

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A FY2026 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 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 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 7TH DAY OF APRIL 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: 3/31/26

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Community Benefit FY26 Grant Application

Date of Request: March 25, 2026

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: County Coroner - Laramie County, Wyoming

Key Contact for this Project: Rebecca Reid

Phone Number: 307-637-8000

Email Address: Rebecca.reid@laramiecountywy.gov

Estimated start date: 7/1/26

Amount Requested: \$2,500.00

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

We have received four Community Benefit Grants (2022: \$2,500 and 2023: \$2,500, 2024: 2,500, and 2025: \$7,500).

Please describe other funders of this project:

The Laramie County Coroner's Office has received prevention grant funds for providing suicide prevention and educational resources from the Wyoming Department of Health Injury and Prevention Suicide Prevention funds. These funds have all gone towards providing suicide prevention and loss resources to the community.

What percentage of your operating budget do these funds represent?

Suicide Prevention, while vastly important to the Coroner's Office, is not included in the standard Laramie County budget. The Coroner's Office relies on grants like this, donations and fundraising to provide these services within the community.

Typed Name, Signature and date signed of the Program Director

X 

Rebecca Reid
Laramie County Coroner

3/30/26

Description of Need:

1. **Provide a brief description of your organization's work.**

The Laramie County's Coroner's Office launched the Suicide Prevention Project in 2019 to provide grief support and recovery resources to those affected by suicide. The goal of the project is to address the devastating impacts on families and friends of those lost to suicide. In response to this continuing need and the county's persistently high suicide rates, the Grief Support Group and the LOSS Team were established to work in coordination with the Coroner's Office to provide postvention services. Together, they play a unique role in mitigating the effects of suicide exposure, which increases the risk of suicidal behavior among friends, family members, and close contacts. The Coroner's Office is on scene quickly and can provide immediate assistance to survivors, while the Grief Support Group and LOSS Team offer ongoing resources and compassionate support once families have processed the initial impact of their loss.

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

High suicide rates and their lasting effects remain an ongoing challenge for Laramie County and the State of Wyoming. Between 2018 and 2021, Wyoming had the highest suicide rate in the nation and has remained among the top three states for suicide deaths over the past decade. On average, Wyoming experiences approximately 157 suicides per year, with a per capita rate of 26 per 100,000, nearly double the national average. In 2025, Laramie County reported 26 suicides, and as of early 2026, the Coroner's Office has confirmed four suicides. According to the CDC's *Suicide Prevention Resource for Action*, postvention efforts are not only critical for healing but also for reducing future suicide risk. The Coroner's Office has seen firsthand the profound toll of these deaths and remains committed to providing timely and compassionate postvention support to help mitigate this increased risk.

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

The Community Health Needs Assessment notes that "the county's suicide rate, which mirrors the state's alarmingly high rate, remains a critical concern." This project aligns with CRMC's strategic goal of increasing access to care by providing critical postvention resources and support to those affected by suicide, including youth ages 10–24. The Community Health Needs Assessment identifies behavioral health as a significant burden on Laramie County residents and notes the county's alarmingly high suicide rate as a critical concern. Additionally, the report states that one in five middle and high school students report suicidal thoughts or feelings of hopelessness, emphasizing that addressing these issues will strengthen community well-being and reduce preventable deaths. Given the elevated risk factors faced by suicide-loss survivors, improving access to postvention resources is essential for strengthening behavioral health outcomes across the community.

4. **Describe who in our community will benefit from the services you provide.**

The program's service area covers all of Laramie County, including its municipalities and unincorporated areas. Grief resources are also made available to partner agencies such as F.E. Warren Air Force Base and the Wyoming Air National Guard in Cheyenne. Through proactive outreach, education, and emotional support, the Coroner's Office works to increase access to postvention care and help break the cycle of suicide within affected families.

Program Plan

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

We are requesting \$2,500 in CRMC Community Benefit funding to purchase educational and coping materials for individuals grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. Books and other materials provided through the program may be kept or returned and serve as essential tools for promoting healing and reducing risk factors related to suicide exposure

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

The Coroner's Office ensures accessibility for all community members by providing grief and loss resources tailored to different age groups. The families and individuals served represent diverse socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, gender, and age backgrounds. Materials are available in Spanish and can be ordered in additional languages as needed to ensure every survivor of suicide loss has access to meaningful support.

