

## Community Development Advisory Board March 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) met on March 18, 2026, at 12:30 PM, via a hybrid model including in-person (at 9 E. Vermijo Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903) and the virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting platform. Chair, Mr. Tyler Stevens, called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

#### Roll Call

The Community Development Advisory Board members present were:

- Tyler Stevens (GMF) (Chair)
- Leslie Ornstein (D1)
- Matt Buffington (D2)
- Tamara Estes (D4)
- Denise Howell (Manitou Springs) (Vice Chair)
- James Osborne (Ramah)
- Ben Sheets (Fountain)
- Samantha Padgett (Palmer Lake)
- Madeline VanDenHoek (Monument)

The Community Development Advisory Board members absent were:

- Emily Peacock (D3)
- Megan McReynolds (Calhan)

Other persons present at the meeting were:

- El Paso County Commissioner, Cory Applegate (Board of County Commissioners Liaison)
- Luke Houser (Community Development Analyst for the CDBG, Economic Development Department & Staff Liaison)
- Crystal LaTier (Executive Director of the Economic Development Department)
- Randi Davis (Community Development Analyst for Housing, Economic Development Department)
- Natasha North (Project Manager, Economic Development Department)
- Lisa Martinez (Director, Serving Hope – PY2026 Applicant)

## II. Consideration of the February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Osborne moved to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2026, CDAB meeting, as presented, and so seconded by Ms. Padgett, the motion passed unanimously.

## III. 2026 PY CDBG Application List and Estimated Budget

Mr. Houser provided the 2026 Application List and reminded the Board that they would be reviewing Public Service applications.

## IV. 2026 CDBG Application Review

### A. Reminder of Review Process

Ms. LaTier provided additional context concerning the applications and request amounts. She reminded the Board about HUD's 15% Public Service cap, and the need to cut over \$800,000 from this category alone. No funding determinations need to be made until the April CDAB meeting.

### B. 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan Goals (updated)

Mr. Houser provided a comprehensive overview of the EPC 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan goals, including a detailed breakdown of EPC ED's progress towards the completion of these goals. There were no questions or comments.

### C. Rebuilding Together Colorado Memorandum

Mr. Houser provided a memorandum for Rebuilding Colorado, which provided the Board with detailed answers to questions that were asked during the February 18, 2026, meeting. Additionally, a 2015 audit was provided. Ms. Ornstein explained that Rebuilding Together's upcoming financial review was different from an official organizational audit. There were no additional questions or comments.

#### **D. Public Service Summary Sheets**

The Public Service Summary Sheets were reviewed by Mr. Houser in their entirety. Ms. Ornstein asked for Serving Hope's application to be reviewed first as the applicant was in attendance. Ms. Martinez provided a general overview of Serving Hope. Questions concerning income verifying clientele, jurisdictions where services will be provided, and how the token-based system will be able to deter fraud were answered by Ms. Martinez. Mr. Applegate left the meeting at 1:25PM, returning at 2:13PM. Ms. Howell left the meeting at 1:58PM, returning at 2:04PM. Mr. Buffington left the meeting at 2:04PM, returning at 2:06PM.

The application from Archway Communities was reviewed second. Questions regarding previous performance were raised. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration.

Catamount Institute's application was reviewed third. Questions were raised about how a Title I school verifies eligible clientele, and a brief explanation of Title I schools was provided by staff.

Center for Employment Opportunities' (CEO) application was reviewed fourth. Questions were raised regarding CEO's management of their programmatic budget.

Community Economic Defense Project's (CEDP) application was reviewed fifth. Concerns were raised regarding a lack of committed funds and their listed programmatic budget of \$2,995,680.00. It was suggested that this program would be better suited for the CDBG program through Colorado Springs. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration.

The application from Community Partnership for Child Development was reviewed sixth. Discussion centered around the amount granted recently from EPC Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds as well as the high demand for affordable childcare.

Envida's application was reviewed seventh. Comments were made regarding the large number of clientele they intend to serve, the recent cuts to transportation funding through Medicaid, and the routes utilized.

