residents will come together with creativity, determination, and renewed commitment to meet the needs of our diverse residents and sustain the positive impacts that we collectively make in the community.

Over the past several years, the County and local nonprofit sector have strategically leveraged state and federal funding to dramatically expand the reach of our local tax revenues and support. These grant-seeking efforts have been a testament to our ambitious efforts to bring these additional resources into our rural area and also a major point of celebration for the community. However, our regional success in receiving these grant awards is now a potential vulnerability as the federal administration threatens to delay, restrict, or clawback funding that has previously been committed to Chaffee County, which we now rely on for many important programs and projects. This impact to grant funding affects tens of millions of dollars in support across dozens of critical local programs. Rest assured your community leaders are taking the magnitude and wide-ranging reach of these potential funding changes very seriously.

So, what are we doing in response? We are proactively bringing together leaders across dozens of local and regional organizations to identify acute funding risks and triage support. We are advocating loudly to state and federal decision makers to fight for our local needs and ensure we can continue to provide effective essential services to our community. We are establishing and strengthening local solutions to offer bridge



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funding that can assist organizations in sustaining critical services to our residents and local taxpayers. We are in constant communication as we simultaneously assess local impacts and monitor federal policies and executive orders to determine how to best navigate the current funding disruptions. We remain focused on core priorities and critical operations of the areas most affected by anticipated funding changes.

The County is working closely with the [Chaffee County Community Foundation](#) to inventory and quantify potential impacts and help close any holes created in our local safety net due to the current federal funding risks and the already anticipated reductions in state-level funding over the future years. This work will continue in the coming months with the goal of minimizing negative consequences to individuals and organizations. As these broader strategies are developed, we will communicate out any insights and actions that we can all build on. There will be more to come, and soon.

Our community has always relied on the generosity and dedication of its members to thrive. As we work to build a comprehensive response we encourage you to continue to invest in our local nonprofit sector and community organizations: Attend an event, make a donation, sign-up to volunteer. Your support can help Chaffee County weather these challenges.

We'll get through this unusual time together and are grateful for your community-wide collaboration along the way.

In your service,

Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners

P.T. Wood, Chair

Gina Lucrezi

Dave Armstrong