Capacity

1. Describe your organization's one-, three-, and five-year goals.

The following goals work towards building capacity and awareness of services within our community:

- GOAL ONE: Continue prevention and postvention within Laramie County by providing immediate support and materials to families that have lost a loved one by suicide.
- GOAL TWO: Reduce suicide loss within Laramie County by continuing the Suicide Fatality Review Team. Identify where training is needed for organizations and individuals within Laramie County and the State of Wyoming.
- GOAL THREE: We will continue providing Grief and Suicide Loss support groups monthly and recruiting volunteers to assist with these groups.

2. How does this work align and build capacity to meet those goals?

All three goals align with the overall effort to reduce suicide loss within Laramie County by helping to prevent future suicides. The Suicide Fatality Review Team analysis to identify trends and training needs for both the County and the State increase the overall capacity of organizations to prevent suicide deaths locally and statewide. Grief resources offered through the Coroner's Office (Goal 1) and the continuation of Greif Groups and the LOSS Team (Goal 3) support individuals and families affected by suicide, who are at a higher risk, helping to prevent future suicides.

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

In 2025, 115 of the 267 grief and loss resource books distributed were provided to families and friends of suicide victims. As of early 2026, 29% of resource books (22 of 76) have been distributed to those grieving a suicide death. This data clearly demonstrates the program's effectiveness in distributing these materials as part of postvention support.

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

The current staff consists of the Coroner, the Chief Deputy Coroner, three Deputy Coroners, and one Administrative Assistant. The Grief Support Group and LOSS Team consists of 3 to 4 volunteers, with support from the Coroner's Office team. We have no plans of hiring new staff to facilitate this project.

Performance Evaluation

1. Provide performance measures against which you will monitor for effectiveness.

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

The Coroner's Office uses spreadsheets to record the number of resources distributed, along with notes on requests for additional resources and the most frequently used materials. Our identified need is supported by studies showing family members of those lost to suicide face a significantly higher risk for suicidal behavior. The team and volunteers are certified in postvention and prevention to ensure services are accessible, respectful and culturally competent.

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

From 2022 through 2025, the Coroner's Office has received four Community Benefit Grants totaling \$15,000. The office has tracked suicide statistics by age, gender, and method to better understand community needs. Each year

\$2,500 is used to purchase approximately 168 to 180 books. The Coroner's Office has also benefited from prevention funds through the Wyoming Department of Health's Prevention funds. The ongoing demand for these materials and the positive feedback from survivors demonstrate the effectiveness of the materials.

3. What happens if your request is not met?

If future funding is not awarded, the office will pursue alternative grants and community fundraisers to sustain support for families. Annual fundraisers help meet families' immediate needs, including food, housing, biohazard cleaning, towing expenses, and counseling. Reduced funding could limit the number of printed materials distributed to those in need, potentially increasing the risk of additional suicides.

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

Between 2019 and February 2026, Laramie County experienced 179 suicide deaths, affecting an estimated 1,074 to 24,165 individuals. During this period, 483 grief and loss resources were provided to those impacted. The return on investment for postvention efforts is difficult to quantify, but the demand for these resources, and the participation of those impacted in postvention counseling demonstrates that these resources are critical in supporting families and friends affected by suicide.

Partnership

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

The Laramie County Coroner's Office actively participates in the CRMC Behavioral Health Action Team, the Suicide Review Panel, and other community initiatives addressing suicide in Laramie County. This year marks the sixth year of the Suicide Fatality Review Team, which has provided training courses and materials to organizations and individuals to address suicide risk factors.

2. 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 Coroner's Office collaborates with the Grief Support Group, the LOSS Team, mental health providers, law enforcement, and victim services. The collective group has engaged in fundraising, offered counseling and financial assistance, shared timely information, and provided emotional support and grief resources. The office also maintains the required certifications for suicide prevention and postvention for the Coroner's Office, Grief Group and LOSS Team. Please see the attached letters of support.

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

To the best of our knowledge, there is no other support like this in Laramie County. We actively partner with the Grief Group, the LOSS Team, the Sheriff's Department and others to ensure these materials and resources are available for them to distribute.

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 a total of \$2,500.00 to support the purchase grief support materials and supplies for use by the Coroner's Office, the Greif Group, the LOSS Group, deputies, officers, and volunteers. These materials will enhance our outreach efforts to support those experiencing loss after a suicide.

