

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER GENERAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE CORONER'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE SUICIDE PREVENTION MATERIALS SUCH AS BOOKS AND JOURNALS.

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 Coroner'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 \$2,500.00 be submitted to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center for consideration of assistance in funding the Laramie County Coroner's Office for suicide prevention materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and to receive funds and implement the programs funded under this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL 2022.

By: _____
Troy Thompson, Chairman


Date: _____

ATTEST:

Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Date: _____

Received and Approved as to Form only By:



Laramie County Attorney's Office

Date: 03/28/2023



General Community Benefit Funding Application

Cover Sheet:

Date of Request: April 4, 2023

Program/Activity Title: Laramie County Suicide Prevention

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

Physical Address: 3964 Archer Parkway, Cheyenne, WY 82009

Website: https://www.laramiecountywy.gov/_officials/CountyCoroner/index.aspx

Key Contact for this Project: Rebecca Reid

Phone Number: 307-637-8000

Email Address: Rebecca.Reid@laramiecountywy.gov

Estimated length of proposed service: Six months for initial purchases

Estimated start date: 8/1/2023

Amount Requested \$2,500.00

Dates and amounts of funds/resources previously provided by Cheyenne Regional for this purpose:

We are also recipients of a 2022 Community Benefit grant award in the amount of \$2,500

Please describe other funders of this project:

The Laramie County Coroner's Office has received prevention funding for providing suicide prevention and educational resources.

What percent of your operating budget do these funds represent?

Less than 2% and is not considered standard operations.

Typed Name, Signature and date signed of the Program Director:


Rebecca Reid, Laramie County Coroner

Date: April 3, 2023

Two (2)-page narrative, please explain the following:

Background: Detail the causes/conditions/need leading to your request. What condition of community well-being will be enhanced through your activity? Provide information about how the need has been met or not met in the past.

Unfortunately, high suicide rates and the lingering effects are not new to Laramie County. The State of Wyoming continues to lead the nation in the prevalence of suicide deaths, 31 per 100,000 deaths, which is more than double the national average of 14. Our agencies have seen high suicide rates in the community and the long lasting effects those deaths have on families and communities as a whole. Statistics and research show that people with a family history of completed suicides, as compared with those without such history, are at a 2.1-fold increased risk of dying by suicide. Our agencies currently carry folders that have printed materials such as brochures, but this limited information and is not always enough for a grieving family. Thanks to the 2019-2023 prevention grants, we were able to start carrying resource books for those in need and have quickly gone through our supplies. We believe that this shows the importance and need for resources such as this in our community to prevent suicides. The requested funding would be to purchase resource materials, such as books and journals, for families and friends to utilize. These materials would be accessible by the Grief Support Group Members and Loss Team Members at all times. In having materials immediately available, we are providing a quick response to those at risk for suicidal thoughts or actions. We work closely with Grace for 2 Brothers, as we receive some of our wonderful brochure materials from them, and will continue this effort; this request is to enhance the available resources for grieving families in Laramie County. We requested \$10,000 from the prevention funds and received \$5,000 in 2023. We do not want to limit our ability to provide resources to families struggling with the loss of a loved one and therefore, we are requesting support through the Community Benefit Application.

Situation: Briefly describe the activities that will be funded through this grant. How does the activity you propose benefit the community, while meeting Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's broad definition of health? (See Attachment 1)

We are requesting funding to purchase educational materials on coping and processing suicides, to hand out to family and friends of suicides. The Coroner's Office, in partnership with the Greif Support Group and the Loss Team will have access to the resources for distribution to household members affected by the suicide of a loved one. These activities will directly relate to our goal of providing "care and support to individuals affected by suicide deaths and attempt to promote healing and implement community strategies to help prevent suicides." Having the appropriate reference and resource materials available on scene will help individuals when they are the most vulnerable after losing a loved one to suicide. We are requesting several books for each, Grief Support Group members and Loss Team members, to have available to provide to families. Our department, along with the Grief Support Group, and the Loss Team, cover all of Laramie County and have the capacity to work and impact the entire county from Cheyenne to the smaller communities of Albin, Burns and Pine Bluffs.

Suicide affects numerous lives on a daily basis and falls into the components of health in terms of personal behaviors, the environment and community we live in and the care we receive. Providing immediate support and educational materials helps families and friends who are experiencing the loss of a loved one to prevent additional suicides within our community. We are confident that with our community partnerships we can reach all families who experience the loss of a loved one to suicide and provide outreach efforts to prevent future suicides.

