

Financial Services Department
Budget, Contracts & Procurement, and Finance

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Board of County Commissioners

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MINUTES

El Paso County Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board
Friday, September 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Via Teams

Present: Board members: Camron Scott, Shelley Cobau, Amy Stephens, Dan Hoff, Kevin Kersey

(Absent: Lauren Nelson, Greg Roosevelt)

Guests (public) –Haley Chapin with Tri-Lakes Cares; Crystal Klausmeier with CASA; Lindsey Craft with Catholic Charities; Amanda Rogers with CPCD, Keira Connelly with Careers in Construction, Kay Tally-Foos with StableStrides, Denise Patrick with Mt. Carmel

County Staff: Amanda Grant, Heather Cross, Becky Hager and Johnna Cravener

1. Camron called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. It was noted that of the currently filled seven positions, five Board members were present so a quorum was established.
2. Dan moved to approve the 09/12/2025 agenda. Shelley seconded. Motion carried.
3. Dan moved to approve the minutes from the 06/13/2025 meeting. Amy seconded. Motion carried.
4. Camron announced the final planned 2025 meeting, December 12. It will be held at 2:00pm and is planned to be virtual.
5. Board Membership Update: The new commissioner, Lauren Nelson, has replaced Bill Wysong as the Commission Liaison for the CSBG Advisory Board. Currently, the Board has seven of nine positions filled. El Paso County has posted vacancy notices to the EPC website. New member, Kevin Kersey, who was appointed in July, introduced himself. He fills a Private Sector vacancy.
6. El Paso Budget personnel presented the financial review noting that total allocations to EPC were \$1,332,869 and total expenditures were \$754,431 leaving \$578,438. Budget personnel explained annual funding process for new Board members.
7. El Paso County Staff noted that continued funding for CSBG remains uncertain. No action has been taken on HB 3131, reauthorizing CSBG. The federal budget process is going slowly. EPC will continue to monitor and share any updates from DOLA or CCAA as they are received. Staff also noted that based upon an

executive order issued in February 2025 there may be changes regarding federal benefits to immigrants. Camron noted that an injunction has passed putting a hold on the changes. EPC will monitor this as well, and work with DOLA if it becomes necessary to make any changes.

8. El Paso County staff noted that the preparation of the Needs Assessment report, which will be due with the DOLA application in the Fall of 2026, has begun. Information related to the time frame of the report, as well as the application process was discussed.
9. El Paso County staff and Haley Chapin, who serves on the Board of the Colorado Community Action Association, provided insights regarding July conference. Staff noted that funds are generally set aside in the CSBG annual budget to provide CSBG Advisory Board members with an opportunity to attend such conferences. Staff will keep the Board informed of conferences.
10. Programmatic Reports:

Kiera Connelly with Careers in Construction provided general information regarding their program. She noted that 234 students received employment placement and issues 1,000 certificates in various areas of construction (plumbing, electrical, etc.). She noted that Mitchell HS is returning to the program, and Calhan is being added as a new school to the program.

Haley Chapin with Tri-Lakes Cares noted that TLC fills a service gap in Northern El Paso County. CSBG funds are being used for transportation and housing/utility assistance. She told of a family of 5 (2 adults, 3 children) who were living in a camper at Mt. Herman. Their car broke down and family members walked for 4 hours to get to TLC. Staff at TLC arranged for temporary housing in a local hotel and is continuing to work to get the family in a stable housing situation.

Amanda Rogers with CPCD described their 2-Gen program offered to parents of Head Start students that offers parents certificates in various areas and assists with job skills and placements. She noted that they work in partnership with D11. Due to the cancellation of a related grant through D11, the program will be reduced to offering certification in Family Development only but currently enrolled clients will be able to complete the programs they have started.

Crystal Klausmeier with CASA described their supervised visitation program which is court-ordered while parents go through the courts on domestic violence cases. The goal is for parents to no longer need supervision while spending time with their children. Approximately 30% of the families served qualify for CSBG assistance. Crystal shared a story of a father who started the program a year ago with 2 children under the age of 5. He has successfully completed the program and now has weekly dinners with his kids with no supervision. Board member Shelley asked if CASA has a waiting list of clients. Crystal noted that they do not currently have a waiting list.

Lindsey Craft with Catholic Charities noted that CSBG supports staffing at the Marian House. Their food programs serve approximately 1,250 unique individuals each month. Their food pantry serves approximately 300 families monthly. Due to the high demand for food assistance, Catholic Charities has added walk-in times twice a week.

Denise Patrick with Mt. Carmel noted that CSBG funds help support homeless prevention case management services for veterans. She noted that the 'Homeless Vet Stand Down' will be on 10/21/2025 at Weidner Field. This event provides various essentials and resources for homeless vets. Shelley asked if Mt. Carmel had a waiting list. Denise noted that there is no waiting list for case management services, and there is a wait list for Behavioral Health services.

Kay Tally-Foos with StableStrides noted that CSBG funds support adaptive riding and life coaching services. They are working on 'ramping up' the program and have hired additional personnel to meet increasing needs. She noted that there is a wait list for services.

As Partners in Housing personnel were unable to attend, EPC staff read an update provided by Mary Stegner with Partners in Housing. "A current Partner client, single mom with two teens, is ending her time

in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program having lived in our transitional housing home (supported by CSBG funds) for a little over a year. She gained employment, cleaned up her credit, and gained tremendous self-confidence. She has been working with the Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust and will exit our program, having been experiencing homelessness when she came to us, as a homeowner!”

Shelley requested that in future meetings, subrecipients provide information related to the number of clients being served and the number on wait lists, related to CSBG program. This will assist in determining how to allocate potential unspent funds in the future.

11. Board Discussion: Camron noted that both the House and Senate had passed proposed budgets that included CSBG funding.
12. Public Comments: None
13. Unscheduled Items: None
14. Agenda for the Next Board Meeting: Amy requested an agenda item related to how Board members can participate in the Needs Assessment and DOLA application processes.

Shelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.