**Homeward Alliance**Public School Districts Served: Poudre School District, Thompson School District, Estes Park School DistrictEducational Regions Served: North Central (west)

This proposal seeks to enhance and expand direct distribution of emergency assistance and support to McKinney-Vento eligible children and youth experiencing homelessness in Northern Colorado, through the following program activities:

* Expand the capacity of current program services to better meet demand/scope of emergency assistance and support needed to support school attendance and participation (i.e. basic needs, temporary motel stays, access to high speed internet);
* Add additional programming necessary to help children and youth attend, participate fully, and succeed in academic and extracurricular opportunities offered to all students as per their educational rights (i.e., financial resources and navigation support to access enrichment activities, tutoring, transportation and items for school success such as school supplies, and other eligible expenses); and,
* Build on existing partnership between our local school districts--including Poudre (R-1), Thompson (R2-J) and Estes (R-3)--and local homeless service providers to support identification, collaboration, and efficient and effective provision of project activities to eligible students.

Funds would be directed to:

1. expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth and
2. salary and benefits (.53 FTE) for the program’s Bilingual Housing Specialist.

Family Services is a program of Homeward Alliance (HWA), a Northern Colorado-based nonprofit that empowers individuals and families who face homelessness to survive, move forward and thrive. HWA, founded in 2008, provides a range of services to over 5,000 individuals each year: everything from basic-needs assistance to resource navigation, employment- and housing-focused case management, and more.

We are also the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for the recently formed Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC). We operate the Murphy Center (MC)—host to about 20 independent nonprofits and the hub of services for people experiencing housing insecurity in Larimer County—and host numerous case management programs that provide long-term, best practice interventions to diverse subpopulations (people exiting incarceration, people who are chronically homeless, families, and more).

Our organization is committed to staffing that represents the diversity of our community. Currently 27% of all our employees identify as BIPOC, 15% are bilingual and 12% identify as LGBTQ+. 19% of leadership and 23% of board members identify as BIPOC. In addition, our staff is comprised of individuals with many types of lived experience, including those with a history of childhood poverty and homelessness.

If awarded these funds, we would leverage separate, existing funding secured from a private foundation to provide rent assistance and other housing-related supports (alongside activities described above) to families served through this project.

**Shiloh House – Colorado Rural Collaborative for Homeless Youth**

Colorado Rural Collaborative for Runaway and Homeless Youth (CRC) was established in 2008 to address the needs of rural runaway, homeless and street youth (RHSY), and the geographical challenges they face in receiving support and services. Since its inception, the CRC has demonstrated the serious extent of rural youth homelessness, as well as the significant deficit of resources to assist these youth and their families in their own communities. Faced with a lack of employment opportunities, limited access to mental and physical health care, small human services departments with limited capacity, and no safe temporary housing, many rural runaway, and homeless youth have challenges maintaining school engagement and academic success. Since its inception, CRC has demonstrated its effectiveness through a Collective Impact approach by increasing connections for youth in the vital areas of support services and community networks/peer support and leadership in rural counties to help homeless youth re-engage in school.

The CRC proposes a statewide model using outreach team to serve rural runaway and homeless youth (RHSY) ages 21 and younger. The outreach team will identify youth in places where they congregate or hide. The team will conduct individualized, face-to-face outreach to youth using a standardized outreach schedule. CRC sites will provide safe temporary respite from outdoor elements, nutritious food, safe places for youth to keep their possessions, laundry services, showers, and first aid supplies. The CRC will provide access to emergency shelters and will transport youth to the shelter and school as needed.

The CRC will coordinate with school staff including McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Liaisons to enroll youth in school. The team will provide continued support via wraparound services to help youth maintain academic success.

CRC will accomplish the following SOP objectives during each one-year grant period:

* + Engage 125 rural RHSY where they may congregate or independently hide.
  + Ensure the well-being of 125 rural RHY by providing immediate access to basic needs.
  + Ensure the safety of 50 rural RHY by offering age-appropriate emergency shelters.
  + Connection to schools for 125 students to build academic success.

*Table 1: CDE Regions and counties covered by CRC and those emerging.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CDE Colorado Region & the Counties within** | **CRC Local Lead Agency (ies)** | **Current CRC Counties** | **Emerging CRC Partner Counties** |
| **Northeast** (Adams, Elbert, Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Logan Lincoln, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington & Yuma) | CBOCES & Shiloh House | Adams, Elbert, Lincoln, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington &  Yuma |  |
| **Northwest** (Moffat, Routt, Jackson, Grand, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, Lake,  Park & Chaffee) | Lake County DHS & Chaffee County DHS | Lake & Chaffee | Moffat, Routt, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Eagle,  Grand & Park |
| **Pikes Peak** (Elbert, Teller, El Paso, Fremont, Custer, Pueblo & Lincoln) | Shiloh House, YWCA of Pueblo & Loaves and  Fishes | Elbert, Fremont & Pueblo | Custer, Lincoln, El Paso & Teller |
| **Southeast** (Huerfano, Las  Animas, Baca, Prowers, Bent, Otero, Crowley & Kiowa) | YWCA of Pueblo | Huerfano & Las Animas |  |
| **Southwest** (Dolores, San Juan, La Plata, Montezuma, | San Luis Valley BOCES, Oak Tree | San Juan, La Plata, | Dolores |

**Morgan County Interagency Oversight Group (IOG)**Public School Districts Served: Brush, Fort Morgan, Weldon Valley, and Wiggins.

Educational Regions Served: North Central (east)

The Morgan County IOG envisions a stronger foundation to foster a commitment to youth and families that will promote partnership, empowerment, optimism, focus, and follow through with the goal of helping them move closer to their family vision. Our focus in the upcoming year will be on strengthening our High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) work focused on the voice of youth and their families, ensuring all families have equal access to needed resources and integrating the work of all service~~s~~ systems and natural supports into one organized and effective plan.

The IOG serves as the Morgan County Homeless and Runaway Service Program. We provide an array of services including case management for youth ages 12-21 who are either runaway, homeless, or precariously housed. We also provide basic needs essentials such as clothing, food/groceries, personal hygiene items, cell phones/cards, assistance obtaining vital documents, medical, dental, mental health, vision, and hearing services, school advocacy, referrals for government assistance, transportation, shelter and referrals to applicable community agencies and programs.