

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFIED SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FOR GENERAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,750.00.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO MINIMIZE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PARTICIPANTS.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is accepting applications under their General Community Benefit Program and;

WHEREAS, the Laramie County Board of Commissioners is eligible to apply for and receive community benefit funds for the Sheriff's Office and;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost estimates and information on this project and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY that a grant application in the amount of \$1,750.00 be submitted to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center for consideration of assistance in funding the Laramie County Sheriff's Office for the LEAD Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Amy Gorbey, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grant Specialist, is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and that Sandra Bay, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grants Manager is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to receive funds and implement the programs funded under this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 5TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

By: _____
Chairman, Laramie County Commissioners

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Date: _____

Received and Approved as to Form only By:

Laramie County Attorney's Office

Date: 4/28/26



General Community Benefit Funding Application

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is committed to supporting community benefit services that improve the health of the region we serve. Cheyenne Regional has adopted the definition of health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

The hospital’s community benefits activities will align with the National Public Health Institute’s *Advancing the State of the Art in Community Benefit* principles. Cheyenne Regional will consider requests to provide:

- Programs/activities that meet a significant unmet health need identified in the most recent [Community Needs Assessment and Laramie County Community Health Improvement Plan](#).
- Primary prevention and including at least one of three primary prevention strategies: health promotion, disease prevention, and health protection.
- Programs/activities that develop links between clinical services and health-improvement activities delivered both inside and outside the hospital.
- Programs that focus on targeting charitable resources in a way that mobilizes and builds capacity within existing community assets, while minimizing duplication of effort.
- Programs that focus on increasing access to care in Laramie County.
- Programs that emphasize collaboration with community stakeholders.
- Applicants must be designated by the IRS as not-for-profit organizations.
- Grants are awarded for a one-year period. There is no guarantee of continued funding. Grant agreements will be executed between Cheyenne Regional and the requesting organization.
- A written report, quarterly, and at the conclusion of the grant period *may* be requested.

All applications for community benefit funding are reviewed by Cheyenne Regional’s Board Committee on Community Health and Benefit.

Applications are due May 1, 2026. Please email applications to amy.spieker@crmcwy.org and Erika.Novick@crmcwy.org. You will receive an email confirming receipt. If you do not receive an email please call or email to confirm.

Committee reserves the right to request a copy of the most recent financial audit; you’ll be notified if that is needed.

The Committee will invite select applicants to present their request in person or virtually at the end of May.

Good luck!

Applications must be typed and submitted electronically to:

Amy Spieker and Erika Novick
Amy.Spieker@crmcwy.org and Erika.novick@crmcwy.org
(307) 773-8188 and (307) 773-8169

Please limit the applications to only the requested materials.

Cover Sheet Format:

Date of Request: April 27, 2026

Organization's Legal Name: Laramie County Sheriff's Office

Physical Address: 1910 Pioneer Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Website: <https://leadbureau.org/>

Key Contact for this Project: MacKenzie Howard

Phone Number: 307-286-0407

Email Address: mackenzie.howard@laramiecountyywy.gov

Estimated start date: June 1, 2026

Amount Requested: \$1,750

Dates and amounts of funds/resources previously provided by Cheyenne Regional for this purpose: \$1,500 awarded in FY21 for two years, \$1,000 awarded in FY25, \$1,500 awarded in FY26

Please describe other funders of this project: COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program)

What percent of your operating budget do these funds represent? 1%

Typed Name, Signature and date signed of the Program Director.
(CRMC program applications must also be signed by Vice President).

MacKenzie Howard

MacKenzie Howard
LEAD Program Manager
Laramie County Sheriff's Office
4/27/26

Description of Need:

Provide a brief description of your organization's work

The Laramie County LEAD program, established in 2020, was created to interrupt the cycle of criminal justice involvement among individuals experiencing untreated mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and extreme poverty. LEAD is designed to reduce the barriers that contribute to recidivism, including lack of transportation, inability to pay for required testing, unstable housing, and limited access to healthcare.

We serve some of the most marginalized members of our community, including individuals who are unhoused, those living with substance use disorders, and those with little to no positive support systems. Many participants have experienced significant trauma and are understandably hesitant to engage with traditional systems. Our low-barrier, trauma-informed approach ensures that those who need help most can access it without unnecessary obstacles.

