

Colorado Springs Local Planning Team Governance Policies
November 2017

Background

House Bill 17-1326, also known as the Colorado Crime Prevention Initiative, was passed with bipartisan support and signed by the Governor at the end of the 2017 Colorado Legislative Session. The bill created reforms in parole laws that will result in savings to the state Department of Corrections budget. Those savings, a total of \$4 million each year, will be dedicated to small business lending and a crime prevention grant program in two communities – North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs. Resources directed to Southeast Colorado Springs will include \$500,000 in small business lending and \$1.3 million in grants, as well as technical support from an external evaluator for funded organizations. The Denver Foundation was selected as the community foundation that would steward the process and administer grant funds for both communities.

The legislation requires the creation of a local planning team in each community, which is empowered to determine the specific crime prevention priorities in their respective communities.

Appointment to Local Planning Team

Applicants may self-nominate or be nominated by others. A consistent form will be available for applicants to submit electronically or in hard copy. A widely publicized meeting will be held in the community to share the application process and help people who are interested in applying.

A team that includes one Denver Foundation staff members, one staff member of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, and four local community members will review applications. This review body will be appointed by The Denver Foundation.

Criteria for consideration for appointment to the local planning team will include:

- Reason for interest
- Areas of knowledge or expertise
- Background of applicant
- Ability to represent a broader constituency beyond individual perspective
- Interest in and openness to learning
- Availability and ability to meet expectations for committee participation
- Members must either live or work in Southeast Colorado Springs, or demonstrate an otherwise significant connection to the Southeast community

Local Planning Team Composition

The local planning team will be comprised of no more than 25 members. All meetings of the local planning team will be open to the public and materials, attendance, minutes, and decisions will be published on a public website managed by the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition.

The local planning team will include a combination of community members who will be most directly impacted by the program, including potential recipients of the funds, and those who bring expertise and interest, but will not directly benefit from these resources. Members must either live, work, or have substantial connection to Southeast Colorado Springs.

Per the legislation, the team will represent a diverse cross-section of the community with expertise in areas such as:

- Education
- Business and Workforce
- Youth and Families
- Nonprofit Direct Service
- Faith Leaders
- Law Enforcement and Local Government
- Residents in Southeast Colorado Springs, including those that have been directly impacted by crime and involvement in the criminal justice system

Duties of Local Planning Team

The Local Planning Team shall engage in deliberation and decision-making on the following items:

1. Determining the geographic boundary to describe “Southeast Colorado Springs”
2. Input specific priorities that will be used as a filter for grantmaking over the three-year period of the pilot.
 - a. Priorities must fall under the following areas:
 - Academic Achievement, including school readiness, reducing expulsions and suspensions in schools, increasing high school graduation, college enrollment and retention rates, and promoting school-parent-student engagement
 - Community-based direct services to strengthen families, promote recovery from trauma, provide support to crime survivors, increase employment, reduce recidivism, or other similar community needs
 - Neighborhood connections, community engagement, and local leadership development
 - Increasing safety and usability of common outdoor spaces
 - Technical assistance related to data collection, analysis, and evaluation
 - b. The Local Planning Team may accept these priorities in their broad form, may prioritize one or more priorities, and/or may place additional parameters and detail in one or more of the priorities based on data and their analysis of local community need.
 - c. The Local Planning team will base these priorities on quantitative and qualitative data, input from stakeholders, and their own experience with and in Southeast Colorado Springs.



3. Meet annually thereafter to review outcome data from grantees, assure the program is complying with priorities, and is meeting intended impact.

Local Planning Team Decision Making

Each member of the Local Planning Team will have one vote. A quorum of the local planning team (51% or greater of voting members) must be present for the vote to be valid and decisions may be approved through a simple majority. Voting may not take place by proxy.

Local Planning Team Facilitation

The Local Planning Team work will be facilitated by The Denver Foundation and its representatives. These may include paid consultants and/or local Colorado Springs partners.