Forge Evolution's application was reviewed eighth. Generalized questions regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding were answered by Ms. LaTier. The Board

expressed concerns about how the applicant intends to market the program outside of Colorado Springs and felt the application would be better suited for the CDBG program through Colorado Springs. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Fountain Valley Health Care Outreach's (FVHCO) application was reviewed ninth. Questions regarding the year FVHCO had been established, their organizational structure/location and how they intend to provide outreach and respite care to outlying communities and/or eligible clientele were asked.

Homeward Pikes Peak's (HPP) application was reviewed tenth. Questions regarding HPP's past funding from ARPA, Opioid and Community Investment Funds (CIF) were asked. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Honor Bell Foundation's application was reviewed eleventh. Questions regarding organizational capacity and clientele eligibility were asked. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Impactful Organizing's application was reviewed twelfth. Discussion centered around the newness of this organization and their inexperience managing Federal funds. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration.

Lockwood Foundation's application was reviewed thirteenth. Questions regarding their organizational location (Woodland Park) as well as how eligible clientele would be verified were asked. The Board agreed discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Mission Medical Center's application was reviewed fourteenth. Questions regarding their organizational location, the services they provide and the clientele they serve were asked.

Mt Carmel Veterans Service Center's application was reviewed fifteenth. Questions were asked regarding how personnel costs would be applied.

No More Excuses Recovery's application was reviewed sixteenth. Questions regarding their organizational location/establishment date, the clientele served and services provided were asked.

Pikes Peak United Way's application was reviewed seventeenth. Questions regarding how eligible clientele are verified/delineated and the receipt of ARPA funding were asked. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Porchlight Friends' application was reviewed eighteenth. Questions were asked regarding the type of companionship services provided.

Remnant Apostolic International Network's (RAIN) application was reviewed nineteenth. Questions were asked regarding their organizational location, marketing, duplication of PPWFC services and how RAIN intends to reach eligible clientele in specific service areas.

Ms. Ornstein requested the Public Service spreadsheet be reorganized for the next meeting by sub-category so applicants can be compared more easily.

Serenity Recovery Connection's application was reviewed twentieth. The amount of previous ARPA and Opioid grant funding was discussed. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Special Kids, Special Families' application was reviewed twenty-first. Questions regarding the high cost per client were asked.

The Family Compass' application was reviewed twenty-second. Questions regarding the structure of their parent company, Colorado Association of Family and Children's Agencies, as well as organizational capacity were asked. It was the request of the Board to acquire additional clarifications about the Family Compass' collaboration with CAFCA.

The Place's application was reviewed twenty-third. Concerns regarding ARPA funding and staff turnover were discussed. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

Women Partnering's application was reviewed twenty-fourth. Questions regarding their ability to verify eligible clientele, as well as organizational capacity were asked.

Women's Community Leadership Initiative's application was reviewed last. Comments were made regarding their offered programming and applicability within the CDBG. The Board discussed removing this application from recommendation consideration

The Board requested a marketing determination to be requested from all Public Service applicants operating within the City of Colorado Springs. Mr. Houser agreed to make the request and provide the information at the next CDAB meeting.

## V. Other Business

### **A. CDAB Vacancies in 2026**

Due to schedule constraints, Commissioner Applegate requested this portion of the agenda be reviewed first, during roll call and introductions. He discussed the BOCC receiving and reviewing an application for the vacant District 5 seat. The applicant is tentatively scheduled for a vote on the BOCC's March 31<sup>st</sup> consent calendar.

Commissioner Applegate also spoke with the Mayor of Green Mountain Falls (GMF) who knows a party interested in applying for the soon-to-be-vacant GMF seat. That application could come to BOCC as early as May 2026.

### **B. Upcoming Meetings**

It was the request of the Board to review and possibly change the date of the April CDAB meeting due to members being at a conference, April 15, 2026. Alternative dates will be polled to the Board to determine the best date to meet in April.

## **VI. Adjournment**

March 18, 2026, CDAB meeting adjourned at 2:31PM.

*Tyler Stevens*

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Tyler Stevens, Chair of the Community Development Advisory Board, presided.

Public notice for this meeting was posted online via EPC Agenda Suite on March 11, 2026.