Detail the causes/conditions/need leading to your request; provide available data

At the core of our work is a commitment to meet participants where they are—physically, mentally, and emotionally. However, one of the most urgent and persistent needs we encounter remains largely unmet due to funding restrictions: access to food. According to the most recent Community Needs Assessment, approximately 13% of Laramie County residents experience food insecurity. Among LEAD participants, that number is significantly higher—nearly every individual we serve struggles with food insecurity at the time of enrollment.

This gap has serious consequences. When individuals are hungry, it is extremely difficult to engage in treatment, attend appointments, comply with court requirements, or pursue employment. Progress cannot be sustained when basic needs are unmet. Addressing food insecurity is not supplemental, it is foundational to every outcome we seek to achieve.

What goals from the Community Needs Assessment will be addressed through your work? How does your work improve access to care in our community?

Our work aligns closely with priorities identified in the Community Needs Assessment, particularly in housing stability, healthcare access, and social connectedness. We assist participants in securing and maintaining housing by preventing eviction, identifying affordable units, and connecting individuals to transitional housing. Despite a severe shortage of affordable housing in Laramie County—and additional barriers for those with criminal histories—our partnerships continue to produce meaningful outcomes. In collaboration with Community Action of Laramie County and the Laramie County Recovery Courts, we have housed nine participants over the past year. With stable housing, these individuals have secured full-time employment, pursued educational and vocational goals, achieved sustained recovery, and reunified with their children. We also partner with Bethel Outreach Ministries and Recover Wyoming to provide comprehensive reentry and recovery support, strengthening participants' ability to achieve long-term stability and rebuild meaningful relationships.

Access to healthcare remains another critical need. Nearly all LEAD participants are uninsured at enrollment. Through partnerships with Crossroads Healthcare Clinic, HealthWorks, and the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Clinic, we connect individuals to essential medical and behavioral health services. We provide hands-on support with intake, enrollment in sliding fee programs, appointment scheduling, transportation, and advocacy. When cost becomes a barrier, we help ensure access to medications and continuity of care. We also assist participants in securing long-term coverage through SSDI, SSI, Medicaid, or the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Nationally, two-thirds of individuals booked into jail have a mental illness or problematic substance use. In response to rising fentanyl use and overdose rates, LEAD prioritizes connecting participants to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), significantly improving the likelihood of sustained recovery. Currently, seven participants are actively engaged in MAT alongside other recovery supports. We also emphasize harm reduction strategies, including access to Narcan, overdose prevention education, and encouragement to seek early medical care, particularly important for individuals who do not routinely engage with healthcare systems.

Beyond these tangible supports, we address one of the most critical—yet often overlooked—drivers of long-term success: human connection. Nearly all participants enter the program experiencing profound isolation, depression, and hopelessness—conditions that both hinder progress and perpetuate cycles of substance use and criminal justice involvement.

Creating a sense of belonging is essential to our work. By fostering connection, we help participants rebuild trust, develop supportive relationships, and envision a path forward. We intentionally create a safe, nonjudgmental environment where individuals are treated with dignity and respect—often for the first time in years. In this space, participants are empowered to make changes at their own pace, supported rather than judged.

Our partnership with the Laramie County Recovery Courts further strengthens this foundation by fostering peer relationships that reduce isolation, increase accountability, and build shared purpose. Participants also gain consistent access to case managers, therapists, and peer specialists, creating a dependable network of support essential to sustaining recovery and preventing recidivism. By investing in connection, we are not only improving individual outcomes—we are addressing root causes of addiction and justice system involvement while creating lasting change in our community.

Program Plan:

Briefly describe the activities that will be funded through this grant.

Through a \$1.3 million grant, we operate a targeted, community-based program staffed by one full-time program manager and two full-time case managers. While most of the funding supports these essential roles, approximately \$12,000 annually is allocated for direct client assistance, including medications, medical and mental health co-pays, identification documents, housing-related expenses, drug testing fees, and substance use evaluations. Our federal COSSUP funding will end on September 30, 2026; however, opioid settlement funds will allow LEAD to remain operational in Laramie County through September 2027. We continue working toward securing permanent local funding.

Over the past year, Community Benefit funding has allowed us to provide meals for approximately 60 participants, often during initial engagement or in recognition of meaningful progress. These moments are critical in building trust and reinforcing positive change. Since 2020, LEAD has received 700 referrals, with approximately 50% meeting eligibility criteria. Our expanding network of partners continues to increase our reach and impact.

