

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, June 12, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Via Teams

Present: Board members: Shelley Cobau, Dan Hoff, Lauren Nelson, Kevin Kersey

(Absent: Greg Roosevelt, Amy Stephens)

Guests (public) – Haley Chapin-Tri-Lakes Cares, Drew Drescher-Tri-Lakes Cares, Angela Rose-CASA of the Pikes Peak region, Lindsey Craft-Catholic Charities, Amanda Rogers-CPCD Giving Children a Head Start. Mary Stegner-Partner in Housing, Dr. Michelle Ruehl-StableStrides, Gregory Ecks

County Staff: Taylor Hartshorn, Becky Hager, Robyn May

1. Shelley Cobau 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. Lauren Nelson moved to approve the 6/12/2026 agenda. Dan Hoff seconded. Motion carried.
3. Lauren Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the 3/12/2025 meeting. Kevin Kersey seconded. Motion carried.
4. Remaining 2026 meeting dates: September 11, and December 11. Currently, all will be held at 2:00pm and are planned to be virtual, however one meeting may change to an in-person meeting. Board discussion on moving the meeting dates from Friday afternoon and having at least one in person meeting a year. EPC staff will send out a survey to determine preference of new day/times for meetings.
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 the financial document in the board packet had an error in the allocation percentage amount, so a revised financial report will be sent to the Board by EPC staff after the meeting. Waiting on approximately \$162,000 of the 2026 funds but felt

comfortable releasing 100% of the subrecipient amount. There is about \$661,000 remaining of the award currently.

7. EPC Staff shared the results of the survey regarding board member interest in Officer positions. Officer Elections took place and the following are the results:

Chair – Shelley Cobau nominated Lauren Nelson, who accepted. Kevin Kersey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair – Lauren Nelson nominated Amy Stephens. Shelley Cobau seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary – Lauren Nelson nominated Kevin Kersey. Shelley Cobau seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Conflict of interest forms are missing from a couple board members and was requested to submit to EPC staff.
9. EPC staff provided a grant update. Current grant is running smoothly and because of cost savings, additional funds have been offered to subrecipients. EPC staff are working with the subrecipients to gather their spending plans for those additional funds. The 2027-2029 CSBG grant application is due to DOLA on October 1, 2025. Lauren Nelson suggested a special meeting to workshop the larger documents that are part of the DOLA application. The application process for subrecipients will be opening for new applications soon. This will be posted on the EPC website and will be posted on a variety of sources to get the word out about this funding.
10. Kevin Kersey motioned to table the 2026 Needs Assessment discussion to July or August to have the opportunity to discuss. Dan seconded. The motion carried. EPC staff will send out a survey to determine the best day/time for an in-person special meeting to discuss the 2026 Needs Assessment.

11. Programmatic Reports:

Haley Chapin and Drew Drescher with Tri-Lakes Cares noted that in the summer they need to be creative with service delivery and being responsive to the change of needs to their clients. The snack pack program generally runs through the school district but during break they will try to have summer snack pack releases in the park. Funding through CSBG focuses on housing and utilities which is one of the larger line items on the budget because it is one of the more expensive costs for families. In the last fiscal year, 778 households enrolled, with almost 2,000 individuals. In 2026 alone, they are already seeing a 20% increase in enrollments from last year. Needs continue to be high, so Tri-Lakes Care appreciated the opportunity to receive additional funds.

Angela Rose with CASA of the Pikes Peak region reported that the CSBG grant helps supervised visit exchange funds and the parenting time program. Currently, CASA serves 53 families and about 26% of those qualify for CSBG funding. Angela provided a success story from their agency and noted they are currently fully staffed with approximately 40 volunteers.

Lindsey Craft with Catholic Charities noted that CSBG funding helps support the services provided at the Marian House. In the past quarter, 5,033 individuals were served at the Marian House Kitchen, which serves lunch every single day. Many of the clients come for multiple meals which is why the number does not add up to total number of days. Also, at the Marion House the food pantry, called the Marketplace served 904 households, totaling 2,831 individuals in the last quarter.

Amanda Rogers with CPCD Giving Children a Head Start offers early childhood education to over 1000 children daily. The CSBG funds support one of their family programs. CPCD lost grant funding with one of their partners, so CSBG funds are now supporting families through rent and utility assistance. In January the program was ready and has helped one family this year. Families can apply for support when facing eviction or having trouble making rent payments or utility payments.

Mary Stegner with Partners in Housing (PIH) noted they are celebrating their 35th anniversary. CSBG funding for Partners in Housing supports our family self-sufficiency program, but specifically the transitional housing. PIH is seeing good success in exits from the transitional program to permanent stable housing at about 90% this year. PIH has an employment program for adults and older teens in the program so they can find viable employment in the community leads to careers and to a livable wage in the medical field.

Dr. Michelle Ruehl with StableStrides noted they are in their 44th year, however over the year they feared they would have to close their doors. Thanks to CSBG funding they have been able to remain open and provide services to children, veterans and adults with disabilities. StableStrides has served 20 clients over the last six months and has 200 volunteers and has 10 horses.

Careers in Construction sent in their report via email to EPC staff who shared the following information. Careers in Construction facilitate true construction education in high schools. Through CICC, schools receive access to a residential-based construction curriculum, funding support for materials and certificates, and instructor stipend, and support from career navigators who are responsible for building meaningful relationships with students to help them navigate their career pathway within the construction industry. The number of El Paso County's CICC schools for 2025-26, is 15. The number of schools for 2026-27 is 16, potentially 17. There are 877 students enrolled. Certificates earned in 2025-26 are 973 and job shadows/field trip experiences for 2025-26 are 22 with over 150 students who attended. They have four career navigators, currently working on connecting students to employment opportunities.

12. EPC Staff shared 2026 El Paso County fair volunteer opportunities.
13. EPC Staff shared CSBG Conference opportunities.
14. EPC Staff provided staff update. Robyn May will be the CSBG staff liaison and will be the point of contact moving forward.
15. Board Discussion: There was no board discussion at this time.
16. Public Comments: None
17. Unscheduled Items: None
18. Agenda for the Next Board Meeting: Special Meeting (2 hour work session) for Needs Assessment, County Attorney to share meeting records, open meeting law requirements, and potentially start discussing Community Action Plan. Lauren Nelson made motion for 2 hour work session. Dan Hoff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.