AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

AgendaTitle:
Grant Application; Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families; Foster Parent Retention; SFY 2015; $3,000

Action Requested: County Manager Signature

Parties to the Agreement: Gunnison County and Colorado Department of Human Services

Term Begins: upon signature **Term Ends:** 4/30/2015 **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:
These funds are being requested to provide 3 retention activities for foster parents: appreciation dinner, training assistance funds and library expansion. the work will strengthen our local child and family resouces.

Fiscal Impact: $3,000 with no county funds needed

Submitted by: Renee Brown **Submitter's Email Address:** renee.brown@state.co.us

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:

If received this grant would offset the costs outlined in the grant application which are currently paid for out of the Child Welfare Allocation. (No County match.) --M. Eden 8/26/2014

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\lNienhueser Discharge Date: 8/26/2014

County Attorney Review: ( ) Required (●) Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ( ) No ( )

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/26/2014

(●) Consent Agenda ( ) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted:

Agenda Date: 9/2/2014 Follow Up Agenda Date:

Revised April 2013

COLORADO
Office of Children, Youth & Families
Division of Child Welfare

Retention Funds Grant

Application – SFY 2015

Purpose: To provide short term funds to county departments for retention efforts or activities for foster parents through **April 30, 2015**. Thoughtful consideration of new retention strategies and ideas is encouraged.

Amount Awarded: To be determined based on the number of certified foster homes in the county department and the amount of funds available. (County departments may collaborate for retention activity/event.)

Deadlines for Grant:

- Application for retention funds must be submitted by **September 5, 2014**
- Funded effort/activity must be completed by **April, 30, 2015**
- County departments will only be reimbursed their actual costs through CFMS. As appropriate, applicants will receive a letter containing the notice of their award, the CFMS code for reimbursement and contact information for questions. All expenditures must be entered into CFMS by **May 7, 2015** in order to be reimbursed.
- Follow up summary with evaluation compilation must be submitted to CDHS by **May 15, 2015** (Forms for both the summary and the evaluations will be provided with award letter and must be used for the final summary and evaluation compilation.)
- Failure to submit summary or enter expenditures into CFMS by the deadlines outlined above may impact future grant awards.

Name of county department: Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services
Name of lead staff: Selenia Rascón
Email: selenia.rascon@state.co.us
Phone: 970.641.7674
List of additional staff assisting:

Name of Supervisor of Lead Staff: Greg Meier
Email: gregory.meier@state.co.us
Phone: 970.641.7947

Name of Finance/Accounting Department Designee: Maureen Eden
Email: MEden@gunnisoncounty.org
Phone: 970.641.7679

Total Budget for Event/Activity: $3,000.00
Amount requested in grant funds: $3,000.00
Expected completion date: April 30, 2015

Detailed description of retention effort/activity:

The Gunnison County Foster Care program is seeking funding for three of our retention activities.

The first retention activity we hope to fund through this grant is our holiday foster parent appreciation dinner. We have two foster parent appreciation dinners a year. One is during the holiday season at the end of the year and the other is at the end of the summer. These biannual events offer our foster parents an opportunity to network with the other foster parents and also to mingle with the caseworkers. The main objective of these dinners is to thank our foster parents for opening their hearts and their homes to children who need a safe place. Our experience has been that these events open the door for better communication between the caseworkers and the foster parents and it shows them that they are appreciated.

The second retention activity that we are seeking funds for is to provide reimbursement for expenses related to travel, lodging, and meals for our foster parents to attend a conference or training out of town. The availability of these funds would assist the foster parents in satisfying their annual training requirements and to meet their training goals for the year. Travel expenses can be a barrier for our foster families. These funds would grant foster parents the opportunity to attend trainings in a classroom rather than an online training. Our foster families would benefit from attending a conference where they can meet other foster parents and talk about their experiences in a group setting with other people with shared experiences. They would also gain a wealth of knowledge that they would not necessarily be able to get if they did not attend a training or conference outside of Gunnison.

The third retention effort we are seeking funds for is to expand our foster parent resource library. Currently, our offerings are very limited. Our goal is for our library to consist of learning materials on a wide variety of subjects such as specialized parenting topics, behavioral concerns, or topics that the foster parents request. Our hope with this library is that foster parents can have access to training materials if they are ever in need of additional information on a specific area. When we write our training development plans with our foster parents they often times request trainings for topics that are specific to the children they have in placement and there is not always a training available anywhere in the state to satisfy that need. The resource library would allow us to have more information readily available for our foster families.

Explanation of the desired outcome(s):

The desired outcomes for the foster parent appreciation dinners are that the families talk and get to know each other and develop a strong support group between them. One example of a positive outcome for our foster families is that if they get to know each other and are comfortable talking to each other they will be able to make respite arrangements with the other foster families more comfortably. These gatherings also provide foster parents with an opportunity to meet the caseworkers and to establish a working relationship with them, this allows for easier communication between the foster parents and the caseworkers when there is a child in placement. The most important outcome is that the foster parents feel appreciated and know that they are an integral part of our team.

The desired outcome for the funds for the travel expenses and the resource library is to have a more educated and better informed cohort of foster parents. We have a great group of foster parents who are always eager to learn more about a variety of topics, especially topics relevant to the children that are placed with them. We hope to have these funds available for foster parents to request books or videos for specific topics that are of interest for them. We also hope that foster parents will be able to attend a conference or a training of their choice on the Front Range or at the regional training center.

Detailed budget – please see attached.
*Effort/activity may be adjusted based on actual funds awarded.

*You MUST use the Evaluation Form provided. However, additional questions/information may be included based a counties interested in gathering feedback from the event/activity.

**You MUST include the following statement in any printed materials for this event/activity.

"This event/activity is partially funded through a Retention Grant from the Colorado Department of Human Services."

***Please provide any photos of event/activity. (Encouraged, but not required.)

COLORADO
Office of Children, Youth & Families
Division of Child Welfare

We, _____ (Director/Director's Designee), Maureen Eden (Finance/Accounting Dept. Designee), Gregory Meier (Supervisor of Lead Staff), and Selenia Rascon (Lead Staff) acknowledge that, if awarded retention funds, Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services will complete the retention effort/activity by **April 30, 2015**, submit a follow up summary by **May 15, 2015**, and will enter retention effort/activity costs into CFMS by **May 7, 2015** or not receive the amount awarded.

_____	_____
Signature of Director or Director's Designee	Date
_____	_____
Signature of Finance/Accounting Department Designee	Date
Selenia Rascon	8/21/2014
Signature of Staff Lead	Date
Greg Meier	8-21-14
Signature of Supervisor for Staff Lead	Date

Detailed Budget

Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services, Foster Care Program

Funding Period: September 5, 2014 through April 30, 2015

EXPENSES

Line Item	*Retention Grant Funds Request*
Holiday foster parent appreciation dinner	$750
Travel/lodging/meals	$1,600
Foster parent resource library	$650
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$3,000**

Foster parent appreciation dinners: These funds are to pay for our holiday foster parent dinner at a local restaurant. These funds would pay for twenty dinners for our foster parents and their families and the child protection caseworkers.

Travel/lodging/meals: These funds would allow a $400 stipend for our foster parents to attend a training/conference of their choice (with prior approval from the placement resource caseworker). Foster parents must turn in all receipts to be reimbursed.

Foster parent resource library: These funds are to purchase educational materials such as books or videos to build/expand our in house library.