How does the proposed program/activity respect the cultural diversity of our community and ensure accessibility for all groups?

LEAD was intentionally designed as a low-barrier program to ensure accessibility for the most vulnerable members of our community. While we are unable to serve individuals who are habitually violent or convicted of sex offenses, our focus remains on those with frequent justice system involvement due to poverty, substance use, and/or mental health conditions.

Capacity:

Describe your organization's one-, three-, and five-year goals. How does this work align and build capacity to meet those goals?

Within the next year, LEAD aims to secure permanent local funding to ensure the continuity of services for current and future participants. Transportation remains a critical need, as many participants cannot drive due to financial constraints or legal restrictions. By providing transportation support, we enable individuals to obtain employment, attend treatment, complete required testing, and remain compliant with court and probation requirements.

Over the next three to five years, we aim to expand collaboration with patrol officers and deputies to increase pre-arrest diversion opportunities, recognizing that incarceration often exacerbates underlying issues. We also seek to strengthen engagement with individuals prior to and immediately following release from jail to reduce recidivism. Community Benefit funding supports our ability to build trust and demonstrate tangible support for those working toward positive change.

Provide data illustrating your organization's ability to meet the needs identified.

Over the past year, LEAD has provided intensive case management services to 58 individuals, many of whom require near-daily support. For individuals who previously cycled through incarceration, these outcomes represent both life-changing personal progress and meaningful cost savings for the community.

What is your staff and volunteer capacity? Will you take on new staff to complete this work?

LEAD is currently staffed by one full-time program manager and two full-time case managers. This staffing level is sufficient to meet current and anticipated program needs.

Performance Evaluation:

How do you measure and ensure that your services are accessible, respectful, and culturally competent?

We partner with the OMNI Institute to evaluate program effectiveness. Data is collected through partner interviews, internal case notes, client assessments, financial tracking, and client satisfaction surveys. These measures allow participants to provide feedback, enabling us to continuously improve and ensure services are delivered with dignity, respect, and cultural responsiveness.

If you have previously been awarded funds, please provide a summary of the effectiveness.

We have received three prior awards totaling \$3,000. These funds demonstrated how small, immediate support can create meaningful change. Assistance with groceries, meals, or even a cup of coffee often serves as a gateway to trust, helping us engage individuals who are otherwise disconnected from systems of care. In many cases, meeting a basic need becomes the turning point that leads to sustained engagement and long-term stability.

What happens if your request is not met?

Without this funding, participants will rely solely on SNAP benefits and local food pantries. In many cases, benefits are exhausted before the end of the month, and food pantries are increasingly strained, limiting both the quality and quantity of available food.

What is the potential return on the investment to the community?

LEAD respectfully requests \$1,750 to address food insecurity among participants. This modest investment will help meet an immediate and critical need at the point of engagement, supporting trust-building, stabilization, and long-term positive outcomes.

Partnership:

Describe the current role you play in the Laramie County Community Partnership and name the Action Teams on which you serve.

LEAD staff regularly attend Laramie County Community Partnership meetings to stay informed about emerging community needs and available resources. Our work is guided by priorities identified in the annual Community Needs Assessment.

Are there already comparable programs in the community offering this program? If so, explain what makes your program unique and how you will partner to reduce duplication of services.

There are no directly comparable programs to LEAD in Laramie County. As such, we fill a critical gap in services. We collaborate closely with community partners to ensure coordinated, high-quality care and to avoid duplication of services.

We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration and welcome any questions.

MacKenzie Howard

MacKenzie Howard, LEAD Program Manager
Laramie County Sheriff's Office
1910 Pioneer Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Cell: 307-286-0407
Email: mackenzie.howard@laramiecountyywy.gov

BUDGET DETAILS AND JUSTIFICATION:

Detail the amount of your request (line-item justifications will be most helpful to explain how the funding will be used).

Funding Request

We are requesting \$1,750 to provide critical food support for LEAD participants experiencing food insecurity. For many of the individuals we serve, who have faced repeated and often negative interactions with the criminal justice system driven by extreme poverty, substance use, and mental health challenges, meeting basic needs is the first and most essential step toward meaningful change.

Access to food does more than alleviate hunger; it builds trust, fosters stability, and opens the door to engagement. When individuals know their immediate needs will be met, they are far more likely to participate in services, develop rapport with case managers, and begin working toward goals that reflect their unique circumstances and aspirations. This modest investment creates a powerful foundation for long-term progress, making it possible for participants to move beyond survival and toward lasting stability.

