



MEMORANDUM

TO: Colorado Springs City Council
FROM: The Denver Foundation
DATE: November 15, 2017
RE: HB 17-1326 Local Planning Team Nominations Process

As the community foundation selected by the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs to manage and distribute grant funding allocated through House Bill 17-1326, The Denver Foundation respectfully requests City Council approval of this nominations process to form the local planning team for Southeast Colorado Springs.

Background

House Bill 17-1326, now known in the community as Transforming Safety, 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 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.

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



Proposed Nominating Process (*Requiring City Council Approval*)

Applicants may self-nominate or be nominated by others. A consistent form will be available that applicants can fill out and 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. In addition, we will also actively promote the opportunity through more traditional channels including our own communications platforms, outreach to city and county governments, working with elected officials, engaging business improvement districts and minority chambers of commerce, and including announcements in neighborhood publications.

A team that includes one Denver Foundation staff member, one Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition staff member, and four local community members will review applications and select a local planning team of no more than 25 members.

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

About The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation is the oldest and largest community foundation in the Rocky Mountain region, with a mission to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community. While the Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program focuses on the seven county metro area, The Denver Foundation has granted over \$3.3 million to Colorado Springs nonprofits over the last five years through our Donor Advised Funds. The Foundation's primary areas of focus include organizations that help meet basic human needs, provide access to educational and economic opportunity, and support development of community leaders. In addition to community and donor-advised grantmaking, The Denver Foundation manages grant programs for communities throughout the state.

About Council of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO)

For 41 years, CONO has preserved and protected hundreds of neighborhoods in El Paso & Teller Counties. Building on our relationships throughout the business, nonprofit, and government sectors and within neighborhoods, CONO's support and resources create safer and healthier neighborhoods and empower leaders and change communities one neighborhood at a time. CONO will work as a formal partner with The Denver Foundation to ensure coordination of community outreach, manage logistics for all nominations team and Local Planning Team meetings, and document meeting discussion and decisions for posting on the public Transforming Safety website.

About Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Transforming Safety Colorado

The Pikes Peak Community Foundation was formed in 1928 by visionary citizens who believed that the Pikes Peak region needed a way to build a permanent charitable endowment to improve the quality of life in our community. Since the first grant was made nearly 90 years ago, the Community Foundation has made over \$70 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in our region. The Pikes Peak Community Foundation will work as a formal partner with The Denver Foundation to manage the local Southeast Colorado grant review process and make recommendations for grant funding in Southeast Colorado Springs to be approved by the State Department of Local Affairs. The Foundation will also ensure that local grantees are connected with the projects' evaluation team. It is anticipated that there will be a spring and fall grantmaking cycle for each of the three years of the project.