AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Resolution; Accepting the Rural Impact County Chal

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Resolution for a National Effort to Combat Child Poverty

Fiscal Impact: 0

Submitted by: Randy Morgan **Submitter's Email Address:** rmorgan@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok - gs

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\gstuhr Discharge Date: 8/1/2016 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/5/2016

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Agenda Date: 8/16/2016

Revised April 2015

Rural Impact County Challenge: A National Effort to Combat Rural Child Poverty

Rural Impact County Challenge Webinar Series

As part of the Rural Impact County Challenge, NACo and the White House Rural Council are hosting monthly webinars to showcase innovative county programs and initiatives designed to combat chronic rural poverty. Additionally, webinars include guest speakers from various federal agencies to highlight available resources and technical assistance available to rural counties addressing this critical issue.

LEARN MORE

RURAL IMPACT COUNTY CHALLENGE

Small towns and rural communities are home to millions of Americans, are a vibrant part of our nation's economy, and include some of the most beautiful landmarks in the country. Rural America provides the vast majority of food, energy, and environmental benefits for the rest of the country. Additionally, rural communities are the source of nearly 90 percent of renewable water resources, and home to important service sector and manufacturing hubs.

Despite this critical role in our nation's economy, too many Americans in rural areas are not sharing in our nation's economic growth. A full 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. Lack of opportunity for rural kids and families is often compounded by other challenges, including distance from health and early learning programs, lack of access to public transportation, and higher rates of drug and substance abuse. But for all kids, the road to successful adulthood relies on a strong foundation of access to basic health, nutrition, high-quality early education, strong schools, and support from parents and caregivers.

Counties Leading the Way

Recognizing the critical role local officials play in supporting innovation and change, the National Association of Counties (NACo) <http://www.naco.org/> and the White House Rural Council <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/rural-council> have come together on a national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of rural children and families living in poverty. The Rural Impact County Challenge (RICC) seeks to recognize and support counties making real difference in the lives of children in rural communities.

The RICC consists of two components:

(1) A Call to Action demonstrating strong county leadership, commitment, and vision to achieve concrete results on behalf of rural children and families. The Call to Action asks counties to develop or refine an actionable plan that can be used to achieve local and state-level impacts. As part of this Call to Action, county elected officials will pass a resolution to work with local, state, and federal entities (e.g., schools, health and social service providers, and state and federal policymakers), children and families, and other key stakeholders on the following actions:

> **Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers** from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families in rural areas living in poverty
> **Develop a plan** with measurable outcomes that improves access, participation, and/or impact of evidence-based and other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services.
> **Implement research-based approaches** that advance the plan.
> **Create a process to track progress** using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

A sample resolution for your county board can be found here <http://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Rural%20Impact%20County%20Challenge%20Resolution%20draft.docx> .

In addition to national recognition as local leaders creating opportunity in rural communities, County Challenge participants will receive a weekly newsletter with rural-focused research and state and federal funding opportunities, invitations to participate in monthly webinars with Senior Administration Officials and fellow Challenge participants, and a platform for peer learning opportunities to share best practices and barriers

(2) A National Convening of County Challenge participants, Administration officials, thought leaders, and practitioners. This summer, the White House Rural Council <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/rural-council> and NACo will lead a convening to highlight progress and innovation in advancing county-led plans to reduce the number of rural children and families living in poverty. The summit will help counties advance their plans and measure progress while identifying best practices from counties across the country that have developed successful and scalable evidence-based programs or initiatives designed to combat chronic rural poverty on a local and regional basis.

If your county is interested in participating in the Rural Impact County Challenge, please complete the short form below. Please be sure to attach any relevant files (passed county resolution, additional information or materials on County Challenge project) before submitting your completed form.

First Name:

Last Name:

County

State - None -

Title:

Elected: - None -

Email:

Phone

Preferred Contact: - None -

Has your county passed a County Challenge resolution?

- None -

Please attach a PDF copy of the County Challenge Resolution

Files must be less than 2 MB.
Allowed file types: pdf doc docx.

Browse... UPLOAD

*Select your file(s), then click **UPLOAD**. Once you have uploaded all your supporting documentation, then click Submit below.*

Please attach any additional files relating to your County Challenge Project

Files must be less than 2 MB.
Allowed file types: pdf doc docx.

Browse... UPLOAD

*Select your file(s), then click **UPLOAD**. Once you have uploaded all your supporting documentation, then click Submit below.*

SUBMIT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO: 2016-___

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RURAL IMPACT COUNTY CHALLENGE:
A NATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT RURAL CHILD POVERTY

WHEREAS, small towns and rural communities are home to millions of Americans and are a vibrant part of our nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, approximately 1.4 million children in rural areas were poor and over 700,000 children lived in rural families with cash incomes that fell below half of the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, high rates of poverty have persisted for generations, including over 300 rural counties with poverty rates of over 20 percent in every Census since 1980; and

WHEREAS, investing in poor children and their families not only reduces poverty in the near term, but also improves children's education, health, and earnings outcomes later in life; and

WHEREAS, rural and tribal communities face distinct challenges, including limited access to critical services, fewer job prospects, and in some places, relative lack of institutional capacity; and

WHEREAS, no matter where they live, all families aspire for the cornerstones of economic security: a well-paying job, child care, a college education, health care, a home, and retirement; and

WHEREAS, Gunnison County and all counties recognize that a child's zip code should not determine her destiny, and that every child should have the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Gunnison County Health and Human Services has prioritized child poverty in their Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Strategic Result and Gunnison County Community Development has lead the One Valley Prosperity Project (OVPP) with a workgroup focused specifically on social services and Community Health that are developing innovative strategies to increase access to essential health and human services through community engagement, physical colocation and greater alignment of different programs; and

WHEREAS, through The Rural Impact County Challenge, the National Association of Counties and the White House Rural Council are encouraging public, private and nonprofit leaders to reduce the number of children living in poverty in rural areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT WE, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of children living in poverty, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in The Rural Impact County Challenge. We resolve to utilize the resources available through The Rural Impact County Challenge to:

- Draw on the diverse OVPP team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families in rural areas living in poverty.

- Develop a plan within OVPP Social Services and Community Health group with measurable outcomes that improves access, participation, and/or impact of evidence-based and other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services.

- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.

- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner_____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and adopted this ____ day of _____, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By: _____
Paula Swenson, Chairperson

By: _____
Phil Chamberland, Vice Chairperson

By: _____
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

ATTEST:

_____
Deputy County Clerk