

Financial Services Department
Budget, Contracts & Procurement, and Finance

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Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1
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MINUTES

El Paso County Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board
Friday, March 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Via Teams

Present: Board members: Shelley Cobau, Amy Stephens, Dan Hoff, Lauren Nelson,

(Absent: Greg Roosevelt, Kevin Kersey)

Guests (public) – Crystal Klausmeier with CASA; Lindsey Craft with Catholic Charities; Anne Nelson with CPCD, Keira Connelly with Careers in Construction, Amy Blanchard with StableStrides, Nick Elliot and Mark Smith with Mt. Carmel, Kayley Weber with Partners in Housing

County Staff: Amanda Grant, Taylor Hartshorn, Becky Hager

1. Shelley called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. It was noted that of the currently filled six positions, four Board members were present so a quorum was established.
2. Shelley moved to approve the 3/13/2026 agenda. Dan Hoff seconded. Motion carried.
3. Amy moved to approve the minutes from the 12/12/2025 meeting. Dan Hoff seconded. Motion carried.
4. 2026 meeting dates: March 13, June 12, September 11, and December 11. All will be held at 2:00pm and are planned to be virtual.
5. Board Membership Update: Currently, the Board has 6 of nine positions filled. El Paso County has posted vacancy notices to the EPC website. EPC staff noted that the Administration department of EPC has been notified, and the general process is that they list vacancies on the EPC Volunteer Board website and conduct most of the function of filling vacancies.
6. El Paso Budget personnel presented the financial review noting that we have around 486,000 of the current award remaining. It was noted that 50% of Sub recipient awards were released and the remaining 50% will be released too.
7. Officer Elections were tabled until the next meeting. Shelley moved to table until the 6/12/2026 meeting. Any second. Motion carried.
8. Sunshine Law Proclamation was read and affirmed by Shelly.

9. It was noted that a copy of the CSBG Advisory Board Bylaws were included in the agenda packet as well as copy of the Mission Statement. Conflict of interest forms were also presented to board members for completion and return to EPC staff.
10. El Paso County staff presented the 2025 Annual Report. Shelley asked where the updated 2026 poverty guidelines could be found. Amanda Grant provided these in the meeting chat.
11. Programmatic Reports:

Kiera Connelly with Careers in Construction noted that CICC is a statewide program started here in Colorado Springs who partners with high schools and trade associations to help educate kids about the construction industry. They support students in getting pre-apprenticeship training certificates and with OSHA 10 certification. CSBG funding is used to fund an assigned Career Navigator for each school. "Navigators" are currently going into the classes providing classes on various topics related to the construction industry and on preparing for job searches. Commissioner Nelson asked how many schools CICC is serving in El Paso County and if the Career Navigator positions are specific to El Paso County. Kiera stated there are 16 schools served in El Paso County, and also support schools in Teller County and Pueblo.

Anne Nelson with CPCD outlined their change in project, due to the loss of partner funding with District 11. The approved change for use of CSBG funds to provide rent, mortgage and utility assistance. This new program will begin shortly.

Crystal Klausmeier with CASA described their supervised visitation program which is court-ordered while parents go through the courts on domestic violence cases. CSBG funding is used to waive the fee for the program. The goal is for parents to no longer need supervision while spending time with their children. Approximately 25% of the families served qualify for CSBG assistance. Amy Stephens inquired about what the fees are for these services to parents. Crystal clarified that the sliding scale fees could range from \$12 to \$16 per visit, but CSBG funding covers all of that for the families, so there is no cost to the parent.

Lindsey Craft with Catholic Charities noted that CSBG supports staffing at the Marian House. She noted that since July, they have served 4,214 unique individuals for the daily meal. It was noted that they have served around 1,171 individuals in the past 3 months between meetings across all CSBG functions.

Mark Smith and Nick Elliot with Mt. Carmel noted that CSBG funds help support homeless prevention case management services for veterans. Nick noted that each year Mt Carmel assists around 700 veterans with wraparound services.

Kayley Weber with Partners in Housing noted that CSBG funds are used to support families with children who are facing housing uncertainty. The year-long program provides credit courses, employment assistance and housing navigation classes. Kaylee shared that around 88% of their families supported have fled from domestic violence. There has been an uptick in families participating in higher education services to pursue a livable wage beyond one year. Commissioner Nelson asked if they find that their clients tend to need a year or if there are some clients who are able to find security sooner? Kaylee said that there are clients who find appropriate and safe housing at 9, 10 , or 11 months, but in their experience, one year seems to be an appropriate benchmark.

Amy Blanchard with StableStrides noted that CSBG funds support mental health services through adaptive riding and 'groundwork' with horses. Amy noted that they have 15 new clients lined up since January.

12. Board Discussion: There was no board discussion at this time.
13. Public Comments: None

14. Unscheduled Items: None

15. Agenda for the Next Board Meeting: Officer Elections

Shelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.