Line-Item Justifications

1. Light blue Two pocket Folders-\$150.00
Folders help organize listed resources, contact information, meeting schedules, and guidance for survivors.
2. Grief Support Books-\$2,350.00
A diverse collection of grief and healing books for individuals and families affected by suicide. These titles are selected to address a range of age groups and relationships, to promote inclusive support. Titles include:
 - Healing a Grandparents Grieving Heart
 - Understanding your Suicide
 - The Understanding Your Suicide Grief Journal
 - Healing After the Loss of Your Mother
 - It's Okay That Your' re 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 Book-kids
 - Grieving Dads
 - Surviving the Loss of a Parent

Books average between \$9.56 - \$18.74 (excluding shipping). The requested funding will provide approximately 176 books a year.

The Coroner's Office utilizes funding from the Wyoming Department of Health Prevention Grant and donations to support this project.

Dorthea Clark, Mental Health Counselor
PPC-1416
3001 Henderson Drive, Space M
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Dory.Clark@traumawellnesscenter.org

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dorthea Clark, and I am a mental health counselor serving the Laramie County community. As part of my professional work, I collaborate with a variety of local organizations and professionals to provide vital support and resources to individuals experiencing mental health challenges, particularly in the area of suicide prevention and intervention.

I am writing to express my strong support for, and ongoing partnership with, the Laramie County Coroner's Office in addressing suicide prevention and providing compassionate support to individuals and families affected by suicide. I deeply value the work the Coroner's Office does in responding to these difficult situations and supporting our community during times of loss.

I have the privilege of providing private office space for a local suicide loss support group. This group offers individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide a safe, confidential environment where they can share their experiences, process grief, receive support, and find connection with others who understand their journey.

I remain committed to working alongside mental health professionals, community leaders, and first responders to provide education, raise awareness, and ensure that individuals in our community have access to the resources they need. Through these collaborative efforts, we strive to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, promote early intervention, and strengthen our community's response to those experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

I greatly value our continued collaboration and look forward to strengthening this partnership in the future. Together, we can make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those in need.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed or if there are further ways, I can support our shared goals.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to suicide prevention in our community.

With warm regards,
Dorthea Clark
Mental Health Counselor



**Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center**

We Inspire Great Health!

March 17, 2026

Community Benefit Committee
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Re: Laramie County Coroner's Office, Funding Application

Dear Community Benefit Committee:

I am writing to express our support for the Laramie County Coroner's Office Community Benefit application for funding to address mental health through grief support and suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention within our community. Many individuals, families, and friends continue to struggle with the devastating effects of grief and suicide in Laramie County. The Coroner's Office is uniquely positioned to lead efforts in both understanding the root causes of suicide and implementing proactive measures to save lives. Their commitment to building relationships and providing support is an essential lifeline, offering hope and resources to those who have experienced loss.

As a community partner, we are committed to collaborating with the Laramie County Coroner's Office through community education and outreach, training, and Suicide Fatality Review. Whether through shared resources, educational initiatives, or joint programs, we appreciate the dedication of the Coroner's Office and will continue to strengthen our public health approach to mental health.

We highly recommend funding this essential work and would be happy to discuss further with the committee if needed. The Laramie County Coroner's Office is an exceptional partner in our community and is often highlighted as a statewide leader in innovative approaches to mental health, grief, and loss in Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Brittany Wardle

Brittany Wardle, MPH, CHES
Project Director, Community Prevention
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center



**OFFICE OF THE CORONER
LARAMIE COUNTY**

Rebecca Reid, Coroner

Office: (307) 637-8000

Fax: (307) 633-4524

Each resource we provide helps families throughout Laramie County who are experiencing the loss of a loved one. Families are impacted daily, and these materials are given to every decedent's family our office serves.

These books and resources help many individuals who may not feel comfortable speaking openly about their grief or who prefer to process their loss privately. We have been told by many members of our community that they continue to share these books with others after they are finished with them, which further expands the positive impact they have.

Families also frequently express how meaningful it is to receive these resources at no cost, especially since they are already facing many unexpected expenses following the loss of a loved one. Providing these materials helps support families during an incredibly difficult time and ensures they have access to guidance and comfort when they need it most.

Rebecca Reid

Coroner

March 5, 2026