

Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: July 17, 2024

Agenda Item #: 5

Discussion of the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept funds from the Colorado Disability Funding Committees Disability Benefit Application Assistance grant for \$135,000 for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 to support the Aging and Disability Resource Center's expansion in public benefit navigation and application assistance in the Area Agency on Aging.

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

Staff recommends approval for funds from the Colorado Disability Funding Committees Disability Benefit Application Assistance grant for the Area Agency on Aging's Aging and Disability Resource Center programs to support increase support in applying for public benefit applications.

Background

The Area Agency on Aging applied for a Colorado Disability Benefit Application Assistance Grant in January 2024 to support the work of the Aging and Disability Resource Center in helping individuals 18 and older with a disability apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Colorado Medicaid benefits. This grant will help support and expand the work already taking place to serve additional individuals in a deeper capacity by tracking their application from start to finish with the anticipation that approval rates increase by having this support.

Additional funding was needed to support individuals 18 and older with a disability as funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Center is minimal. Staff currently support individuals mostly 60 and older with applications but due to funding restrictions, very little support has been offered to individuals under 60 with a disability to complete the long process of applying for SSI/SSDI. Staff have been able to provide support with Colorado Medicaid programs for those under 60 but numbers for those individuals are small in comparison to those 60 and older. This grant will help expand those services with the anticipation that approval rates will increase with the additional support and oversight of trained staff.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None



Recommendation

Move to approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept funds from the Colorado Disability Funding Committees Disability Benefit Application Assistance grant for \$135,000 for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 to support the Aging and Disability Resource Center's expansion in public benefit navigation and application assistance in the Area Agency on Aging.

Attachments

Draft resolution

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; Jayla Sanchez-Warne, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, at 303-480-6735 or jswarren@drcog.org, or Erika Dubray, Manager-Aging and Disability Resource Center, Area Agency on Aging, at 303-480-5652 or edubray@drcog.org.