Analysis: Provide data illustrating need for the activities you propose and your organization's ability to meet those needs. Provide performance measures against you will monitor for effectiveness. What happens if your request is not met? What is the potential return on the investment to the community? If you have previously received funding through Cheyenne Regional for this project, please include data that speaks to how the funds were utilized effectively.

This project originally began in 2019 when we had twenty-four individuals who died by suicide. Of the families that experienced the suicide of a loved one, over fifty-two individuals received books and resources for dealing with such a loss (some family members received multiple resources). In 2020, we had twenty-eight suicides and provided over fifty-seven books to family members and friends that were impacted by a loss due to suicide. In 2021, we had twenty-four suicides and families and friends received over eighty-one books and resources. In 2022, Laramie County saw twenty-six suicides and all friends and immediate contacts were offered educational materials to assist with the grieving process. It should also be noted that resources are provided to family members who experienced a loss other than suicide. Those that are receiving the books and resources have the option to either keep or return them for use by others. It is our hope that in helping surviving family members and friends with knowledge and coping skills, it may help to stop the continuation of suicide in that family or relationship circle. We have community members that have also donated books and resources to the Coroner's Office for use within the community. We do know from the reaction of those receiving books and resources, that it is well received and needed.

Our implementation area will be all of Laramie County, to include the smaller jurisdictions and the unincorporated county. Our resources are also made available to outside agencies such as FE Warren and the National Guard. Suicide is a societal component that cannot be predicted, but we do know that family members of a suicide victim are at an increased risk for suicide themselves. "Having a family history, like any other risk factors, indicates that a person is at an increased risk in comparison to people without such exposure; it cannot predict if the person is destined to attempt or complete suicide" (The Relationship of Suicide Risk to Family History of Suicide and Psychiatric Disorders). The Laramie County Coroner, Rebecca Reid, has been tracking suicide rates in our community, based on age, gender, and method since 2013. Our project will be to establish effective comprehensive support programs for individuals bereaved by suicide, and promote the full implementation of those guidelines within the community.

Request: Detail the amount of your request (line item justifications will be most helpful to explain how the funding will be used). Provide any information about other funding sources that may be blended to meet the need.

We are requesting \$2,500 for our agencies to share resources (Coroner's Office, Grief Support Group, and the Loss Team,) over a six-month period. We are requesting books, journals, and two pocket folders to continue to print off materials from Grace for 2 Brothers to be carried by team members, deputies, officers, and the coroner's office. The books and resource materials that we are requesting include but are not limited to: Healing a Grandparents Grieving Heart, Understanding your Suicide, The Understanding Your Suicide Grief Journal, Healing After the Loss of your Mother, It's Ok that you are not Ok, I wasn't ready to say Goodbye, Progressing through Grief, Surviving the Loss of a Sibling, Surviving the Loss of a Spouse, My Grief Journey Coloring Books kids, Grieving Dads, Surviving the Loss of a Parent. It is our goal to have a variety of resources available for all suicidal classifications (loss of spouse, sibling, parent, friend etc.)

Books range in price from \$9.56 to \$16.74 each without shipping expenses. We are estimating spending \$2,500 on books and folders, which will provide approximately 175 items. This is based off similar purchases made with prevention grant funding and our existing community benefit grant. The requested funding would be used to purchase materials and provide them to the community in response to county suicides and other losses. Each suicide is said to intimately affect at least six to one hundred and thirty-five other people. This ranges from

intimate friends and family and expands to coworkers, and community members (Suicide Research Consortium).

Partners/

Stakeholders: Describe the current role you plan in the Laramie County Community Partnership, and name the Action Teams on which you serve. Describe actions taken by this collective group in support of this proposal; attach letters of support from partners with whom you work to achieve the program goals.

The Laramie County Coroner's Office attends Laramie County Community Partnership meetings and the behavioral health action team meetings. Our office also participates in the suicide review panel and other community activities associated with suicide in our community. Our office and the Grief Support Group and Loss team are active in providing timely and appropriate support and educational services to families experiencing the loss of a loved one.

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

The Coroner's Office, Grief Support Group and the Loss Team play a unique role in suicide deaths within our community. We are on scene quickly, can provide immediate assistance, and can be a continuing resource after a family has processed the initial impact of the experience. We provide resources that can be kept or returned. No other agency, to our knowledge, in Laramie County, hands out books and resources comparable to what we offer. We do not believe there is any duplication to our program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.