Line-Item Justifications

Item	Description	Quantity	Cost per Unit	Total
Office snacks for clients	Snacks will be bought in bulk from Sam's Club and available for clients	12 monthly trips	\$65	\$780
Immediate grocery needs for clients	To assist with food insecurity among LEAD participants	5 clients	\$74	\$370
Coffee/meals for clients	To provide occasional meals and beverages to participants	50 clients	\$12	\$600

Total Request: \$1,750



LARAMIE COUNTY RECOVERY COURTS OFFICE

DRUG COURT • DUI COURT • MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT

Chris Patterson
Case Manager
Laramie County Recovery Courts
309 W. 20th Street, Suite 2201
Cheyenne, Wy 82007
4/15/2026

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Community Health and Benefit Board

Re: Letter of Support for LEADS Program – Community Benefit Funding Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the LEADS Program and its application for Community Benefit Funding through Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

Laramie County Treatment Courts has partnered with LEADS since the early stages of program development, and their impact on our participants has been both immediate and measurable. One of the most significant barriers individuals in recovery face is reliable transportation. LEADS has consistently helped bridge this gap by providing transportation to court appearances, employment, intensive outpatient treatment (IOP), and drug testing, critical components of recovery that fall outside the scope of what our program is able to provide independently.

In addition to transportation, LEADS is working to address another significant and often overlooked barrier: food insecurity. Due to funding limitations, including restrictions on existing grant resources, many participants lack consistent access to basic nutritional support. This gap directly impacts their ability to fully engage in treatment, maintain stability, and meet program expectations. Expanding LEADS' capacity to provide food resources would meaningfully strengthen participant outcomes by ensuring that basic needs are met alongside treatment requirements.

This partnership reflects a broader reality in behavioral health and recovery work, no single agency can meet every need. Sustainable recovery requires a coordinated, community-based approach. LEADS has proven to be a critical partner in this system, helping to remove barriers that would otherwise lead to noncompliance, relapse, or program failure.

The services provided by LEADS align closely with community health priorities, including increasing access to care, improving continuity of treatment, and fostering collaboration among community stakeholders. Their work not only improves individual outcomes but also contributes to public safety and long-term community stability.

Additional funding would allow LEADS to expand its reach and deepen its impact, particularly among justice-involved individuals working toward recovery and reintegration. Based on our experience, I am confident that investment in the LEADS Program will result in meaningful, measurable benefits for Laramie County.

I strongly support their application and encourage you to consider LEADS as a valuable recipient of Community Benefit Funding.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Chris Patterson
Case Manager-Drug Court
Laramie County Recovery Courts

Social Services Programs

Wyoming In-Home Services
Veteran Housing Services
Older Relative Caregiver
Transitional Housing
Case Management
Project Hope



**COMMUNITY
ACTION** | OF LARAMIE
COUNTY

1700 Westland Road, Cheyenne WY 82001
PO BOX 106, Cheyenne WY 82003
307-635-9291 // www.calc.net

Crossroads Healthcare Clinic for the Homeless

Substance Abuse Treatment
Primary Medical Care
Case Management
Behavioral Health
Mobile Clinic

April 20th, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Community Action of Laramie County, I am proud to offer our strong support for LEADS and their application for funding. LEADS is not just a valued partner—they are a necessary and irreplaceable part of our community's service network.

LEADS fills critical gaps for individuals whose needs are often too complex for traditional systems to effectively serve. Their work with individuals experiencing substance use challenges, mental health conditions, and extreme poverty reaches a population that would otherwise struggle to successfully engage in programs like ours without additional support.

Through our collaboration, we have seen firsthand how LEADS strengthens outcomes for shared clients. When LEADS case managers are involved—particularly when they are present alongside participants during intake and engagement with our programs—clients have a clearer understanding of expectations, feel more supported, and are better positioned to succeed. This partnership creates a more seamless and effective experience for the individuals we serve.

Because of LEADS, many clients who might otherwise struggle are able to enter our programs, remain engaged, and make meaningful progress toward self-sufficiency. Their presence not only improves individual outcomes but strengthens the effectiveness of our entire continuum of care.

We strongly support LEADS in their pursuit of this funding opportunity. Continued investment in their work is essential to ensure that our community can effectively serve its most vulnerable members.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Sara Vigil
Chief Executive Officer
Community Action of Laramie County
Sara.v@calc.net